

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 at 7.00pm at the Gateway Centre, Sankey Street, Warrington on the following Tuesdays:-

- 1 April 2008
- 22 July 2008 (Surgery at 6.00pm)
- 21 October 2008
- 6 January 2009

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:-

Warrington Central 0845 458 6379

warrington.central.cat@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

Covering Town Centre, Bewsey, Fairfield, Howley and Whitecross.

Warrington East 0845 458 6390

warrington.east.cat@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

Covering Culcheth, Glazebury, Croft, Birchwood, Poulton North/South, Rixton and Woolston.

Warrington South 0845 458 6372

warrington.south.cat@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

Covering Appleton, Grappenhall, Hatton, Latchford, Lymm, Stockton Heath, Thelwall, Walton and Westy.

Warrington West 0845 458 6385

warrington.west.cat@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

Covering Birchwood, Callands, Great Sankey, Old Hall, Penketh, Westbrook, Whittle Hall and Winwick.

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 provide 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

Warrington

January 2008



Have Your Say Chairman:
Police Authority Member
Peter Walker

This newsletter gives you feedback on the 'Have Your Say' meeting on 22 January 2008 in Warrington Town Hall which was attended by 28 members of the public, local community representatives and press attended the meeting.

The Police Authority's Chief Executive, Mark Sellwood, the Constabulary's Assistant Chief Constable, Garry Shewan, and Acting Chief Superintendent Gary Finchett were present to answer questions.

Mr Walker welcomed people and explained the role of 'Have Your Say' meetings and encouraged those attending to contribute to the discussion.

Funding For Policing: Budget Consultation

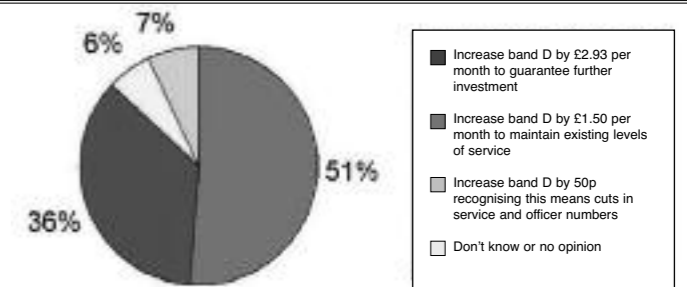
PETER Walker discussed the Authority's budget for 2008/09 and commented that much consultation had been undertaken with the public on what police services they wished to see improved and how much extra they were willing to pay. 87% of the respondents to a poll by MORI were prepared to pay an extra £1.50 or more per month. During the last cycle of Forums over half the people who completed a questionnaire supported an extra £2.93 a month or more.

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.



Mr Walker 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 whether

the extra funding would result in an increase in the number of police officers on the frontline; what the level of funding of neighbouring forces was; and the impact of the budget proposals on the number of Police Community Support Officers. The Chief Executive and the Assistant Chief Constable advised that the additional investment would further improve police response to incidents, provide more officers on the streets, tackle serious and organised crime, monitor sex offenders, support victims and witnesses, process people faster in custody and continue to provide better customer services whilst reducing crime levels. Other questions asked and replied to included the cost of disciplinary hearings; the impact on persons with fixed incomes; the number of Special Constables and the need for pubs and night clubs to contribute more towards policing.

In response to questions the Chairman commented that, if the Authority followed Government guidelines and raised the police council tax by only 5% (50p per month), up to 100 staff might have to cut from the service. A raise of 11% was required just to maintain the current levels of service.

🕒 Policing Objectives 2008/09

THE Chief Executive announced that after public consultation the following proposed objectives had been developed for the Chief Constable to focus on in 2008/09:-



1 CRIME REDUCTION

Make Our Communities Safer – To further reduce overall crime, in particular serious violent and acquisitive crime levels, by working with local agencies to identify and solve problems; help reduce re offending; and the number of deaths and serious injuries on our roads.



2 WORKING WITH OTHERS

Anti-social Behaviour – Listen, respond to and support our communities; work with our partners to help reduce the fear and annoyance caused by alcohol and drug related disorder.



3 COMMUNITY POLICING

Increase public confidence and satisfaction – Help build stronger communities through positive neighbourhood policing strategies, visible patrol, responding in a timely manner and proactively engaging with the public.



4 BRING OFFENDERS TO JUSTICE

Criminal Justice System – Improve the way we and our partners bring offences to justice and increase the number of witnesses and victims who are satisfied with the service they receive.



