

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

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 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 service, 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

Ellesmere Port & Neston

July 2008



Have Your Say Chairman:
Police Authority Member
Michael Darby

This newsletter outlines the discussions at the meeting on 21 July 2008 at Ellesmere Port Civic Hall, attended by 34 members of the public and local community representatives and press.

The Authority's Chief Executive, Mark Sellwood, Deputy Chief Constable, Graeme Gerrard and Area Commander, Chief Superintendent Tim Jackson and Superintendent Sarah Boycott were present to answer questions.

Michael Darby 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. It was also announced that crime across Cheshire had reduced by 11.4% resulting in 10,000 fewer victims.



The Chairman referred to the pre-meeting surgery which provided an opportunity for the public to raise issues in private with their local NPU Inspector and invited those who attended to complete a questionnaire.

Mr Darby introduced Brenda Harvey, the Chief Executive of Ellesmere Port Borough Council, who was attending as Chairman of the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership. The Partnership was using the meeting as part of their "Face the People" consultation.

⊙ Serious and organised crime

CHIEF Superintendent Phil Thompson, Head of Crime Operations, discussed the work undertaken by the Constabulary to tackle serious and organised crime in Cheshire.

Crime Operations was 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 Chief Superintendent explained the role of the Major Investigations Team in Operation 'Opinion' which targeted a criminal gang supplying cocaine and heroin in the Ellesmere Port and Chester areas. The 12 month covert investigation involved 16 dedicated officers and resulted in the recovery of £130,000 of drugs and £90,000 cash seized. Part of the success of the operation was due to the receipt of community intelligence. Six males were arrested and subsequently received prison sentences of between 2½ to 7½ years. Arrangements were being implemented to confiscate their personal assets which included houses, cars and bank accounts.

Those in attendance expressed their appreciation for reducing the problem of drug misuse in the area and discussed the criminals who quickly filled the gaps when the drug supply was disrupted and short sentences imposed by the courts.



⊙ Policing in Ellesmere Port & Neston



Chief Superintendent Tim Jackson,
Area Commander

Chief Superintendent Jackson reported on a series of personnel changes in the Western Area. The meeting also received performance data for recorded crime, violent crime, burglary and vehicle crime which had reduced by 9.1%, 8.3%, 19.3% and 8% respectively compared with the previous year.



Inspector Richard Rees,
Ellesmere Port NPU

Inspector Rees gave an overview of recent activity and policing initiatives which included targeting violence and vehicle crime following an increase in incidents during May and June; three arrests for a series of burglaries, and the execution of 11

warrants resulting in the seizure of cocaine, cannabis and the recovery of stolen property. The anti-social use of vehicles and mini-motos was a concern raised at police surgeries and Community Action Meetings by the local community and this was to be addressed by a number of operations involving the Automatic Number Plate Recognition system and police off-road motorcycles. During a recent three day operation, 60 vehicles were stopped and 12 seized for offences including no tax and insurance. Funding received from the local Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership would enable anti-social behaviour and alcohol related crime in Whitby Park to be targeted over the summer months.

Inspector Rees expressed his appreciation to Michelle Brown, the Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator for her dedicated work in securing ASBOs which had contributed towards the reduction in reports of anti-social behaviour incidents.

⊙ Cheshire West and Chester District Council

BRENDA HARVEY commented on the changes to the structure of local councils with the creation of two new authorities for East and West Cheshire from 1 April 2009.

The new Cheshire West & Chester District Council would combine the authorities of Ellesmere Port & Neston, Vale Royal, Chester City and assume the duties of the County Council in that area. Those in attendance were encouraged to complete a consultation questionnaire on the boundaries for neighbourhood and area working.

⊙ Question Time

Q. Directed to Superintendent Boycott due to her recent secondment in New York - as youth issues appear to be a high priority in Ellesmere Port what best practice from New York can be implemented here?

A. Superintendent Boycott commented on her perception of the work undertaken to make New York a safe city which included engagement with the various groups of the local community and of agencies being involved in providing greater access to public facilities. The minimum age for drinking alcohol was 21 years which also appeared to have an impact on the community.

Q. Can assets be seized from the partner of a person convicted of criminal offences?

A. Inspector Rees advised that the issue was complex but if it was clear that a convicted criminal and their partner were clearly living off the proceeds of crime and there was no other visible means of income then all assets could be seized including the house, etc.

Q. What happens to the money that is generated from the sale of seized assets?

A. Chief Superintendent Jackson advised that the money is shared between the Crown Prosecution Service, the Courts Service and the police where it is re-invested back into policing.

Q. Concern was expressed about the judiciary and the disappointingly short length of sentences awarded to offenders.

A. The Deputy Chief Constable commented that the Courts operated within Government sentencing guidelines and were under pressure to use the full range of sentences including community payback schemes to ease the issue of overcrowding in the prisons. The Chairman encouraged

people to make their views known to their MP, who would be able to influence Government sentencing policy.

Q. Can a facility be provided for mini-motos in Ellesmere Port.

A. Inspector Rees reported that work was being undertaken with the Road Safety Unit and the Fire Service to identify a suitable location, however, a number of other issues would also require to be addressed including funding, supervision and health & safety.

Q. Can the Police identify where drugs are being cultivated?

A. The Chief Superintendent commented that equipment in the force aircraft enabled heat sources to be identified on the ground and the officers gain information from energy suppliers about irregular or high energy users.

Q. How many extra constables and PCSOs will the 17% increase in council tax fund?

A. The Chief Executive advised that the increase would provide for a further 35 NPU officers and maintain the current number of PCSOs. It would also enable further investment in tackling serious and organised crime which also benefited Ellesmere Port.

Appreciation was expressed to the local police and PCSOs for providing a visible presence in the Stanney and Wolverham areas.

Q. What action can be taken to warn the elderly about bogus callers.

A. The Chairman advised that the police did regularly undertake crime prevention campaigns to raise awareness of this and other types of crime and that family and friends should also advise the vulnerable and the elderly.



LIZ BIDDLE, the Constabulary's Homewatch Manager for the Western Area discussed the benefits of participating in a Homewatch Scheme.

Contact Liz on 01244 614291 to establish a scheme in your area.