

# Have **your** say

CHESHIRE Police Authority listens to what people want from their police service. One of the ways that we do this is at meetings which we hold in your area. Please feel free to attend any meeting in your area so that we can consult you on important policing issues, determine policing priorities and listen to your views and suggestions for improvement.

**Meetings will be held at 7.00pm on the following Tuesdays:**

- o **14 October 2008**  
Barbour Institute, Tattenhall, Chester
- o **13 January 2009**  
St Mary's Centre, St Mary's Hill, Chester

## How to get in touch Community Action Team

YOUR local Community Action Team (CAT) is available to solve problems in your neighbourhood. Leave a message on one of the following numbers and they will return your call within two days or email them at the address provided below:-

### Chester Outer

0845 458 6375

[chester.outer.cat@cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:chester.outer.cat@cheshire.pnn.police.uk)

Covering Blacon, Boughton Heath, Vicars Cross, Huntington, Hoole, Upton, Handbridge, Westminster and Curzon Park, Lache, Newton, Saughall and parts of Saltney.

### Chester City Centre

0845 458 6384

[chester.inner.cat@cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:chester.inner.cat@cheshire.pnn.police.uk)

Covering Chester City Centre, Boughton, College Ward and Sealand Road area.

### Broxton (Dragon Hall)

0845 458 6377

[dragon.hall.cat@cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:dragon.hall.cat@cheshire.pnn.police.uk)

Covering Dodleston, Tarporley and Tattenhall.

### Frodsham

0845 458 6393

[frodsham.cat@cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:frodsham.cat@cheshire.pnn.police.uk)

Covering Cuddington, Elton, Frodsham and Sandiway.

### Mickle Trafford

0845 458 6394

[mickle.trafford.cat@cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:mickle.trafford.cat@cheshire.pnn.police.uk)

Covering Mickle Trafford area.

Cheshire Police Authority  
[www.cheshirepa.police.uk](http://www.cheshirepa.police.uk)



#### Mission

To work in partnership with Cheshire Constabulary and others to create safer communities; and increase confidence and satisfaction in policing

#### Vision

To ensure an efficient and effective police service, that is built on neighbourhood policing and tackles all levels of criminality, and makes the citizens of Cheshire safe and feel safer

#### Aims

- To assist in achieving a consistently high performing force
- To ensure improvements in performance and scrutiny, underpinned by robust governance structures and appropriate Member support
- To provide better and more effective engagement with stakeholders
- To improve partnership working (both with the Constabulary and externally)
- To be a community leader in policing and community safety



Cheshire Police Authority  
[www.cheshirepa.police.uk](http://www.cheshirepa.police.uk)



Non-emergency calls  
**0845 458 0000**

Only use **999** if...

- There is danger to life
- Violence is used or threatened
- A serious crime is in progress or likely to occur
- A suspect is nearby
- There is a Road Traffic Collision involving personal injury or danger to others
- A vulnerable person needs urgent assistance



Cheshire **CRIMESTOPPERS**  
0800 555 111  
Call anonymously with information about crime



Cheshire Police Authority

# Have **your** say

Chester

July 2008



Have Your Say Chairman:  
Police Authority Member  
**Sue Proctor**

**This newsletter outlines the discussion at the meeting on 15 July 2008 in the Lache Community Centre, Chester which was attended by 30 members of the public and local community representatives.**

The Police Authority's Chief Executive, Mark Sellwood, the Deputy Chief Constable Graeme Gerrard, Chief Superintendent Tim Jackson and Superintendent Sarah Boycott were present to answer questions. Officers from the three Neighbourhood Policing Units were also in attendance.



Mrs Proctor gave an update on the Authority's budget for 2008/09 and announced that the Government had decided not to limit the budget this year which was welcome news.

The latest edition of 'Your Policing' newspaper was being distributed to all households in Cheshire.

It was also announced that crime in Cheshire had reduced by 11.4% resulting in 10,000 fewer victims.

The Chairman commented on the changes to the structure of local councils with the creation of two new authorities for East and West Cheshire from 1 April 2009. The new Cheshire West & Chester District Council would combine the councils of Ellesmere Port & Neston, Vale Royal, Chester City and assume the duties of the County Council in that area. Those in attendance were encouraged to complete a consultation questionnaire on the boundaries for neighbourhood and area working.

## ⦿ Serious and organised crime

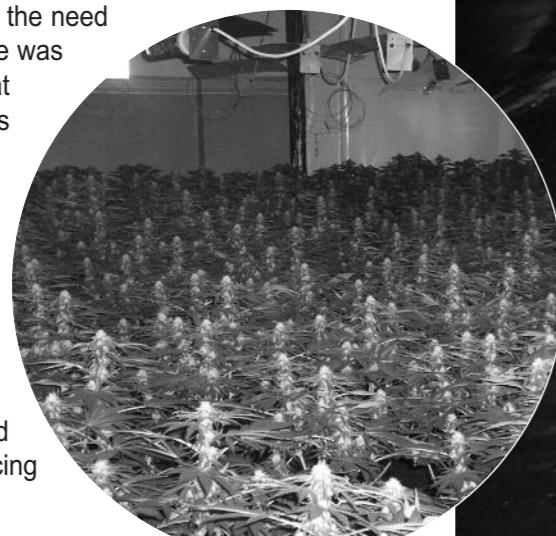
**Chief Superintendent Phil Thompson, Head of Crime Operations, discussed the work undertaken by the Constabulary to tackle serious and organised crime in Cheshire.**

Crime Operations was based in Constabulary Headquarters and had 520 staff working in specialist roles such as intelligence, forensic investigations, major crime and Special Branch. The specialist units in the Crime Operations Department provided support to local policing and enabled Area Commanders to focus their resources in neighbourhoods. With public support, the Authority had made a significant investment in the Department to ensure the Constabulary could better respond to the threat of terrorism and tackle serious and organised crime.

