

**UTTLESFORD POLICE AND COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP held at 7.30 pm at  
THE GUILDHALL THAXTED on 19 FEBRUARY 1996**

Present:- Councillor D C Waterer (Chairman) and Ms G Sootarsing (Essex Police Authority), Councillor F W H Cummings (Uttlesford District Council), J Drummond and P Leeder (Parish/Town Councils), Councillor J A Gibb (Essex County Council).

In attendance:- M T Purkiss - Secretary to the Group (Uttlesford District Council), Superintendent G Dossett and Superintendent A Hill, Inspector A Rayner, Inspector N Robinson and PC S Driver (Essex Police).

**I. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R C Smith (Uttlesford District Council), S Bolton (Parish/Town Councils), G J Thompson (Churches), R Broad (Education), M Perry (Chambers of Trade and Commerce), Rev C Bishop (UCVS), I McKenzie (Rotary) and C Cooper (Neighbourhood Watch).

**I. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 October 1995 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**I. NEW STYLE TRUNCHEONS**

PC Driver gave a presentation exploring the training underpinning the issue of the new style truncheons. He emphasised that the training and the use of these truncheons was centred on self defence. It had been evident that the police were not well equipped to deal with the rise in violent crime and there was concern amongst senior officers at the number of injuries sustained by police officers. PC Driver explained why the long handled baton had been chosen in favour of the side handled baton and gave a demonstration in its use and drew attention to the conflict resolution model which illustrated the officers response options depending on the level of resistance at an incident.

In answer to a question from a member of the public, Inspector Robinson reminded the Group that both the public and the police were only able to use reasonable force in responding to an incident.

**I. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman welcomed Ms Sootarsing from the Police Authority who was monitoring the role of Police and Community Consultative Groups across the county. He reported that Martin Easteal had resigned from the Police Authority as he had been appointed as the Chief Executive of Chelmsford Borough Council. He expressed his thanks to Mr Easteal for the valuable assistance which he had provided.

The Chairman then reported on the meeting of the Police Authority which had been held earlier in the day. He reported that the Police Authority currently leased one helicopter and it was now likely that they would join a consortium with the Cambridgeshire Constabulary for the possible purchase of two helicopters. This could provide savings of approximately £80,000 per annum. He added that the government allocation for the Police Authority was particularly tight this year. However, Uttlesford District Council had offered the Police Authority the use of £20,000 surplus BCA, on the proviso that it was spent on policing capital works in Uttlesford. This offer had been accepted. The precept for 1996/97 for the Police Authority would be £25,910,000. He reported that the government had allocated money for the appointment of 28 additional officers in Essex in the forthcoming year. He added that because of the Brightlinsea situation, there had been a moratorium on recruitment to avoid overspending. This had now been lifted and the appointments allowed for in 1995/96 could now be phased in.

He reported that in the Local Policing Plan, greater emphasis would be given to more visible policing and prompter responses to emergency calls. He also referred to the issue of pension funds which was causing some problems.

A member of the public suggested that rather than spend money on helicopters, the police should direct spending towards the introduction of speed cameras. The Chairman clarified that the helicopter had been acquired on a trial lease to assess its value for money and it had proved to be of immense value. Superintendent Dossett added that resources did go into speed campaigns, but cameras were very expensive to install and were the responsibility of the Highway Authority. He also emphasised how the helicopter could be used to reduce labour intensive work.

## **I. POLICE REPORT**

Superintendent Dossett reported that the Audit Panel had carried out work on the value of PCCG's and had made a number of recommendations. As a result of the recommendations, an item would be included on all future agenda on Local Policing and Superintendent Alan Hill from Stansted Airport Police had been added to the list of representatives as had Clive Cooper in relation to Neighbourhood Watch. Concern had also been expressed at the lack of public interest in the PCCG meetings and it had been decided to advertise the current meeting in the local press to display posters at police stations and around Thaxted and 50 letters had also been delivered to key members of the community. However, only seven members of the public had attended the meeting.

Superintendent Hill then explained a little of the work of the Stansted Airport Police and reported that this was a Division in its own right and had armed officers on patrol. It had to produce an Annual Policing Plan and the policing was paid for by the BAA. He suggested that a future meeting could be held at the Stansted Airport police station.

Superintendent Dossett then explained that Inspector Emmerick had retired early and had been replaced by Inspectors Robinson and Bull. However, Inspector Bull had now moved on and had been replaced by Inspector Warwick. He added that the police were working with Uttlesford District Council on crime prevention/community safety plans. He reported that animal exports had now terminated at Brightlinsea, but there was the possibility that they could recommence. He also referred to the Thaxted Police House which would be occupied in the near future. The provision of dog handlers in the area had also been addressed and a number of dog handlers were now allocated to this area.

## **I. LOCAL POLICING PLAN**

Superintendent Dossett reminded the Group that at the last meeting, they had suggested that action on drugs should be included in the Divisional Plan for 1996/97. Subject to final approval, the plan included provision to increase the detection rate for offences involving the supply of drugs. He then reported on the crime statistics for the year ending 31 January 1996 and compared with the same period in 1995, there had been an overall reduction of 6.4% in reported crime. Thefts of motor vehicles had reduced by 5.1% and shoplifting by 25.7%. However, thefts from motor vehicles had increased by 8.9%, incidents of violence by 0.9% and thefts of cycles by 6.8%. The detection rate for all crime was 30.2%.

He then reported on local achievement of the Operational Goals. In relation to detection of violent crime, a target of 85% had been set and 74.6% was being achieved; the target for detection of house burglary was 20% and 41.5% was being achieved. Targets on crime prevention were currently on course, but the rate of vehicle crime and violent crime were slightly above the target. He added that high visibility policing would be measured next month and the Division was still to get involved in the government white paper on drugs. The Division was two short of the target set for the recruitment of special constables. The target for responding to incidents within 16 minutes was set at 85% and 88% was currently being achieved. The targets for public order/nuisance incidents were being achieved.

Inspector A Rayner reported on the targets for reducing death and injury on the road. He reported that 54 more people had been killed on the roads in Uttlesford in 1995 than in the calendar year 1994. This was an increase of 11.7%. In the period being measured, the target was for a 15% reduction, but there was currently an increase of 9%. However, the Christmas drink drive campaign had been particularly successful and only four arrests had been made for positive breath tests.

## **I. DIVISIONAL CRIME STRATEGY**

It was noted that Detective Chief Inspector Payne had not been able to attend this meeting and it was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

**I. QUESTION TIME**

A member of the public referred to the previous good relationship between youngsters at Thaxted Youth Club and the police. He suggested that work was needed to improve contact between the police and young people. Superintendent Dossett reported that the police concentrated on liaison through the schools, but he gave an undertaking that Inspector Robinson would contact the youth club to discuss this matter further.

**I. DATES AND VENUES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The group discussed arrangements for future meetings and, in particular, the possibility of holding the next meeting at the Stansted Airport Police Station.

***Superintendent Hill has subsequently confirmed to Mick Purkiss that arrangements have been made for meeting on 17 June 1996 to be held at the Airport.***

The following dates and venues were agreed:-

	17 June 1996	-	Stansted Airport
14 October 1996	-	Saffron Walden	
17 February 1997	-	Great Dunmow	
16 June 1997	-	Thaxted	

The meeting ended at 9.40 pm.

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