
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE**

HELD ON 12 MAY 2014 AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL OFFICES, WEELEY

- Present:** Councillors D Miles (Chairman), C Amos, C Callender, J Hawkins, T Howard, A Pugh and I Tracey
- Also Present:** Councillors N Turner (Environment and Coast Protection Portfolio Holder), G Mitchell and G Watling
- In Attendance:** Chief Executive (Ian Davidson), Business Manager (Jon Barber), Community Safety Manager (Leanne Thornton), Democratic Services Manager (Colin Sweeney) and Democratic Services Officer (Janey Nice)
- Also In Attendance:** Essex Police and Crime Commissioner (Nick Alston), Chief Inspector and District Commander for Tendring (Cat Barrie), Manager for Offender Management – Essex Probation (Henry Griffiths), Councillor G Guglielmi (Essex Fire Authority), Community Safety Partnership Chair – Tendring District Council (Councillor L A McWilliams) and Community Connector Lead - Essex Fire and Rescue Service (Les Nicoll)

1. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting, including the visitors and people in the public gallery.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

There was an apology for absence submitted on behalf of Councillor M Patten (Vice-Chairman), with Councillor F Nicholls substituting.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting of the Committee, held on 7 April 2014, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

5. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chairman announced that the Committee would consider Item 5 on the agenda (Annual Review of the Work of the Community Safety Partnership) before Item 4 (Review and Update of the New Policing Structure and its impact on the Community).

6. ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE WORK OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

The Chairman introduced Leanne Thornton, the Council's Community Safety Manager who gave a verbal presentation on the work of the Tendring Community Safety Partnership. Mrs Thornton advised the Committee that she, and her colleagues in attendance, formed part of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP), which was formed in 1998, by law, to form a partnership to implement a strategy and work plan to tackle the main crime and disorder issues within a local authority's area.

Mrs Thornton outlined the CSP priorities, which were:

- Tackling Antisocial Behaviour (ASB);
- Reducing Crime and the Fear of Crime;
- Reducing drug and alcohol misuse within communities; and
- Reducing reoffending

Mrs Thornton said that, last year, there had been a significant reduction in ASB, with a further reduction indicated already for this year, and went on to list some of the projects, which had been undertaken to tackle ASB, including:

- Borderline Project
- Crucial Crew
- Keep Safe
- Firebreak
- The Fire Cadets Scheme

Mrs Thornton was pleased to announce that last year the Community Safety Partnership received three High Sheriff's Awards and that Borderline, Crucial Crew and Keep Safe all received the High Sheriff's Commendation.

Mrs Thornton said that analysing crime data had shown that the hotspot ward for most crime types was Pier Ward in Clacton-on-Sea but Burglary and Public Order Offences hotspots were Harwich East Central and Clacton's Golf Green.

Mrs Thornton said that during the last reporting period the Partnership had assisted Police Operations in:

- **Operation Statesman** – to deal with the series of knife point robberies in Clacton-on-Sea;
- **Operation Jute** – commissioned as an ongoing anti-burglary operation to combat burglary in Harwich;
- **Operation Christmas Cracker** – set up to deter, detect and reduce instances of retail-related offences and incidents of ASB in the run-up to the festive period; and
- **Operation Mistletoe** – a County wide operation designed to provide high visible additional resources to deal with the high level of crime and disorder associated with the festive period.

Mrs Thornton outlined some facts and figures relating to alcohol-related crime and detailed projects intended to tackle drug and alcohol misuse which included:

- Reducing the Strength Campaign;
- Drop-in Centre – Jaywick; and
- Community Action Panel – Alcohol Awareness Conference.

Members raised questions in relation to issues which included:

- Incidents of serious crime, which had gone up in 2013;
- Recorded crime and fear of crime;
- Alcohol abuse;
- Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) - removal of match-funding; and
- Essex County Council turning off street lights late at night

Both the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Inspector responded to these issues.

Members expressed their thanks for the work Mrs Thornton had undertaken.

