

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

SPECIAL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER

MONDAY, 29TH APRIL 2013 (6PM)

Present:

Councillors: H E Dyke (Chairman), T Ingham (Vice-Chairman), R Bishop, C Brewer, E Davies, N Gale, J A Hart, P V Hayward, V Higgs, H J Martin, B McFarland, J Phillips, M Rayner, C Rogers, J A Shaw, D R Sheppard and S J Williams.

Observers

Councillors: F M Oborski, T L Onslow, M Price, M A Salter and N J Thomas.

OS.119 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: J Greener, D C H McCann, A M Sewell and G C Yarranton.

OS.120 Appointment of Substitutes

Councillor J A Shaw was appointed as a substitute for Councillor A M Sewell.

OS.121 Declarations of Interests by Members

No declarations of interest were made.

The Chairman welcomed Superintendent Kevin Purcell, Commander for North Worcestershire from West Mercia Police to the meeting.

OS.122 West Mercia Policing in North Worcestershire

Superintendent Purcell updated Members on the changes being implemented in how West Mercia performed its Policing duties in North Worcestershire. Local Neighbourhood Policing Teams would be introduced in September 2013.

Police Officers were due to be advised of the teams they had been allocated to in May 2013. Once the new policing model was established, contact details of the neighbourhood teams would be communicated to members of the public through a variety of methods, including leaflet drops across various locations. The teams would be tasked with finding bases within the communities.

A question and answer session ensued. A variety of topics were discussed including:

- The retention of the community police station in the Horsefair, and how the

Agenda Item No. 4

visible police presence had a positive effect on the area. It was noted issues such as anti-social behaviour had decreased.

- The Street Pastor scheme in Kidderminster Town Centre on Friday and Saturday evenings, and the clear boundaries set regarding their role.
- Community Support Officers had no power of arrest; however they do have the power of detention whereby they can request a person remain with them for 20 minutes.
- Changes to the way funding was allocated for community initiatives such as Partners And Communities Together (PACT) meetings, which had been introduced by the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- Response rates to emergency calls and allocation of Police resources to hot-spot areas around the District.
- The importance of managing peoples' expectations of the Police with the resources available.
- Members of the Travelling community passing through the District and the powers held by agencies to manage the situation.
- Policing of Kidderminster Harriers football matches and lessons learnt from the recent issues with poor crowd control.
- Reporting of drug related issues in Park Street / bottom part of Castle Road, Kidderminster and action taken by the Police.

Councillor J Phillips left the meeting at this point, (6.54pm).

- Levels of crime on business estates, responsibility of land owners to arrange security patrols and the importance of a visible police presence.

Councillor E Davies left the meeting at this point, (7.00pm).

- How West Mercia Police were taking a more strategic approach to policing and introducing smarter ways of working to utilise the resources available to them.

Councillor H Martin left the meeting at this point, (7.16pm). Councillor T Onslow left at 7.24pm and Councillor M Rayner left at 7.25pm.

- Members welcomed the use of bicycles as a method of transport when patrolling rural areas, and hoped the monthly report provided for Parish Councils would continue.

Councillors S Williams and P Harrison left the meeting at this point, (7.29pm).

It was acknowledged the communication between the Police and communities could be improved and it was hoped the introduction of the new policing model would address some of the issues. Superintendent Purcell assured Members that if they had any un-resolved policing issues in their Ward, they could either contact him direct or via Inspector Paul Crowley.

Superintendent Purcell offered to brief Members again later in the year once the new policing model was in place.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7.54pm.