

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

Meetings will be held at 7.00pm on the following Mondays:

- **13 October 2008**
Royal British Legion, Grove Avenue, Wilmslow
- **12 January 2009**
Methodist Church Hall, Off King Edward St, Macclesfield

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:-

Knutsford 0845 458 6380

knutsford.cat@cheshire.pnn.police.uk
Covering Knutsford, Mobberley, Mere, Ashley, Plumley.

Macclesfield 0845 458 6371

macclesfield.cat@cheshire.pnn.police.uk
Covering Macclesfield, Poynton, Prestbury, Bollington, Disley.

Wilmslow 0845 458 6374

wilmslow.cat@cheshire.pnn.police.uk
Covering Wilmslow, Handforth, Alderley Edge, Styal.

Cheshire Police Authority
www.cheshirepa.police.uk

Mission
To work in partnership with Cheshire Constabulary and officers 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 well served.

Aims

- To assist in achieving a consistently high performing force.
- To ensure improvements in performance and continue, underpinned by robust governance structures and appropriate Member support.
- To promote better and more effective engagement with stakeholders.
- To increase 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



Cheshire Police Authority

Have **your** say

Macclesfield

July 2008



Have Your Say Chairman:
Police Authority Member
Margaret Ollerenshaw

THIS newsletter shows the discussions at the meeting on 7 July 2008 at Poynton Royal British Legion and the action we have taken.

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

The Authority's Chief Executive, Mark Sellwood, the Assistant Chief Constable, David Baines, Chief Superintendent Paul McHugh and Inspector Gareth Woods were present to answer questions.



Mrs Ollerenshaw 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.

The Chairman also advised that after consulting with

our Citizens' Panel and Youth Congress, the Authority's website has been redesigned to make it simpler to access information about its meetings and work - www.cheshire.pa.police.uk

Crime has continued to fall by 11.7% in Cheshire compared to last year, resulting in 10,000 less victims of crime.

🎯 Serious and organised crime

SUPERINTENDENT Richard Strachan, of the Crime Operations Department, discussed the work undertaken by the Constabulary to tackle serious and organised crime in Cheshire.

Crime Operations were 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 Superintendent explained the role of the Major Investigations Team and CSI's in solving the murder of a man in Rode Heath in April 2007. The investigation required complex forensic examination following a fire at the scene. Two males were subsequently sentenced to 21 and 26 years in prison.

In the last four years, the Department had detected all murders in the Constabulary area.

The public asked what was the average number of murders in a year, the cost of a murder investigation, and the use of in-house forensics. The Superintendent advised that the number of murders in a typical year averaged 9 and that the investigation costs mainly related to officers overtime which was crucial early in an investigation, and those associated with professional witnesses, pathologists and forensics. The Constabulary's Forensics were used where possible, however, DNA samples had to be outsourced at additional cost.



🎯 Policing in Macclesfield



Chief Superintendent **Paul McHugh**
Eastern Area Commander

Chief Superintendent McHugh outlined his policing career to date and his approach to policing in the

Eastern Area following recent appointment as the new Area Commander.

Details were circulated of local incidents of note and the level of recorded crime, violent crime, burglary and vehicle crime for Macclesfield which had decreased by 12.6%, 12.4%, 41.1% and 23.3% respectively compared with the same period in the previous year.



Inspector **Gareth Woods**
Macclesfield NPU

Inspector Woods gave an overview of the work undertaken by the NPU since the last meeting which included the execution of 52 warrants for offences including misuse and supply of class A drugs, the arrest of an individual for incidents of vandalism in Bollington, and the successful detection of three cannabis farms and seizure of a substantial quantity of drugs. The Inspector advised that the structure of NPUs was constantly monitored and of the good working relationship with the local community.

🎯 Question Time

- Q.** How did knife crime affect the Macclesfield area?
- A.** Chief Superintendent McHugh advised that from a local perspective there wasn't a significant problem with knife crime and no inherent gang culture in Cheshire. Inspector Woods added that in Macclesfield it was exceptionally low but that local NPU were aware of the growing national issue and that officers sought information from the public about individuals carrying knives.
- Q.** Concern was expressed about an untaxed vehicle being used in an anti-social manner in Poynton and the lack of police action taken against the driver despite several reports to the police.
- A.** The Inspector advised that he was aware of the matter and asked the questioner to speak to him after the meeting. He added that DVLA was the authority responsible for enforcement of untaxed vehicles. *[Post meeting note: The Inspector confirmed that DVLA have taken the appropriate summons action against the registered keeper of the vehicle. The driver had been stopped on a number of occasions and a Section 59 warning notice had been issued which outlines how the vehicle could be seized and crushed if any further anti-social usage of the vehicle was witnessed by police officers. The questioner has been updated.]*
- Q.** A request for the Poynton Police Station to be re-opened.
- A.** Chief Superintendent McHugh reported that changes in society and technology and more sophisticated crimes had resulted in changes to policing delivering neighbourhood policing. It was not an efficient use of resources to have officers sitting at a desk within the station on the few occasions the public wished to call into the station. The public had asked for greater visibility of officers in the community which was being provided. The Inspector commented that 2 Constables and 6 PCSOs policed Poynton and Disley and worked out of the police station.
- Q.** A caller using the phone located outside Poynton Police Station was asked to call back via a recorded message.
- A.** The Inspector commented that the non-emergency call would be directed to the Call Management Bureau at Winsford which may at times of peak demand ask non-urgent callers to call back. He agreed to arrange for an alternative number to be displayed near the phone so that people can leave information on the CAT answerphone for action within 48 hours.
- Q.** Concern about vehicles parking on a road junction and the lack of action taken by the local Highway Authority to prevent an accident at the location.
- A.** The Assistant Chief Constable advised that Councils usually required a history of events before any remedial action can be taken. The priority was to improve locations where accidents had occurred. The Inspector agreed to refer the comments back to the Highway Authority for consideration.
- Q.** Has the increase in fuel costs impacted on the level of police patrols?
- A.** Superintendent McHugh advised that there had been no instruction to limit the number of patrols. The Assistant Chief Constable added that the Constabulary was looking into the most efficient use of police vehicles but fuel costs were not limiting police activity.
- Q.** What publicity was given to the 'Have Your Say' meetings?
- A.** The Chief Executive advised that publicity was undertaken to raise public awareness of the meetings which included advertising in the 'Your Policing' newspaper and the annual Council Tax demand which were distributed to every household in Cheshire, press releases issued to the media, displaying posters in libraries, parish notice boards and meeting venues. Those present suggested consideration should be given to notices being distributed at schools, use of Poynton Community website and better use of the 'Homewatch' e-mail network.