

Questions for Chief Constable from Panel Members of the Communities Overview & Scrutiny Panel – 3 September 2020

1. The crime concerns of villagers are at two levels – anti social behaviour by youths and scams upon the elderly. Is this borne out by statistics? How well equipped are the Police to deal with changes in crime patterns?
2. There are pockets of residents who are surrounded by crime and ASB, more likely in the deprived areas. Neighbours can be very hostile to each other which engenders anxiety and fear. Residents do not want to be named or be too precise on locations for fear of reprisals. Currently I inform the social housing provider and the Community Wardens. What more can be done to make the lives of the “upstanding residents”. more bearable?
3. Windsor Town has seen an upsurge in drug dealing, fighting, public urination, ASB, sometimes spilling over into local residential streets. What more can be done to prevent?
4. Our PM says that mask wearing is supposed to be compulsory and will be enforced. We have been told by our new local Police team that they will discuss and encourage. Local evidence makes it clear that people make up their own mind as to whether this applies to them or not. Shopkeepers don't challenge as they don't want to lose business and there is virtually no police presence in the village to "discuss and encourage". How can this issue be dealt with to protect everyone?
5. We have received, and passed on to the police, information about bike thefts and sales of drugs by a 16 year old (in the two villages of Horton and Wraysbury) who appears to be working for a couple of older men. He has involved other young adults in delivering drugs and in handling stolen goods (hiding a stolen bike for him), but they are too scared to talk to the police for fear of the recriminations from the lad. With virtually no police presence in the village this can only get worse, and more and more children will get dragged in. How do you propose dealing with this issue in Horton and Wraysbury, and quite probably in many other villages in the Thames Valley area?
6. Locally there has been a high incidence of bike thefts, catalytic converter thefts, use of CO2 vials. What more can be done to prevent these?
7. What proportion of the current workforce split by PC and PCSO, admin etc represent the BAME community? Taking the recent recruitment drive what proportion of new staff represent the BAME community?
8. Do you feel that PCSO's are having to undertake social work and is this right? If not, what can be done about it?
9. Has there been a negative impact on the number of PCSO's as I assume they will have applied, and probably be fast tracked, for PC roles?
10. Anticipating a significant rise in unemployment over the coming months/years especially youth unemployment what additional steps are you intending to take to minimise the chances of the youth joining the crime scene?
11. What is the policy on deployment of officers to rural versus urban areas?

- 12.** Do NW schemes reduce crime or just push it on elsewhere?
- 13.** What clear message can we give residents to reduce crime and the fear of crime?
- 14.** What permanent changes do you foresee as the result of COVID?
- 15.** Is the high housing cost in the TV negatively impacting on recruitment and, if so, is there a way to overcome this?
- 16.** Has the 101 response time improved? I have residents who inform me they have given up using this service.
- 17.** Not all dog owners can control their pets which has resulted in the death/savaging of other residents' pets. Is there a role for the police in taking action? If not, what would you suggest residents do?
- 18.** Eton Town Council very much appreciates the ongoing work done by our local police team in dealing with anti-social behaviour on the Brocas during the challenging times of the pandemic. We do however have another recurring issue in our High Street with cyclists using footways and/or travelling the wrong way down our one-way High Street and fear that this presents a serious danger to residents. Can the Chief Constable assure us that when possible, resources will be devoted to regular monitoring and enforcement as they have been in the past to such good effect?
- 19.** BPC have this year had a number of similar Traveller incursions onto the same piece of parish council land. In the eyes of the parish council and the residents these incursions look similar but appear to be being dealt with differently by the police. What are the criteria for immediate police action please? Is there a set of rules applicable to such incursions, or is the decision up to the senior officer at the time? On each occasion Bray Parish Council informed their bailiffs and incurred mobilisation charges. If we (BPC) know that the police will action immediate removal, we can save public money by not employing bailiffs unnecessarily. We would like to know the police's intentions as soon as possible, so, if necessary, we can employ bailiffs without delay. We have a policy of not allowing travellers to stay longer than necessary on BPC land. Even an overnight stay can, and often does, lead to rubbish being left on site. The rubbish left after the most recent incident included human waste and it cost BPC a considerable amount of money to have it removed in a safe (Covid 19) manner.
- 20.** What is your target for answering 101 calls, as from recent personal experience you can wait for up to 19 Minutes to get an answer to report non-emergency 'crime in action'. The message warned of a 10 mins delay (is that acceptable?) Is this operational failure due to under resourcing of the 101 system and how can you reassure us that performance will improve.
- 21.** What can we do as Councillors to assist the local police e.g in my ward of Boyn Hill, Maidenhead West we have had a recent spate of anti-social behaviour and borough and U.K wide there is an issue with illegal use of nitrous oxide.
- 22.** In the current climate due to COVID-19 pandemic how have the police adapted their policing and resources to reflect the ever changing challenges in these unprecedented times.

- 23.** Are there ways we can help the Police with local community engagement or policing recruitment.
- 24.** How do you plan to adapt your operations following the recent reduction in Community Wardens? Is it your understanding that your officers will cover the shortfall to avoid an increase in antisocial behaviour?
- 25.** This year, some councillors and community wardens have noted a sharp rise in drugs/alcohol-related littering, particularly nitrous oxide canisters. Have your officers observed a similar rise and if so, what do you think is driving it? Could it be linked to lockdown and mental health issues?
- 26.** If not already covered in the presentation, could you give us a brief update on the Drugs Diversion Scheme pilot scheme?