

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.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The Chairman advised that a **Surgery would be held at 6.00pm before the next meeting on 21 July 2008**, to enable the public to raise any issues of concern in private with local officers. The 'Have Your Say' meeting would commence at **7.00pm at the Civic Hall, Ellesmere Port.**

Future meetings will be held on the following Mondays:-

- **27 October 2008 at 7pm**
Town Hall, Neston
- **26 January 2009 at 7pm**
Vauxhall Suite, Civic Hall, Ellesmere Port

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:-

Ellesmere Port & Neston **0845 458 6373**

ellesmere.port.cat@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

neston.cat@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

Covering Ellesmere Port, Neston, Stanlow, Ince, Parkgate and Willaston.

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

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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

Ellesmere Port & Neston

April 2008



Have Your Say Chairman:
Police Authority Member
Michael Darby

THIS newsletter gives you feedback after the 'Have Your Say' meeting on 7 April 2008 at Neston Town Hall.

60 members of the public and local community representatives attended the meeting.

The Authority's Chairman, Peter Nurse and Chief Executive, Mark Sellwood, Deputy Chief Constable, Graeme Gerrard and Area Commander Chief Superintendent Tim Jackson were present to answer questions. The two NPU Inspectors for Ellesmere Port and Neston were also in attendance.

Mr Darby opened the meeting by giving an update on the Authority's budget for 2008/09 and thanked those who had participated in the consultation process which had shown strong support for an increase in council tax to invest in policing.

The Authority had increased council tax by 17% (£1.64 extra per month on a band D property) which will enable the police to improve neighbourhood policing; tackle more serious and organised crime; provide better support to victims of crime and witnesses; and customer service.

The Government had indicated it may take action against the Authority for the increase. The Authority would be meeting Ministers to explain its case and the need to improve investment to make people safer.

Cheshire Police Authority

Investment in policing 2008/09

- Better response** ✓ Crime is falling in Cheshire, especially the types of crime that affects people's quality of life. Last year, crime in Cheshire fell by 7% compared with 4% across the North West and we recorded the greatest reduction in criminal damage at 10%, in the current year crime is down by a further 13%.
- More visible patrols** ✓ This was achieved on an extremely tight budget. We have kept council tax increases low for the last 7 years, making Cheshire one of the most cost effective police forces in the country with council tax payers paying less. We have also made £30m worth of savings which we have re-invested in front-line services.
- More monitoring of sex offenders** ✓ But a gap has developed between what council tax payers have been paying and what we can afford to provide. If we are to continue to improve performance and combat the threat of extremism and serious organised criminality, the funding has to be addressed.
- Better customer service** ✓ The Authority has consulted widely with the public about what services you wanted to see improve and how much you are prepared to pay - 87% were prepared to invest at least an extra £1.50 per month.
- More crime reduction** ✓ Following that consultation, we have increased council tax for a Band D property by £1.64 per month which will make a real difference to how we police your community.
- More arrests** ✓ The budget will provide an additional £2.6m to tackle serious and organised crime and £1.6m for neighbourhood policing. This will improve policing services and your safety.
- Better use of information** ✓
- More support for victims & witnesses** ✓
- Fighting terrorism** ✓
- Tackling serious crime** ✓

Peter Nurse, Chairman of the Police Authority

your Authority
is responsible, amongst other matters, for setting the budget local communities, agreeing with Chief Constable challenging targets to drive performance higher.

What similar neighbouring authorities charge local tax payers for policing

| Based on Band D properties | 2008/09 |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Cheshire | £125.75 |
| Derbyshire | £145.44 |
| North Wales | £165.19 |
| Staffordshire | £160.15 |
| West Mercia | £166.45 |

www.cheshirepa.police.uk

A community based partnership

Terrorism

DETECTIVE Chief Inspector Paul Taylor, Head of Special Branch, gave a presentation on the role and work undertaken by the Branch to counter terrorism and domestic extremism across Cheshire.

Outlined was the national threat levels which ranged from low to critical – the current level is severe which is defined as an attack is highly likely.

The links and consequences of national incidents such as the London and Glasgow bombings, to Cheshire were discussed which included increased costs associated with additional high-visible patrols and support to the forces in the affected areas.

Potential terrorist indicators were discussed, for example people videoing or photographing security arrangements at venues such as train stations, airports or crowded places.

Communities were asked to remain vigilant to people who may be visiting terrorist related internet sites, people who were using false travel documents or suspicious people renting lock up garages or self storage facilities.

The public were urged to report any suspicious activity that they observe to:-

**Cheshire Constabulary's
Special Branch:
01244 612123**

or

**Confidential Anti-Terrorist Hotline:
0800 789 321**



Policing in Ellesmere Port & Neston



Chief Superintendent **Tim Jackson**, Area Commander

Chief Superintendent Jackson reported on a series of personnel changes including the recent appointment of Liz Biddle as the Homewatch Manager who been appointed following the retirement of David Saunders. The Chief Superintendent referred to the performance data for recorded crime, burglary, violent crime and vehicle crime which had been circulated.