7. REVIEW AND UPDATE OF THE NEW POLICING STRUCTURE AND ITS IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY

The Chairman welcomed Nick Alston (Essex Police and Crime Commissioner) (PCC) back to the Committee to give an update on his first year as the PCC for Essex.

Mr Alston said his focus had been to deal with what mattered to residents and that one of his first decisions had been to appoint a Chief Constable. Mr Alston said that the new Chief Constable had brought a wealth of experience to the job and had delivered well in his first year in the position. He said that he met weekly with the Chief Constable to discuss important issues, which included under investment in ageing buildings, outdated IT and serious and organised crime (e.g. drugs and prostitution).

During his first year in office, Mr Alston said that he had made a commitment to visit each district within Essex, at least twice, for public meetings and that, this year he had made a commitment to visit each area at least once. Mr Alston added that he was a member of the Health and Wellbeing Board and was also committed to reducing the number of road-related accidents across Essex.

The Chairman thanked Mr Alston for his overview and invited Members to ask questions.

Members raised questions in relation to issues which included:

- Increased crime
- Street lights switch-off
- Naked Cyclists Bike Ride in Clacton
- PCSO's - funding

The Chairman then introduced the Community Connector Lead from Essex Fire and Rescue Service (Les Nicoll) who talked briefly about the success of the Firebreak Scheme.

The Manager, Offender Management – Essex Probation (Henry Griffiths) followed on by talking about the good work that was going on with the Partnership and, in particular, with Colchester and Tendring and that the partnership was targeting people who were willing to engage with it.

The Chairman thanked all of the guests, Members and speakers who had contributed to the discussions and confirmed that it had been a good and informative meeting.

8. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

There were none.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.56 p.m.

Chairman

NOTE: Given the length and detail of the discussions that had occurred, a commentary on the key points raised was produced and is attached as an appendix to these minutes.

Commentary of Discussions**1. ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE WORK OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP**

Mrs Thornton said the Community Safety Structure operated with the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Safer Essex, which delivered the priority areas for focus in the Police and Crime Plan and supported the commissioning and delivery of the PCC's Community Safety fund, the Responsible Authorities Group (RAG) and finally the Tasking and Co-ordinating Group which was chaired by the Police on a fortnightly basis.

Mrs Thornton outlined the CSP priorities which were:

- Tackling Antisocial Behaviour (ASB);
- Reducing Crime and the Fear of Crime;
- Reducing drug and alcohol misuse within communities; and
- Reducing re-offending is a statutory duty for all community safety partnerships and thus supports the over-arching theme for Safer Essex

The projects which had been undertaken to tackle ASB included:

- **Borderline Project** – this was a ten-week programme where young people learned about the consequences of crime and how their actions affected others, as well as building their confidence and self-esteem. The scheme had run for more than six years and 84% of young people who had been on scheme had not offended or re-offended;
- **Crucial Crew** – a large number of groups and organisations came together over a two-week period to put on a range of scenarios to help children deal with various dangers and safety-related situations they might face in everyday life. The last event, held in November 2013, attracted 39 schools with 1,370 pupils, along with 12 voluntary community and statutory organisations taking part;
- **Keep Safe** - was a scheme targeted at education and prevention, whilst encouraging integration into community living and making people feel safe. The aim of the scheme was to reduce bullying and abuse of people with learning disabilities and to ensure that vulnerable people felt Tendring was a safe place to live and visit. The Keep Safe Scheme would achieve its aims by identifying shops in the Clacton town centre initially, where a person with a learning disability who was upset or needed help could easily find someone to help them to make a vital phone call to a parent, carer, support worker or if necessary, the emergency services;
- **Firebreak Scheme** - was a programme, which aimed to improve self-esteem, self-discipline and responsibility by students undertaking the various disciplines of the Fire Service; and
- **The Fire Cadets Scheme** - had been created by the Essex County Fire and Rescue Service which had been run in Clacton due to its geographical crime and deprivation rate and areas of the scheme had been used to form the National Fire Cadet model. This was run one evening a week over a 41 week period (BTech accredited) with an end of year passing-out parade.

