

## **Portfolio Report – Community Safety**

### **Cllr Alastair Walters**

#### **1. Anti-Social Behaviour**

Just under a year ago, MORI carried out an independent survey 'Understanding residents' perceptions of Essex', and Uttlesford was top of the list with 75% of those surveyed stating they 'feel safe outside in their local area after dark'. Since that survey was published, incidents of ASB across the District have fallen by 15%, confirming that Uttlesford is one of the safest Districts, not only in Essex but almost certainly in East Anglia.

This excellent result is without doubt a testimony to the hard work put in by different agencies working together through the Uttlesford Community Safety Partnership.

#### **2. ASB Bill**

The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill received its second reading in the House of Commons on the 10<sup>th</sup> June 2013. The Bill will 'streamline' the existing toolkit for dealing with aspects of ASB, replacing nineteen existing powers with six, and all due to be in place in 2015.

#### **3. Burglaries**

Incidents of burglaries in recent months have been on the increase, not only from dwellings but particularly from sheds, garages and cars. Origination is thought to be mainly from without the District. Police stressing the importance of residents keeping their property securely locked.

#### **4. Police and Crime Commissioner Update**

The Deputy PCC has been appointed and started in post at beginning of June. A Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer, is to be appointed, following which will be a restructuring of the PCC's office. The recently appointed Chief Constable, Stephen Kavanagh, has launched an initiative to get senior officers back to grassroots policing. PCC will attend public meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> September at 19.30 hrs in Saffron Walden – venue to be advised.

PCC Nick Alston is determined to reverse the growing trend of domestic violence in the county, and this will require sufficient resources and skills to achieve.

#### **5. PCC New Initiatives Fund (£500K)**

131 bids received, totalling over £2.6 millions. Uttlesford CSP has submitted 11 bids for funding schemes, which include:

- **Prison No Way** – an interactive/thought provoking workshop on prison life and consequences of crime.

- **Business** – to establish a Small Business Crime Initiative Strategy to act as an information sharing forum for traders, law enforcement agencies and the community, with the mutual aim to preventing business crime.
- **Quality Taxi Partnership** – to further install CCTV in licensed vehicles.
- **Safer Living Event** – a multi agency scheme for delivering core safety and well being messages to older and vulnerable residents within Uttlesford. UDC recently held its first SLE event, which was a huge success, and wish to continue them in different parts of the District. Essex Police gave advice regarding bogus callers and general security/personal safety matters. Age Advice and Papworth advised on trip slips and fall, UDC Housing Dept advised on housing matters, ECFRS (Essex County Fire and Rescue Service) gave advice on electrical appliances, smoke alarms etc, and Essex Trading Standards, giving advice in relation to consumer rights.
- **Community Speed Watch** – to increase coverage of community speed watch groups by purchase of 2 new speed guns.

#### **6. Saffron Walden Street Pastors**

A Street Pastor group was officially launched in early February, organised by local churches. Consists of volunteers, who are given special training for the role they play liaising with our neighbourhood Police on Friday/Saturday nights in a non-enforcement role. Wearing a distinctive blue top/jacket and cap, marked Street Pastors, the aim is to assist anyone who might require help, especially young people perhaps the worse for wear after a night out, to see they get home safely. This will be very reassuring for many parents.

Recruitment and training underway, with start date to be advised. The aim is to eventually establish Street Pastors in other towns in Uttlesford in due course. There are circa 10,000 Street Pastors working in teams throughout the UK.

#### **7. CCTV Update**

The programme to update and install new CCTV cameras and recording equipment in town locations in the District is making steady progress.

The new Dunmow CCTV system is operational, but has had some minor snags which should be resolved shortly. Felsted CCTV is fully operational, the Saffron Walden CCTV scheme with 8 new cameras and new recording equipment is currently being installed, with 5 of the new cameras already operational.

Stansted is next in line to have their CCTV system upgraded.

The specification for the new CCTV systems includes an essential operational requirement (OR) designed to provide police with images at night of evidential quality.

#### **8. Police 'Specials'**

UDC has funded the training of 8 new Police 'Specials' who are now operational in the Uttlesford area. Only if an emergency situation should arise will any be temporarily deployed elsewhere outside Uttlesford.