

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 on the following Tuesdays:-

- **8 April 2008 at 7pm**
Town Hall, Sandbach
- **1 July 2008 at 2pm**
Civic Hall, Middlewich
- **7 October 2008 at 7pm**
St. Lukes Church Hall, Holmes Chapel
- **20 January 2009 at 7pm**
Town Hall, Congleton

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

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 assist with community, and public order, and substance and substance in policing.

Vision
To ensure an efficient and effective police service, that is built on high standards of integrity and values, a focus on crime, and makes the citizens of Cheshire safe and secure.

Aims

- To assist in addressing a community right performing force.
- To ensure arrangements to perform and service, underpinned by robust governance structures and appropriate Member support.
- To ensure service users have effective engagement with capabilities.
- To ensure partnership working with the Constabulary and others.
- To be a visible 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
- Domestic 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



Cheshire Police Authority

Have **your** say

Congleton

January 2008



Have Your Say Chairman:
Police Authority Member
Bob Hodson

This newsletter gives feedback after the Have Your Say meeting on 29 January 2008 at Congleton Town Hall.

22 members of the public, local community representatives and press attended the meeting.

The Authority's Chairman, Peter Nurse, Chief Executive, Mark Sellwood, Superintendent Geraint Jones and Inspector Mark Gammage who is responsible for policing Congleton, were present to answer questions.

Mr Hodson opened the meeting by explaining the role and work of the Police Authority and encouraging those in attendance to contribute to the discussion and stressed that the Authority wanted the public to have their say on policing.

Funding For Policing: Budget Consultation

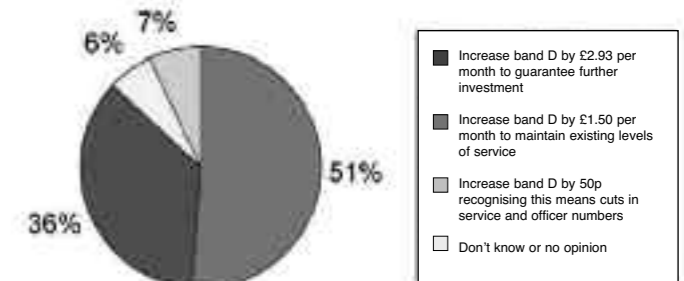
PETER Nurse discussed the Authority's budget for 2008/09 and commented that much consultation had been undertaken with the public on what police services they wished to see improved and how much extra they were willing to pay. 87% of the respondents to a poll by MORI were prepared to pay an extra £1.50 or more per month.

Public opinion

MORI asked 2,400 people – 300 in each borough area – for their views on policing.

79% confirmed that Cheshire Police are currently doing a good or very good job BUT people wanted to see more investment in policing and their priorities are detailed in the table opposite.

On average, people thought 20% of their council tax was spent on policing rather than the 8-9% that the police precept accounts for.



During the last cycle of Forums over half the people who completed a questionnaire supported an extra £2.93 a month or more.

Mr Nurse reminded those present that the police council tax in Cheshire, Halton and Warrington was the lowest of all shire forces and the third lowest in England and Wales. The Authority was considering an increase in council tax of up to 28%, which would mean an average property (Band D) paying £2.93 more per month for policing. This investment would enable the police to further improve police response to incidents, provide more officers on the streets, tackle more serious and organised crime, increased monitoring of sex offenders, greater support for victims and witnesses; deal faster with people in custody; and continue to provide better customer services whilst reducing crime levels.

The Government was to increase its funding for Cheshire Police by 2.5% - one of the lowest increases in the country – which will not provide enough money to maintain services or allow the investment to deliver the improvements the public want. The Government have also advised police authorities not to set excessive council tax increases or they may intervene.

Those in attendance discussed the budget position and the impact of any increase on fixed income households to which the Chairman responded. Whilst expressions of support for an increase were made, it was stressed that the Authority must be accountable to ensure any additional investment, delivered improvements in performance and in policing in general.

