

# 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.

## Programme of Western Area meetings 2009/10 all commence at 7.00pm

- **5 May 2009** Town Hall, Neston
- **19 May 2009** St Mary's Centre, St Mary's Hill, off Castle Street, Chester
- **1 September 2009** Lifestyle Centre, The Drummer, Winsford
- **22 September 2009** Civic Hall, Civic Way, Ellesmere Port
- **19 January 2010** Memorial Hall, Northwich
- **26 January 2010** St Mary's Centre, St Mary's Hill, off Castle Street, 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 Dogleston, 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

January 2009



**Sue Proctor**  
'Have Your Say' meeting  
Chairman

THIS newsletter outlines the discussion at the meeting on 13 January 2009 held in St Mary's Centre, Chester attended by 25 members of the public and local community representatives.

The Police Authority's Chairman, Peter Nurse, Chief Executive, Mark Sellwood, and Assistant Chief Constable David Baines, and Area Commander Chief Superintendent Tim Jackson were present to answer questions. Officers from the three Neighbourhood Policing Units were also in attendance.

## New Chief Constable



SUE Proctor advised that David Whatton started as Cheshire's new Chief Constable on 1 December 2008.

Mr Whatton, who had a wealth of experience and was the former Deputy Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police, had been tasked by the Police Authority to deliver further improvements in performance.

The meeting was also advised that the Authority's 'Your Policing' newspaper was to be distributed to householders throughout Cheshire in January/February.

## Policing Priorities

THE Police Authority's Chief Executive, Mark Sellwood announced the results of the recent public survey about the priorities for policing in 2009/10. There had been presentations at 'Have Your Say' meetings, a survey on the Authority's website; a conference for young people, and questionnaires to partners, community groups and the Citizen's Panel; with touch screen surveys in 19 Post Offices throughout Cheshire.

The top priorities for policing, identified by the 2500 respondents to the survey, included responding to emergency calls; targeting organised crime and terrorism; targeting drug dealers; tackling domestic and child abuse; detecting crime and arresting offenders; and protecting witnesses. The survey also revealed that 67% of people felt that Cheshire Constabulary do an excellent or good job.

The Authority would now use the results to set the policing objectives for the new Chief Constable.



## The Policing Pledge

THE Chief Executive announced that Cheshire Constabulary and Police Authority had adopted the Policing Pledge as set out by the Home Secretary. The Pledge set the standards of service the public can expect from the police and included response times, feedback to victims and witnesses of crime, and contact details for local police officers.

A copy of the Policing Pledge can be viewed on the Authority's website – [www.cheshirepa.police.uk](http://www.cheshirepa.police.uk)

## Police Budget

PETER Nurse, the Police Authority Chairman discussed the Authority's proposed budget for 2009/10 and outlined the extensive consultation with the public undertaken last year. Mr Nurse commented on the significant investment that had been made in frontline services to protect the people of Cheshire, to tackle serious and organised crime, the recruitment of additional sex offender liaison officers; increased roads policing, and improved witness protection and care. The investment had been possible due to the public support for an increase of 38p per week in council tax for a Band D property last year.

It was reported that for 2009/10, the Government had increased the grant for policing by 2.5% and limited Cheshire Police Authority's council tax increase to a maximum of 3% - an extra 8p per week on a Band D household. Mr Nurse discussed the pressures that faced the Authority's finances, the limited grant, inflationary issues; the credit crunch; and the significant reduction in interest rates.

Almost £2m of savings had been identified and the Authority would be working with the Chief Constable to identify where further savings could be made whilst protecting frontline services, continuing to improve neighbourhood policing and tackling serious and organised crime.

## West Cheshire & Chester CDRP – Priorities

GAVIN Butler, the Community Safety Manager for Cheshire County Council discussed the background and the work of the new Shadow Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership which involved the new West Cheshire and Chester Council, the Police and other partners working with the local community, local agencies and businesses to tackle problems of community safety, crime and disorder. The Partnership was formed to co-ordinate the efforts of the partners in addressing local issues in order to make West Cheshire a safer place.

Following a strategic assessment, targeting high-crime neighbourhoods, reducing re-offending, reducing anti-social behaviour, and addressing domestic abuse had been identified as the top priorities by those consulted to be tackled by the Partnership from April 2009.

Questionnaires were circulated seeking views on the four proposed priorities.



## Policing in Chester (continued)



Inspector Phil Hodgson, Western Rural NPU

Inspector Hodgson advised that during the Christmas and New Year period, extra high visibility police patrols, and the targeting of drunk people and problem licensed premises had resulted in a 50% reduction in violent crime. The meeting also received details of a series of youth diversion activities – including sporting events, and promoting fire prevention being organised by the police in partnership with other agencies.



Inspector Ian Thorp, Chester Outer NPU

Inspector Thorp discussed recent operations and initiatives which had been undertaken across the 15 wards surrounding the City Centre which had seen reductions of incidents of violent crime and criminal damage; and the good work undertaken with partners including the Housing Trust in relation to the issuing of ASBOs on a problem family and obtaining a possession order on the house. The Inspector reassured the meeting that Chester was a safe place in which to live and work.

