

**UTTLESFORD POLICE AND COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP held at 7.30 pm at  
THE FULTON ROOM ENTERPRISE HOUSE STANSTED AIRPORT on 17 JUNE 1996**

Present:- Councillor G C Waterer (Chairman), M Le Q Herbert (Vice-Chairman) and Councillor Mrs M D Fisher (Essex Police Authority), Councillors F W H Cummings and R C Smith (Uttlesford District Council), P G Leeder (Parish/Town Councils), I MacKenzie (Rotary), M Perry (Chambers of Trade and Commerce), Rev C Bishop (UCVS), C Cooper (Neighbourhood Watch) and Ms M Vogels (Substance Abuse Prevention Development Officer).

In attendance:- M T Purkiss - Secretary to the Group (Uttlesford District Council), Acting Superintendent S Nessling, Superintendent A Hill, Inspector A Rayner, Inspector M Reed and PC J Saunders (Essex Police).

**I. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs J Drummond and S Bolton (Parish/Town Councils) and R Board (Education).

**I. WELCOME**

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting, Mr Herbert who had recently been appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Group and was an Independent Member on the Police Authority. He also welcomed Mrs Fisher, from the Police Authority, who was acting as an observer.

**I. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 February 1996 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to the addition of the words "or injured" after the words "had been killed" in Minute 6.

**I. MATTERS ARISING**

Acting Superintendent Nessling reported that, due to operational reasons, Detective Chief Inspector Payne had not been able to attend this meeting and it was agreed to invite him to attend the meeting on 17 February 1997 at Great Dunmow.

**I. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman reported on the meeting of the Police Authority which had been held during the previous week. Councillor E A Peel had been elected as the new Chairman of the Police Authority. The meeting of the Police Authority had reviewed the revenue and capital budgets and had assessed the effect of overtime connected with demonstrations at Brightlingsea. He reported that the HM Inspector of Constabularies had recently undertaken the annual inspection. The meeting had also considered the work of the Essex Drugs Action Team, a multi agency approach to dealing with drugs. He reported that Essex Police officers had been studying policing in Albania and were advising on changes which could be made for policing a democratic society. Their report would be submitted to the Council of Europe and the Albanian Government. The Police Authority had considered a report on the leasing of the helicopter and the consortium with the Cambridgeshire Constabulary. The Chief Constable's report to the Police Authority had identified a reduction of 4.2% in crime within the County. Assaults on police had reduced considerably and one possible factor was the issue of new police batons. The number of traffic accidents and road casualties in the county had also reduced. The Chairman reported that the construction of the new Dunmow Police Station had been submitted for a private funding initiative, but had not been selected. However, the site had been identified on the same campus as the new court house and progress was still being made.

In reply to a question from Mr Perry, it was explained that if the demonstrations resumed at Brightlingsea, the police would respond and would benefit from the lessons learnt from last year. Councillor Smith expressed some concern at the cost of leasing the helicopter and suggested that a fixed wing option rather than rotary would be more cost effective. However, the Chairman stated that the helicopter had been the better option in

dealing with the range of incidents in Essex. Councillor Smith also asked whether Essex Police would be issuing CS gas canisters. Acting Superintendent Nessling replied that CS gas was being trialled by four forces and once these trials had been completed, the situation would be assessed. Councillor Cummings asked whether the Police Authority had given any consideration to its budget demands for 1997/98. The Chairman replied that this would be considered once the amount of grant from Central Government was known.

## **I. POLICE REPORT**

Acting Superintendent Nessling reported on the conference which had been held at Thaxted Church on 1 May 1996 to explain the work of the Community Action Safety Team and provide an update on the initiatives being undertaken to combat crime and substance abuse.

He reported that on 29 March 1996, an attempted robbery took place at a gunsmiths in Saffron Walden. The police had responded immediately and an arrest had taken place. He reported on initiatives to reduce farm crime and on dealing with problems with youths on the Fairview Estate at Saffron Walden. He also drew attention to two initiatives at Witham where 100 door chains had been provided to the elderly through sponsorship and a company had also sponsored the supply to the victims of domestic violence of mobile telephones with the ability to make 999 calls only. He then referred to the Chief Constable's report and to the deficit on the budget of £3.5m and the effects of the Brightlingsea demonstrations. He added that the main exporter had now moved to Dover. He reported that it was the third year running that the number of crimes had fallen and the detection rate was above the average. In the Braintree Division for the period April 1995 - March 1996, a target of 85% had been set for detecting violent crimes. 81.7% had been achieved and this was the highest detection rate in the County. The target for detecting burglaries of dwellings was 20% and 37.1 % had been achieved. Excellent results had also been achieved in community safety by working with Uttlesford District Council and the Council was leading the way in the county. The number of burglaries had reduced, but vehicle crime had increased. However, this had been targeted and significant arrests had been made. Initiatives such as Milk Watch and Horse Watch had also proved worthwhile. The target for response times was 85% and 86.4% had been achieved.