5 SERIOUS CRIME

Work locally, regionally and nationally to help tackle organised and serious crime and reduce the harm cause by it to ensure the public feel confident and protected.



6 RESOURCES

Improve productivity and efficiency so we become more outcomes focused, adding value to front line policing. Challenging and improving our business processes by knowing what works and why so we can provide our customers with the best possible service and value for money.

🕒 The role of Police Community Support Officers

PCSO Kathryn Harkin discussed her role and the work she undertook in the central area of Warrington, which included high-visibility patrol; visiting schools; working with young people; providing reassurance to victims of crime and the local community; and targeting low level crime and anti-social behaviour.

She also attended Community Action Meetings (CAMs) which enabled the public to raise issues of local concern with the police.

Those in attendance asked how she communicated with the local community; whether she had powers to direct traffic; how quickly PCSOs could respond to particular incidents; and enforcement of people cycling on pavements, to which Kathryn responded.

Praise was expressed for the work of the PCSO in Rixton who had made a real difference in the community.

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 Warrington



Acting Chief Superintendent **Gary Finchett**, Northern Area

ACTING Chief Superintendent Finchett discussed a number of issues in Warrington including the record number of arrests (33 per day) being made in the Northern Area; the additional problems for policing which were caused by the high concentration of licensed premises in Warrington town centre; the proposed creation of a new Warrington Town Centre NPU; the proactive roads policing operation undertaken over the Christmas and New Year period; and the significant number of incidents which police were called to in the town per day, resulting in a police response to an incident every five minutes. The local policing priorities for the forthcoming year were outlined.



Inspector **Derek Lockie**, Warrington East NPU

Inspector Lockie reported on the positive impact that PCSOs had made to local neighbourhood policing; the work being undertaken locally with licensees to address problems of under age drinking; and the development of community intelligence to ensure that officers could respond effectively and act upon such information.

🕒 Question Time

- Q. Concern about the lack of response to reports of a youth carrying a knife and in a separate incident, the lack of follow up by officers investigating a jewellery robbery, including the failure to turn up to an agreed appointment.
- A. Chief Superintendent Finchett apologised for the totally unacceptable response which had been given and undertook to discuss the matter further after the meeting and investigate the particular incident.
- Q. Did roads policing still feature as one of the Constabulary's priorities?
- A. Chief Superintendent Finchett replied that roads policing was very much still a priority both forcewide and locally, and that the Targeted Patrol Teams were regularly tasked to address road policing issues.
- Q. Did the local officers address violations by cyclists, including cycling on pavements and ignoring red lights?
- A. Chief Superintendent Finchett commented that local officers would respond to incidents should they arise in their presence, although the issue would have to be prioritised accordingly. The local PCSO agreed to raise the concern with colleagues in the central NPU.
- Q. Were PCSOs trained in life saving techniques?
- A. Assistant Chief Constable Shewan stated that PCSOs were a valuable addition to policing in Cheshire, who carried out a unique role which was additional to that provided by police officers, but it was not appropriate that they should be trained to undertake duties, such as water borne life saving techniques.
- Q. What was being done to reduce re-offending and prevent violent offenders gaining bail?
- A. The Chief Superintendent reported that the Constabulary was part of the criminal justice system and worked closely with the courts, the probation service and other agencies to ensure that the appropriate actions were being taken against those individuals committing crime. The issue of bail was a matter for the Courts to answer.
- Q. The number of penalty notices that had been issued for drivers using mobile phones whilst driving?
- A. Although it was not possible to report on these figures at this meeting, the Chairman undertook to provide the data to the next meeting.
- Q. Why were licensed premises still being awarded licences when they were not compliant with Disability Discrimination legislation?
- A. The Chairman responded that licensing was now an issue for the Borough Council and that the matter would be referred to them for appropriate action.
- Q. Particular concerns were raised about a serious assault on a youth in the Birchwood area where the police had been supportive but the courts had granted the attacker bail.
- A. Inspector Lockie was due to meet the questioner the next day to discuss the incident further.
- Thanks were expressed to the local Community Action Team for improving the quality of life for people living in the Bruche area of Warrington through visible policing.
- It was suggested that the contributions of some attendees should be limited by the Chairman, as some people sought to dominate the meeting by speaking on numerous accounts on each item. The Chairman agreed to consider this matter if it became necessary.