

Questions for the Police and Crime Commissioner - Roger Hirst

20th September 2017

Mr Hirst addressed the meeting and gave some detail into what his position was and a bit of background on his working career. He will be taking on the role of Police and Fire Commissioner as of 1st October 2017. These will still be dealt with separately but there is a lot that they can work on together. He is not a Police Officer and by law is not allowed to be. He is a Civilian. Mr Hirst stated that he raised the Council Tax last year and some of the money was spent on improving the Control Rooms and Police Officers having Samsung phones to allow them to work more remotely. Using these phones the Police officers are also able to check CCTV.

He advised that he has an appointment with the Prime Minister the following day to work on obtaining more funding to spend on local policing.

Mr Hirst then answered questions which had been sent to him in advance by the Council

1. We understand the Police recently said that they prefer to recruit specials rather than PCSO's. Are their roles not very different? Please could you explain how the Stansted community could benefit from specials? Would it be possible to reinstate PCSO's if the District and Parish contributed to their salaries?

PCSO's are not warranted officers whereas Specials are warranted officers. If you sponsor a Special Constable then they will be based in your community only and will not be taken away. Happy to talk about sponsoring a PCSO but they are expensive. The Chairman reported that this had recently been discussed at UDC and would be considered by the Parish Council during the budget process.

2. How reliable is the on-line reporting service? Two members of the public have used it recently and found it to be lacking in detail when the police have eventually contacted them, quite important details when it comes to linking incidences of crime/asb etc.

Very reliable - Has free form space and captures the crime. The Police will call and ask for the other details they require. 101 is a dreadful service and money is currently being invested to improve as at present it's not good. Work is also in progress to be able to allow the upload of documents and pictures when a crime is being reported. This is still months away though. Encourage everyone to report crimes through the Do It Online system.

3. Will you guarantee renewed support for our Speedwatch Monitoring team which are now witnessing unprecedented speeds along Cambridge Road in excess of 50 mph? They are experiencing verbal abuse yet have been informed that following up of incidents is unlikely to happen?

Yes! Have already tried with true cam and are gathering information from Speedwatch teams. If the Speedwatch team let them know when and where they are going to be then officers can attend and show their presence and support. Letters should be being sent to offenders who are caught speeding by the Speedwatch team. Repeat offenders should be

being visited. I am a member of my local Speedwatch team and we have had officer assistance in one area where there are repeated offences. Police contact for Stansted is Matt Hynde.

4. As a supplement to question 3, in the first, recent edition of the Community Speed watch Newsletter, it says that where there "is evidence of poor lack of compliance" there will be "additional police enforcement". The Parish Council recently requested police enforcement on Silver Street and Cambridge Road, with evidence submitted by the Speed Watch team. As far as we know there has been no response. Can you ensure a police speed watch presence as an occasional back up to the volunteers?

As above

5. As you are now the Police and "Fire" Commissioner, what is the intention for the Stansted Fire Station given the police station has been sold?

No plans to change - Stansted is a good station.

6. Can you provide information on police response times to incidents in the last 12 months in Stansted, given the change in bases for the service?

Unfortunately do not have this information to hand as it is not captured per Parish. County responses are up but that is also due to the number of crime incidents increasing.

7. The Parish Council has had a good relationship with the Police for many years - what is the best route of communication to use to ensure that this continues?

Good - Crime needs to be reported and that also helps to get funding for the area. PC Tim Scott would be good person to have open communication channels with and also the Community Safety Partnership via UDC.

8. What can we do about Airport parking which causes disruption for residents in the Village?

Keep diary and take photos if vehicles are obstructing pavements. It is not a crime to park on pavements unless causing an obstruction. If not illegal then the police will not intervene. Police will also not attend every single parking issue so that is why the advice is to keep a log and provide diary and photos as evidence. Driving on pathways is also not illegal but photos could be taken to build up a case and raised with the CSP.

9. Stansted, along with many other communities in Uttlesford, suffers from inconsiderate parking that obstructs pavements. This can force pedestrians with or without pushchairs, wheelchairs and disability vehicles into the carriageway and the path of motorised traffic. Yet Essex Police have the reputation for giving this offense a very low priority, which means they are known not to deal with reported incidents. In contrast, Hertfordshire Police seem to be taking the matter very seriously. Their Operation Pram is described in the attached article in the Herts & Essex Observer newspaper of 24th August 2017. I am expecting an Operational Police Officer to attend Uttlesford District Council's Scrutiny Committee (which I

Chair) on September 26th to discuss the matter. Do you consider that this is a public concern on which your officers should act?

As above. Essex has the lowest expenditure of all counties whereas Hertfordshire is handsomely funded. I am working to change this. As already stated, parking on pavements is not a crime. However, driving along a pavement, even with two wheels, could be considered as "dangerous driving", especially if there are pedestrians using the path at the time. Again, photos are great evidence and this should be reported under "Other Crime" on the Do It Online website.

10. Community Hub - What would be your view of having front desk facility in our new Community "Hub" building? We are told that in other areas where the Police have a presence it is very useful for information gathering.

Yes it's a great idea and should be looked at. Have been driving Community Hubs and although it won't be easy we can work on it. Requested that details be emailed to him regarding this.