Inspector **Simon Roberts**,
Ellesmere Port NPU



Inspector **Richard Rees**,
Ellesmere Port NPU

Inspector Roberts gave an overview of recent activity and policing initiatives which included operations during the school holidays to target anti-social behaviour and youth nuisance and seizing alcohol and with the aid of additional powers, to disperse 16+ year olds. It was reported that a male had been imprisoned for a numbers of burglary offences in the Neston area; two males had been arrested and charged for a series of distraction burglaries in Ellesmere Port and officers had subsequently been raising awareness with the public about this type of crime; and several arrests for robberies of commercial premises and vehicle crime. Three men had also been arrested for drug offences which included the seizure of 9 kilograms of amphetamines and a quantity of crack cocaine.

Question Time

Q. Why with the powers officers had to disperse youths could they not be returned to their respective homes?

A. Inspector Roberts advised that officers had the power to disperse large groups of youths and to restrict them from a specific area, but not return them home. Inspector Rees reported on a series of local diversionary activities which were being offered to youngsters.

Q. Concern about the lack of police officers on the beat, particularly in Chester City centre in the evening?

A. Chief Superintendent Jackson reported that there were always officers on patrol in the City and that officers closely worked with security door staff to ensure the safety of the public. Inspector Rees added that the introduction of PCSOs provided high visible foot patrols.

Q. A request that the PCSOs in Neston undertake patrols in the evening to offer reassurance to the public, as opposed to afternoons.

A. Inspector Rees advised that PCSOs did work up to midnight and were an integral part of the police service and asked the questioner to speak to him after the meeting.

Q. A request that a blanket 'no drinking zone' be introduced throughout Neston to reduce anti-social incidents occurring on the periphery of existing zones.

A. Chief Superintendent Jackson advised that these zones needed to be effectively policed although he recognised they may displace anti-social behaviour and individuals to other areas. It was suggested that representations for extending designated no drinking areas be directed to the local authority, responsible for introducing them.

Q. Was there a legal limit to the length of time that a 'happy hour' can operate?

A. Chief Superintendent Jackson confirmed that there was not, however, the Police regularly monitored licensed and off-licensed premises and the necessary action taken when appropriate.

Q. What was the police view of the 'weak' sentencing issued by the Courts?

A. Chief Superintendent Jackson commented that the police worked with the Criminal Justice System and provided information and evidence to the Courts for them to determine appropriate sentencing. Courts had to act within the appropriate sentencing guidelines.

Q. An enquiry into whether the powers of PCSOs should be increased.

A. Chief Superintendent Jackson advised that PCSOs intentionally had limited powers so they could provide high-visibility and reassurance in the community and rather than being tied-up with completing paperwork or appearing at court. Whilst PCSOs did not have the power of arrest, they had the power to hold an individual until an officer arrived

Q. How do the public gain access to a police officer in Neston?

A. Inspector Rees reported that officers were not working in the Town Hall 24 hours a day but were deployed from there and

were patrolling within the local community. Local officers hold surgeries throughout the area which enable the public to raise issues with an officer or a PCSO. Crimes should be reported via the Call Management Bureau and details will be relayed to the local Neighbourhood Policing officers. Appointments can then be made to see a police officer at a time convenient to the member of the public to discuss non-urgent crimes.

Q. If the Authority is capped, what will be the impact on policing?

A. Mr Nurse outlined the reasons and the strong support of the public for setting the council tax level at 17% and advised that a substantial reduction in the number of police officers would have to be made, if the Authority was capped at 5%.

The following traffic related issues were also raised:-

Q. Concern was expressed about speeding on the A540 and what action was being taken to reduce traffic speeds?

A. Superintendent McHugh reported that speed enforcement was undertaken by the Traffic Unit in addition to the use of the speed indication device. He added that a number of environmental issues including the design and engineering were major factors which impacted on the road. The Constabulary were unable to lower speed limits but could make recommendations to the Highways Authority.

Q. What progress had been made on establishing 'red routes'?

A. The Superintendent reported the A5440 was one of four red routes in Cheshire and that police resources, including the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) system, were deployed to target and focus on these roads.

Q. What powers do PCSOs have to enforce parking?

A. The Chief Superintendent advised that PCSOs had the same powers as police officers with regard to enforcement of parking restrictions and were able to issue fixed penalty notices.

Q. Concern was expressed about the danger to other road users and pedestrians, arising from temporary roadworks on Church Lane, Neston and whether the police worked with the Borough Council on traffic management issues.

A. Inspector Roberts agreed to review the situation on Church Lane and advised that the County Council was responsible for traffic management and did consult with the police where necessary. The questioner was advised to ensure their concerns were raised with the County Council.

Q. A request that the use of mobile speed cameras on Leighton Road, Neston be replaced by a fixed speed camera.

A. Chief Superintendent Jackson reported that the sites selected for the speed cameras had to meet a national criteria and that this length of highway did not meet the criteria. The Chairman invited those present to participate in the 'Community Speedwatch' initiative.