The Chief Superintendent explained the role of the Major Investigations Team in Operation 'Opinion' which targeted a criminal gang supplying cocaine and heroin in the Ellesmere Port and Chester areas. The 12 month covert investigation involved 16 dedicated officers and resulted in the recovery of £130,000 of drugs and £90,000 cash seized. Part of the success of the operation was due to the receipt of community intelligence. Six males were arrested and subsequently received prison sentences of between 2½ to 7½ years. Arrangements were being implemented to confiscate their personal assets which included houses, cars and bank accounts.

Those in attendance enquired about the timescale in bringing the offenders to court and to seize the assets. The Chief Superintendent advised of the need to ensure that sufficient evidence was gained to present a good case at court. The confiscation of assets would be a separate investigation.

Other issues discussed included the methods and routes used for transporting drugs and the recent spate of cannabis farms in the area. Appreciation was also expressed for the work undertaken in reducing crime in Lache.



## ⦿ Policing in Chester



Chief Superintendent  
**Tim Jackson,**  
*Area Commander*

Chief Superintendent Jackson introduced the officers present and reported on a number of personnel changes in the Western Area. The meeting received performance data for recorded crime, burglary, violent crime and vehicle crime for Chester and local incidents of note.



Inspector  
**Mel Williams,**  
*Chester Inner NPU*

The Inspector reported on the work being undertaken to target drugs including the arrest of a male for supply and threatening behaviour; the arrest of man for series of burglaries in the city

centre; and targeting alcohol related behaviour by homeless people.



Sergeant  
**Anton Sullivan**  
*Chester Outer NPU*

Sergeant Sullivan reported that Community Action Meetings continued to be held in the area on a regular basis; the targeting of prolific and persistent offenders; and arrests for vehicle crime and thefts from sheds and cycles in Hoole. Several operations with partner agencies were planned over the summer to tackle anti-social behaviour and the sale of alcohol to under 18s. Following the receipt of intelligence from the public, two arrests had been made and the discovery of a large quantity of cannabis plants. Over the last three months, 20 mini-motorbikes

had been seized for offences of no registration, tax or insurance. An impact day was planned in July in Blacon specifically targeting crime, drugs and the anti-social use of vehicles.



Inspector  
**Phil Hodgson**  
*Rural NPU*

Inspector Hodgson commented on several recent operations which included joint working with North Wales and West Mercia police to target theft of red diesel; two arrests for a series of burglaries in the Huxley and Hargrave areas; 7 arrests for drink driving offences; and five warrants issued for the cultivation of cannabis and the seizure of £3,000 of cocaine; and the targeting of prolific offenders for car thefts.

## ⦿ Question Time

- Q.** How effective were CCTV cameras in reducing crime at the shops in the Lache?
- A.** Sergeant Sullivan advised that since the installation of the cameras, people felt safer and were using the shops, whose trade had increased. A retailer had withdrawn from sale high strength alcohol from the shop.
- Q.** Has the problem, from the shops area now displaced elsewhere?
- A.** The Sergeant reported that officers anticipated where the problems would move to in the vicinity and would target those areas and individuals accordingly.
- Q.** Is knife crime a problem in Chester?
- A.** Chief Superintendent Jackson reported that there was not a significant problem in Chester, however, local officers were well aware of the issues elsewhere in the country and the media interest.
- Q.** How was anti-social behaviour caused by homeless people being targeted?
- A.** Inspector Williams commented that the police worked with partner agencies to support the homeless in the city, however, where problems arise they were addressed. Alcohol was seized and an initiative to restrict the sale of alcohol to the homeless had resulted

in a significant reduction in incidents. Councillor Houlbrook added that a multi-agency task force had been established to target this issue with treatment for dependency being offered. The latest 'rough sleeper count' undertaken every two weeks indicated that there were currently 9 homeless people in the city.

- Q.** Was crime around the river area targeted?
- A.** The Inspector reported that during the summer, crime on the river increased and that additional funding and resources was allocated to tackle the issue.

Appreciation was expressed by a representative of the Crime Prevention Panel to the Lache community for assistance in the recent property marking event.

- Q.** Concern was expressed by a resident following three assaults, and the lack of police patrol on the canalside in the Green Lane area.
- A.** Inspector Williams advised that he was aware of the assaults and asked the questioner to speak to him after the meeting. He added that over the last 18 months there had not been a significant number of offences and that wardens patrolled the canalside. The public were encouraged to provide information to the police to enable issues to be addressed.