## Question Time

**Q.** Had the Authority added to its financial reserves?

**A.** The Chairman advised that the Authority had a safe level of reserves to respond to the threats the Constabulary may face, such as a major investigation/incident in Cheshire. Reserves would be assessed as part of the budget process to see if they could be used to help the current funding difficulties.

**Q.** A representative of the Association of Parish Councils commented that they had supported the 17% increase last year based on the funding being confined to policing in rural areas.

**A.** Mr Nurse commented that the Authority had jointly funded with Parish Councils, 247 PCSOs across Cheshire, many of whom supported officers in rural areas. The resources were deployed where the highest crime levels occurred, although resources were focused on the frontline and deployed in all communities in Cheshire.

**Q.** A request that there is a greater visible police presence in the City Centre, particularly at night, to protect the local community, as opposed to undertaking significant vehicle roadside checks observed that morning.

**A.** The Assistant Chief Constable reported that the officers seen at the roadside were most likely using the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) system which identified stolen vehicles, drivers with no tax/insurance or disqualified or known criminals. This enabled officers to target the driver, seize the vehicle and inevitably reduce crime within the City.

**Q.** What were the results of today's ANPR check?

**A.** The Assistant Chief Constable commented that it was too early to report, however, a week long pilot of ANPR operated in the City had resulted in over 10,000 hits, with action being taken against 127 disqualified drivers, and over 3,000 motorists stopped for other offences including no tax/insurance, etc. ANPR had assisted in the Constabulary seizing a significant number of vehicles last year.

**Q.** What had happened to 'Homewatch'?

**A.** The questioner was asked to speak to Liz Biddle, the Area's Homewatch Co-ordinator after the meeting about the development of Homewatch schemes in the Chester area and what support was offered.

**Q.** Concern was expressed about the reduction in the number of 'Have Your Say' meetings in 2009/10, particularly in rural areas of Chester.

**A.** The Chairman reported that attendance at the Have Your Say meetings had reduced as other consultation opportunities had been developed, such as Community Action Meetings (CAMs) which involved the local officers and the community identifying neighbourhood priorities to be addressed by a set time, and reviewed at the next CAM. Also officers held surgeries which enabled the local community to raise policing issues and matters of concern. The Chief Executive added that the aim was to make the 'Have Your Say' meetings more strategic and fulfil the Authority's duty to consult on issues such as the budget and policing priorities etc. A wide variety of focus groups, youth conferences etc had also been introduced to ensure the widest possible consultation. The questioner's comments had been noted and would be considered when the programme was reviewed later this year.

Appreciation was expressed to Inspector Hodgson and his team of officers for the email updates sent to local representatives in Helsby and Frodsham.

**Q.** Did the Constabulary work with North Wales police?

**A.** The Chief Executive reported that Cheshire worked with all its neighbouring forces and authorities. Inspector Thorp gave an example of joint working and policing with North Wales Police in the border area of Saltney.

**Q.** Would the NPU boundaries need to change as the new Cheshire West & Chester Council were developing different local partnership working boundaries?

**A.** The Area Commander said that this issue was being considered and may result in the police neighbourhood boundaries being adjusted, but this would only happen if it would benefit policing and our communities

Mr Marnell of 'Pubwatch' expressed his appreciation to Inspector Williams and his officers for the support given to Pubwatch and reported on the joint working with other agencies to reduce alcohol abuse and related crime in the City.

**Q.** What areas of activity will suffer as a result of the priorities identified by the CDRP and the Police Authority?

**A.** Mr Butler advised that the CDRPs priorities focused on issues that related to individuals and the local community and would not stop the Constabulary targeting vulnerable areas or crime with the aim of increasing public confidence.

Mrs Proctor announced that this was her last meeting as she was retiring from the Police Authority at the end of March. Mrs Proctor expressed her appreciation to the public for their attendance and support at the meetings and of her pleasure of working with so many dedicated officers and staff of the Constabulary and Police Authority.

## Policing in Chester



Chief Superintendent Tim Jackson, Area Commander

**CHIEF Superintendent Jackson introduced the officers present and Liz Biddle the Homewatch Manager for the Western Area.**

Recorded crime, violent crime, vehicle crime and criminal damage in Chester between December 2007 - November 2008 had decreased by 10%, 10%, 17% and 20% respectively and burglary remained at the same level compared with the same period in the previous year. Details were also circulated of recent operations and local incidents of note.



Inspector Mel Williams, Chester Inner NPU

Inspector Williams gave an overview of the work undertaken within the City Centre since the last meeting which included additional high visibility patrols over the Christmas and New Year period and working with 'Pubwatch' and licensed retailers to target alcohol related crime and disorder. Early intervention at problem areas by officers had led to a significant reduction of incidents of anti-social behaviour and violence. Officers had also been involved in offering support and training to door staff in order to increase standards and ensure that they operated in a lawful manner.

The Inspector also reported on the investigation and successful arrest and conviction of three offenders from Birmingham for a series of robberies from Jewellers, including one at Walton's in Chester in 2006.