

# 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 Eastern Area meetings 2009/10 all commence at 7.00pm

- **Tuesday 12 May 2009**  
Town Hall, Sandbach
- **Monday 18 May 2009**  
Royal British Legion, Grove Avenue, Wilmslow
- **Thursday 3 September 2009**  
Municipal Buildings, Earle Street, Crewe
- **Monday 14 September 2009**  
Town Hall, High Street, Congleton
- **Monday 11 January 2010**  
Methodist Church Hall, off King Edward St, Macclesfield
- **Thursday 21 January 2010**  
Civic Hall, Market Street, Nantwich

## 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:-

**Congleton** 0845 458 6382

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

Covering Congleton, Middlewich, Holmes Chapel, Sandbach and Alsager.

Cheshire Police Authority  
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

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

Congleton

January 2009



Have Your Say Chairman:  
Police Authority Member  
**Anne Doran**

THIS newsletter outlines the discussion at the meeting on 20 January 2009 in Congleton Town Hall which was attended by 16 members of the public, press and local community representatives.

The Authority's Chief Executive, Mark Sellwood and the Area Commander Chief Superintendent Paul McHugh were present to answer questions. Inspector Mark Gammage who has responsibility for Congleton was also in attendance.

## New Chief Constable



ANNE Doran 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 being distributed to all 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 Citizens' 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)

## East Cheshire CDRP – Priorities

MARTIN Forshaw, the Community Safety Officer for Cheshire County Council discussed the background and the work of the new East Cheshire Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, which involved the new unitary council and the Police working with the local community, local agencies and businesses to tackle problems of community safety, crime and disorder. The Partnership would co-ordinate the efforts of the partners in addressing local issues in order to make East Cheshire a safer place.

Following a strategic assessment, offender and crime management, town centre management, neighbourhood management and greater engagement with business and agencies 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.



## Police Budget

MARGARET Ollerenshaw discussed the Authority's proposed budget for 2009/10 and outlined the extensive consultation with the public undertaken last year. Mrs Ollerenshaw 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 the Authority's budget which meant a council tax increase of around 3% - about an extra 8p per week on a Band D household. Mrs Ollerenshaw 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.

## Policing in Congleton



Chief Superintendent **Paul McHugh**  
Area Commander

Chief Superintendent McHugh expressed his appreciation to Inspector Gammage and his team for a number of successes associated with the ArcAngel and 'Streetsafe' initiatives. Details were circulated of recent operations, arrests and convictions and other local incidents of note and performance in relation to key crimes for Congleton – domestic burglary, violent crime, vehicle crime and criminal damage, which had decreased by 30%, 1%, 36% and 16% respectively compared with the same period in the previous year.

## Policing in Congleton (continued)



Inspector **Mark Gammage**  
Congleton Neighbourhood Policing Unit

Details of the work undertaken by the Congleton NPU were presented, including maintaining a good working relationship with licensees and the introduction of the ArcAngel protective town initiative which aimed to impose a code of conduct in licensed premises; working with partner agencies involved in the 'Safe Zones' initiative to reduce the number of public order incidents in Congleton town centre; the valuable support given to regular officers by the Special Constabulary, who assisted in a number of proactive operations to target drugs in the borough and resulted in several significant arrests of influential drug dealers; and the viability of extending the 'Streetsafe' initiative across east Cheshire.

## Question Time

**Q.** Was Cheshire the fourth lowest funded shire Authority because it was sparsely populated?

**A.** The Chief Executive explained that Cheshire had a population of almost 1 million and the amount paid by a Band D household in Cheshire for policing was significantly lower than elsewhere in the country.

**Q.** How was the Authority going to meet the funding gap?

**A.** Mrs Ollerenshaw advised that many areas of police activity and support services were being scrutinised with savings being identified, but reassured the meeting that it would not result in cuts in frontline policing.

**Q.** Will there be any performance data available with the Policing Pledge?

**A.** The Chief Executive reported that there would be a report on how the Constabulary responded to the aims in the Pledge. Crime mapping was also being developed which would enable the public to view the levels of crime and other data for their neighbourhood via the Constabulary's website.

**Q.** How many of the 40,000 arrests made last year and reported in the Policing Plan led to a conviction?

**A.** The Chief Executive commented that there was a delay in the recording of convictions known as 'offences brought to justice' as investigations and cases can take time before being dealt with at Court. Details of the level of offences brought to justice were published.

**Q.** Did Members of the Police Authority get remunerated?

**A.** The Chief Executive confirmed that they did receive an allowance which varied dependent on their responsibilities. The levels of allowances payable were published on the Authority's website.

**Q.** Did the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) system recognise non-UK number plates?

**A.** Chief Superintendent McHugh advised that links to a European database and that there were plans to extend this link to local systems such as ANPR.

**Q.** How did the police target vehicles on foreign number plates which had been in the country for over three years?

**A.** The Chief Superintendent advised that EU nationals were allowed to drive in this country on non-UK number plates under EU based insurance for one year. The police worked with local community groups to highlight road safety issues and spot checks were regularly undertaken.

**Q.** Under the policing priorities targeting serious and organised crime what incidents were classed as extremism?

**A.** The Chief Executive advised that extremism did not only relate to external terrorist organisations but would extend to domestic groups whose activities may result in major public disorder. The Chief Constable had a duty to respond to incidents which impacted on public safety.

**Q.** Comments were made about the nature of the police response to recent environmental protests elsewhere in the country.

**A.** The Chief Superintendent stressed that the police response to such incidents was impartial and proportionate to risks to public order or property.

**Q.** Did the Police target the fox hunting event over the Christmas period?

**A.** Chief Superintendent McHugh advised that whilst fox hunting had been banned, the operation of the Cheshire Hunt was fully lawful. The police response would be proportionate to the situation and if offences were reported they would investigate subject to the appropriate evidence. The policing of lawful hunts was kept to minimal levels.

**Q.** Would the closure of a number of rural pubs impact on the ArcAngel?

**A.** Inspector Gammage advised that the ArcAngel Protective Town Initiative was aware of the closure of a number of pubs and aimed to support the licensing trade by focusing on problem premises in order to improve community safety.