The projects to tackle crime and fear of crime had included operation Bannockburn, which deployed a mobile police station and other resources in the buffer zone to identify risk factors for burglary and make a timely effort to encourage householders to remove or reduce the risk factors. To date, 1,136 households had been visited and given crime prevention

advice. Another project had been a Community Day in Harwich, which had been a joint initiative between the Tendring Community Safety Partnership and the Council's Tidy Tendring campaign and Mr Alston (PCC) had attended the event.

The Community Safety Tracker Survey had shown a decrease in the number of Tendring residents who felt safe in their neighbourhood both during night and day and the figures were slightly below the Essex average of 58.5% (night) and 87.8% (day).

Facts and figures relating to alcohol-related crime were outlined. Detailed projects intended to tackle drug and alcohol misuse included:

- Reducing The Strength Campaign;
- Drop-in Centre – Jaywick; and
- Community Action Panel – Alcohol Awareness Conference.

The presentation concluded by talking about the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) which was a country-wide project to establish what lessons could be learned from the way in which local professional and organisations worked individually and together to safeguard victims.

In response to a question raised about targeting key issues rather than all issues due to limited resources, the Chief Executive outlined how the holistic approach was much wider with the Council working with families with complex needs, looking at house building in Jaywick, working with the Police in the town centre and he added that public services needed to be looked at in a different way.

2. REVIEW AND UPDATE OF THE NEW POLICING STRUCTURE AND ITS IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY

A public meeting in Harwich had been very well attended and the public meetings had flushed out issues which were of concern. He added that one of the main areas of concern, with around 80 calls a day, was the issue of domestic violence while burglary had around 20 calls.

Mr Alston said he was very pleased of partnership working and he was currently a member of the Health and Wellbeing Board and was concerned about mental health which is a difficult subject to deal with and believes the health service needs to play their part. He said he was committed to reducing the number of road safety incidents with 740 drivers being either killed or injured last year in Essex with an number of young driver incidents increasing, also with cyclists and alcohol related incidents. He added that Essex Police had been involved with the emergency caused by flooding in February of this year and it was important how emergencies were dealt with.

A question was raised about increased crime in the District and what could be done to decrease crime figures and also whether the street lights being switched off across Tendring had had an impact. Mr Alston replied that crime indeed had gone up in Tendring and listed a number of possible reasons and it was an area he intended to scrutinise to see why Tendring was different to other areas. He added that the consultation concerning the street lighting had been made at least two and a half years ago before he took up the post as PCC, however he had in fact researched the subject and there was no data to suggest crime went up when the street lights were switched off. He also commented that anti social behaviour had decreased and he was more concerned about road safety than crime.

Mr Alston said in fact most burglaries took place during the daytime hours and more data would need to be correlated over a longer period of time to see if the street lighting switch off had had an effect on crime figures.

Further questions from Members covered concern over a planned bike ride by naked cyclists which was due to take place on the first Saturday of the school holidays in July, it was felt by Committee Members that it was an inappropriate event for a family seaside resort and were surprised that the Police could take no action to halt the event but the Chief Inspector (Cat Barrie) would undertake to have another look at the issue. Another concern was that people found it difficult to contact the Police and while calling the 101 number complaints were not always dealt with successfully. It was also commented that the PCSO's did not always keep their phones switched on. The Chief Inspector also agreed that the PCSO's were not always as professional as they could be and could be better managed.

Mr Alston was also asked by the Chief Executive (Ian Davidson) about the Police budget possibly reducing funding to the Council and after seeing how some of the funding had been used in the last year, to consider the Police making the same contribution to the Council as in the previous year, this would enable the Council to assist with the issue of PCSO funding. He responded to the request by confirming the budget was a complex issue but he would be reviewing in July for a decision to be made in September.

Mr Griffiths responded to a question about re-offenders by confirming that they do try and return offenders to home areas after completing a custodial sentence and if they had a connection to another area then they would be taken to that area rather than Tendring.

The Chairman thanked all of the guests, Members and speakers who had contributed to the meeting and confirmed that it had been a good and informative meeting.