

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 Western Area meetings 2009/10

Future meetings will be held at 7.00pm on the following:-

- **5 May 2009**
Town Hall, Neston
- **19 May 2009**
St Mary's Centre, St Mary's Hill, off Castle Street, Chester
- **1 September 2009**
Lifestyle Centre, The Drummer, Winsford
- **22 September 2009**
Civic Hall, Civic Way, Ellesmere Port
- **19 January 2010**
Memorial Hall, Northwich
- **26 January 2010**
St Mary's Centre, St Mary's Hill, off Castle Street, Chester.

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:-

Frodsham 0845 458 6393

frodsham.cat@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

Covering Mickle Trafford, Frodsham, Elton, Dobleston, Higher Wyche, Tarporley

Northwich 0845 458 6392

northwich.cat@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

Covering Northwich, Rudheath, Witton, Weaverham, Barnton, Winnington, Castle, Leftwich, Hartford, Kingsmead

Winsford 0845 458 6391

winsford.cat@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

Covering Winsford, Grange, Wharton, Dean, Over, Greenfields, Swanlow, Davenham

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

Vale Royal

January 2009



Terry Savage
'Have Your Say' meeting
Chairman

THIS newsletter outlines the discussion at the meeting on 7 January 2009 in the Community Centre, Weaverham attended by 33 members of the public, press and local community representatives.

The Authority's Chairman, Peter Nurse, Chief Executive, Mark Sellwood together with Superintendent Sarah Boycott and Detective Chief Inspector Brian Roberts, were present to answer questions. The Inspectors for the Northwich, Winsford and Rural NPU's were also in attendance.

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 Citizen's 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, David Whatton.



Police Budget

PETER Nurse, the Police Authority Chairman discussed the Authority's proposed budget for 2009/10 and outlined the extensive consultation with the public undertaken last year. Mr Nurse 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 Cheshire Police Authority's council tax increase to a maximum of 3% - an extra 8p per week on a Band D household. Mr Nurse 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.

Police 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, contact details for local police officers.

A copy of the Policing Pledge can be viewed on the Authority's website – www.cheshirepa.police.uk

West Cheshire & Chester CDRP - Priorities

EWAN McHenry, the Community Safety Manager for the Vale Royal Community Safety Partnership discussed the background and the work of the Shadow Partnership which involved the new West Cheshire and Chester Council and the Police working with the local community, local agencies and businesses to tackle problems of community safety, crime and disorder. The Partnership was formed to co-ordinate the efforts of the partners in addressing local issues in order to make West Cheshire a safer place.

Following this year's strategic assessment, targeting high-crime neighbourhoods, reducing re-offending, reducing anti-social behaviour, and addressing domestic abuse had been identified as the top priorities by those consulted and would be tackled from April 2009.

Questionnaires were circulated, seeking views on the four proposed priorities.



Policing in Vale Royal (continued)



Inspector Phil Hodgson, Rural NPU

Inspector Hodgson commented on several recent court convictions which included three years imprisonment for a prolific burglar for 8 burglaries, and 5 years imprisonment for a motorist involved in a fatal road traffic collision in Frodsham. During the Christmas and New Year period, extra police patrols and the targeting of drunk people; and problem licensed premises resulted in a reduction in violent crime.



Inspector Dave Snasdell, Winsford NPU

Inspector Snasdell spoke about recent operations in the Winsford area which resulted in a number of arrests for drug offences and the cultivation of cannabis, the theft of plant and farm equipment; serious assaults and bogus callers targeting vulnerable residents. Officers had also been involved in the ArcAngel initiative; the seizure of a quantity of alcohol during the Christmas and New Year period; and via public intelligence and evidence the closure of an off-licence for selling alcohol to under 18s.

Question Time

Q. What action was being taken to target motorists parking on pavements in Winsford?

A. The questioner was asked to see Inspector Snasdell after the meeting.

Q. Would the 'Frenzy' events be continuing?

A. Inspector Minghella advised that three successful events with up to 300 attendees had been held between October and December, which were part funded by the CDRP and Fire Service. Funding was being sought to continue the events in Northwich.

Q. Was it illegal to park on the 'zig zag' road markings outside the school on Forest Street, Weaverham on a Sunday?

A. The local officer advised that it was not an offence. There should be an upright sign indicating the times when parking is not permissible. Following a check by the local patrol, there were no time restriction plates visible, however, outside most schools parking would be allowable on a Sunday. The Superintendent agreed to follow up the signage matter with the local authority.

Q. Concern was expressed about double parked vehicles on Hazel Drive, Weaverham which restricted the movement of emergency vehicles.

A. The local PCSO agreed to patrol the area and issue enforcement notices where appropriate.

Q. What was the police's view of self test drink-drive machines?

A. Superintendent Boycott advised that drink-driving was considered a serious offence and was pro-actively targeted. The use of self-breathysers were not supported by the police as alcohol levels could continue to increase after a reading had been taken thus giving the user incorrect information. The advice to the public was not to drink and then drive.

Q. How did officers target motorists under the influence of drugs?

A. Superintendent Boycott advised that this was a problem and that officers were trained to undertake observation tests, to show whether a driver was under the influence of drugs, with extra patrols being used to observe driving behaviour and standards. The public were urged to report incidents where it was considered that drugs were being used by drivers. Mr Savage reminded those in attendance that a presentation on how the police carry out drug testing had been given at a previous meeting.

Q. An enquiry into the delay of the erection of 'Homewatch' signs in Little Leigh.

A. Inspector Minghella reported that the Homewatch Co-ordinator was experiencing difficulties with the fixings and the owners of the signposts to which the signs would be attached. Work was being undertaken to resolve the issue.

Q. Have the benefits been achieved from the 17% increase in council tax and how much had been spent on frontline policing?

A. The Authority Chairman advised that there were many claims on the £7.6m raised and that the funding had been directed at frontline officers targeting serious and organised criminality, which affected all communities. Benefits had been achieved in that the Constabulary now had a greater capacity and capability of tackling serious criminals and protecting neighbourhoods.

Q. Why did police officers patrol in pairs?

A. Detective Chief Inspector Roberts commented that deployment of officers followed peak demands and resources were allocated accordingly. Training of new constables and PCSOs was undertaken on patrol and therefore, on many occasions one officer was being trained, and the response to some incidents eg anti-social behaviour, required the attendance of more than one officer. Routinely, officers on patrol and in response vehicles were on their own.

Policing in Vale Royal



Superintendent Sarah Boycott

Superintendent Boycott introduced the officers present. Details were circulated of recent operations, arrests and convictions and other local incidents of note and performance in relation to key crimes for Vale Royal – domestic burglary, violent crime, vehicle crime and criminal damage, which had decreased by 6%, 7%, 39% and 11% respectively compared with the same period in the previous year.



Inspector Peter Minghella, Northwich NPU

Inspector Minghella outlined the successful partnership working undertaken in the Northwich area which included the ArcAngel campaign; diversionary activities to reduce anti-social behaviour; seeking continued funding for Operation Strata; high visibility patrols targeting 'hotspots' and licensed premises to deter crime and reduce violent crime and criminal damage. Since the inception of Northwich Business Watch in October 2008, retail crime had also reduced.