🕒 Policing Objectives 2008/09

THE Chief Executive reported that following public consultation a series of proposed objectives had been developed for the Chief Constable to focus on in 2008/09 which included:-

Crime reduction to make communities safer; working with partners to tackle anti-social behaviour and reduce the fear and annoyance caused by alcohol and drug related disorder; community policing to increase public confidence and satisfaction; working with criminal justice partners to bring more offenders to justice; work locally, regionally and nationally to help tackle organised and serious crime; and improve productivity and efficiency to enable the police to become more outcome focused, adding value to front line policing and providing the best possible service and value for money.



🕒 The role of Police Community Support Officers



PCSO Adam Davies discussed his role and the work he undertook in the Congleton and Bromley North areas which included high-visibility patrol; visiting schools; working with young people to provide diversionary activities; providing reassurance to victims of crime and the local community; and targeting low level crime and anti-social behaviour. He also attended Community Action Meetings (CAMs) which enabled the public to raise issues of local concern with the police.

Positive comments were received from representatives of Middlewich and Congleton Town Councils about the service PCSOs provided and the difference they had made in their communities.

A summary of a review by the Police Authority of the work undertaken by PCSOs was circulated.

🕒 'Police Forums' Review: Feedback

THE Chief Executive circulated a report on the results of the review of Police Forums undertaken in 2007 which many attendees had participated in.

The report detailed the changes and improvements being made to the Forums which included raising public awareness; changing the name to 'Have Your Say' meetings; focusing on more interaction with the public; new venues; varying start times and improved audio equipment.



🕒 Policing in Congleton



Superintendent **Geraint Jones**, Operations

Superintendent Jones announced the key local priorities to make the residents of Congleton safer and feel safe, which included tackling class 'A' drugs; reducing fatal and serious road traffic collisions, targeting burglary, serious and violent crime and terrorism. In addition, local officers would be focusing, in partnership with other agencies, on persistent and prolific offenders, and perpetrators of graffiti and vandalism.

Performance data for recorded crime, burglary, violent crime and vehicle crime for Congleton borough and local incidents of note, were circulated.

A discussion took place about the work to combat drug related crime in the local community and the need for town and parish councils to be involved in developing local crime and disorder strategies once the new local government structures are implemented.

🕒 Question Time

- Q.** As Cheshire was a low crime area was it penalised in the allocation of Government grant?
- A.** The Chairman reported that the calculation included a large number of factors including the level of recorded crime and that Cheshire did receive a lower grant compared with metropolitan areas.
- Q.** Concern was expressed about the delay/lack of police attendance to a burglary at a shop in Congleton.
- A.** Superintendent Jones reported that the introduction of Customer Service Desks would increase the ability to deal with incidents in the most appropriate manner and asked that the questioner pursue the matter with Inspector Gammage after the meeting.
- Q.** The need for greater care in issuing fixed penalty notices on vehicles legitimately parked to load/unload in Congleton town centre.
- A.** Inspector Gammage agreed to remind officers and would discuss the matter with the questioner after the meeting.
- Q.** The need for the Police Authority to raise its profile and an explanation of the relationship between NPU and local Councillors.
- A.** The Chief Executive advised that developing neighbourhood policing had been a key priority for the Chief Constable. Local Officers have established Key Individual Networks (KINs) with individuals in the community such as Councillors, the Post Master, shop owners etc. Dialogue exists through Community Action Teams and Community Action Meetings and positive links existed with the local community. Many Councillors present commented on the positive relationships they had with local officers.
- Q.** What initiatives were undertaken to improve road safety for young drivers?
- A.** The Inspector reported on a series of initiatives available which included 'Drive Survive' and the 'Pass Plus Scheme' and officers also visited schools to raise awareness with Year 11 pupils about road safety and personal public safety.
- Q.** What action was taken to target 'Bogus Callers'?
- A.** Superintendent Jones commented that high profile campaigns operated to raise public awareness and that 'no cold calling' zones which comprised on street signage and warning signs had being introduced in areas of Congleton.