Acting Superintendent Nessling reported that the number of road accidents had reduced and he applauded the efforts of the Highway Authority in reducing speed, particularly in villages. He reported that a major review of the divisional structure had been implemented in October and the Division had been reformed on a sectional basis as it was felt that community identity had been lost. For the coming year, 3 additional objectives had been added to deal with the following:-

- (i) Local crime matters,
- (ii) Local public order and nuisance,
- (iii) Supply of drugs.

Acting Superintendent Nessling reported that meetings would be held in June to discuss the setting up of the Uttlesford Drug Reference Group and he praised the excellent work which had been undertaken by Uttlesford District Council in this matter. He referred to the weapons amnesty from 3-30 June 1996. He also reported that recruitment had now recommenced and the Division was almost up to its full establishment. A number of special constables had been recruited, but more were needed and he asked anyone who was interested to contact him.

Councillor Smith considered that it was too easy for criminals to dispose of stolen goods at car boot sales and he suggested a system which related driving licence details to each pitch number. Acting Superintendent Nessling replied that the main problem was identifying property which had been stolen and he urged people to postmark their property. He added that the system suggested by Councillor Smith could impinge upon civil liberty. Councillor Smith also referred to civil order problems concerning a recent fox hunt and thanked Inspector Reed for diffusing a potentially violent situation.

In response to a question from Mr Cooper, it was reported that Essex Police supported the parish constable initiative and were hoping to build on recent trials. Mr Perry referred to recent public disorder problems in Dunmow caused by a number of people under the age of prosecution. Acting Superintendent Nessling replied that the main protagonist had now been placed in secure accommodation. He asked that residents and traders in the town continued to report incidents so that the police and Social Services were aware of the situation.

Inspector Rayner then reported on accident statistics. He considered that the Traffic Unit was now having an impact on controlling the number of accidents. A target of reducing accidents by 15% had been set for the Division and a reduction of 11.7% had been achieved. In Uttlesford, there had been an increase of 0.6% (3 additional injuries in the period April 1995 - March 1996). During the first third of the year, there had been 20 less casualties, a reduction of 12.6%. He also referred to recent speed enforcement campaigns and reported that 807 drivers had been stopped for speeding in Uttlesford.

## I. KEY OPERATIONAL GOAL TARGETS

Acting Superintendent Nessling circulated the report on local achievement of Key Operational Goal Targets in the Local Policing Plan.

## I. STANSTED AIRPORT POLICE

Superintendent A Hill reported on the work of the Stansted Airport Police. He stated that it was a Division in its own right and provided 24 hour armed presence. He reported on how the Division communicated with its community, particularly through the AWACS Group which was chaired by Rev C Bishop, the Airport Chaplain. Crime was not a major problem on the airport and a detection rate of 38% had been achieved. In support of Accident 2000, two sites had been identified on the airport and had been targeted for 36 days. Only 8% of vehicles were exceeding the speed limit. Superintendent Hill reported on other initiatives and, in particular, referred to a crime prevention initiative entitled BAGS - Be Alert Guard Suitcases. He concluded that there had been an establishment growth of four police officers and four civilians.

## I. QUESTION TIME

The Chairman was pleased that the meeting was well attended by members of the public and it appeared that many had attended through being notified of the meeting through "Ringmaster".

In response to a question, Acting Superintendent Nessling stated that there had been a number of successes through the Horse Watch Scheme and he was pleased with the way in which it operated.

A member of the public asked whether there was any distinction between urban and rural crime. He stated that the increase in crime in rural areas seemed to coincide with the installation of CCTV in urban areas. Acting Superintendent Nessling agreed that there had been an increase in crime in rural areas which were seen as soft targets by the criminals. He urged the public to contact the crime prevention officers to obtain assistance and advice.

In response to a further question, Inspector Rayner reported that the success of speed cameras was dependent on how quickly the courts could process offenders. The courts did not have the staff available to deal with a significant increase at the present time.

It appeared that one or two people had had problems with the messages left on the answer phone by "Ringmaster" and this was due to there being no common standard on answer phones.

A member of the public stated that the new traffic calming measures at Howletts End, Wimbish were particularly effective.

***The meeting was attended by 22 members of the public.***

## I. DATES AND VENUES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The following dates and venues were agreed:-

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

