

Meeting at Landmark House on 10 Dec 2015 on Change in Policing.

Talk by PCC Tim Passmore and the now CC Gareth Wilson

Suffolk Police has a budget of £120.9m for this year.

It has to make a saving of £20.5m over the next 5 years including £5m this year.

Changes in Policing

1. Exponential increase in Cyber crime necessitating a new Unit
2. 37% of police time spent dealing with Mental Health issues
3. Parking restrictions.
4. Police Station manning.
5. Refocus Neighbourhood Response Teams
6. Reduce number of Safe Neighbourhood Teams
7. Enhanced process for investigating.

A new model for Neighbourhood Policing in Suffolk has now been unveiled:

Neighbourhood Response Teams - Dealing with priority calls, 999 etc. They will be operating from 9 new operating bases which in our area means Police HQ in Ipswich, Halesworth and Lowestoft. Throughout Suffolk the current number of 350 Officers within NRTs will be reduced to 310 and this means that the remaining 40 will move to Investigations.

Safer Neighbourhood Teams - SNTs are currently distributed around 29 locations in the County. This will be reduced to 18 locations under the command of 9 Inspectors, 66 PCs including Sergeants and 98 PCSOs.

Since the PCSOs are normally our first point of contact it is noteworthy that, the current number of PCSOs is around 160 and this, from the 1 April 2016, is being reduced to 98. Of this number 92 are being funded by the Police whilst 6 will be on a temporary 1 year contract, match funded by local authorities, businesses, Parish Councils etc. Incidentally Woodbridge has a match funded PCSO.

Working hours for PCSOs will be from 8am to 6pm as these hours are deemed to be the most useful.

25 Officers from the SNTs will be moved into Investigations.

Police will no longer attend Parish council meetings as a matter of course.

Our Safer Neighbourhood Team is now based at Saxmundham and our PCSO is Christian Hassler. He can be contacted either by email via the Suffolk Police website or 101.

General:

In the effort to save money only 3 Police Stations of the 18 in the County will remain open to the Public in that the remainder are closing the front desks. These 3 are Ipswich HQ, Lowestoft and Bury St Edmunds. Apparently such a saving will fund 15 Police Officers.

Efforts are currently being made to have local authorities deal 24/7 with mental health issues as currently out of normal office hours, the Police find themselves dealing with these issues.

Parking restrictions are currently being operated by Police but they are in talks with local councils for the latter to take responsibility. Revenue from tickets issued by Police are forwarded to the Treasury whilst those issued by local authorities remain with that authority. Suffolk is one of three Constabularies in the UK dealing with Parking restrictions.

Road Policing - A further 4 more motorcycles are being added to the Road Policing Units.

Kevin Duffy
Councillor