

## Attachment 2 - Police & Crime Commissioner's Councillor Forum 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Attended by the Chairman and Cllr A Rickers, report as follows:

The Commissioner Mr Mark Shelford was supported by Mrs Francis Taylor from the Inspectorate of Police Complaints, Chief Inspector Andy Pritchard from Avon & Somerset Police and Inspector Rose Green who specialises in Violent crimes against women and girls.

The evening started with a briefing from the Commissioner on his vision for Avon & Somerset Police, Followed by Francis who detailed how complaints against the Police are handled, The Chief Inspector explained how the landscape of crime had changed in the last year and was constantly evolving and how the biggest challenge was the Publics confidence and trust in the Police Force. He explained how the use of technology was changing the way in which the Police operated and detailed how money was being spent to improve Police facilities (upgrade of Yeovil Police Station). The highest rate of crimes in our area at present are violence against the person with shoplifting and anti-social behaviour on the increase, neighbour disputes are the biggest proportion of anti-social behaviour. We discussed the causes behind these crimes and the current economic state was considered to be a contributory factor.

Inspector Rose Green explained that in our area 2264 violent crimes against women perpetrated by men this year had been reported, compared to 800 cases against men. She further explained that women over the age of 18 can go out with a PC or PCSO to demonstrate unsafe areas so that action can be taken, she also explained that they are considering reducing that age to 16.

Following the briefings a question and answer session took place. The key subjects discussed during this session was:

Drugs. The Police are working with schools, and Youth organisations to tackle this subject. Lydford, Castle Cary and Wincanton were discussed in detail.

Knife Crime. Discussions took place regarding how the Police tackle the sale of knives to the underaged and the availability of bleed kits in Rural Community.

CSW. We were commended for our very active and successful CSW and the how use of the CSW cameras will be implemented.

Dangerous driving. They are aware of the issues we are having in our area and agreed they need to support more. This was something they were going to take away to discuss.

PCSO. They recognised that the PCSO have not been attending PC meetings but did state as a minimum we should receive a written report. They took on board that the audience felt that this was not the case and agreed to resolve this matter.

It was explained that Yeovil will not be getting a new custody suite. This was not only a financial decision but one of logistics, surrounding the Health and Safety and legal requirements for such an enterprise. This included the requirement for Medical facilities etc.

The overall message that we took away was that to succeed the Community must work closely with, rather than against the Police.

We brought away literature on these subjects for each of the village halls.