

# LOCAL COMMUNITY MEETING

**Wards:** Belfairs, Eastwood, Leigh, St Laurence & West Leigh  
**Date:** Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018  
**Time:** 7 – 8.30pm  
**Location:** Eastwood Baptist Church, Rayleigh Road, Eastwood, SS9 5PY

## Attendees:

Inspector Ian Hughes - Community Policing Supervisor  
Pc Lindsey Wigington - Community Policing Constable  
Lauren Barlow – S.M.A.A.R.T.  
Lee Akam - Early Help, Family Support & Youth Offending Service  
Cllr Alan Dear – Belfairs ward  
Cllr Lesley Salter – Belfairs ward  
Cllr Chris Walker – Eastwood Park ward  
Cllr Peter Wexham – Leigh ward  
Val Morgan – Leigh Town Council  
Steve Bright  
35 Members of the public

## Apologies for absence:

A/Sgt. Dave Gardiner - Community Policing Supervisor  
Cllr Steve Ayles – Belfairs ward  
Cllr Andrew Moring – Eastwood Park ward  
Cllr Bernard Arscott – Leigh ward  
Cllr Carole Mulroney – Leigh ward  
Keith Evans – Leigh Town Council  
5 members of the public

## AGENDA:

### 1. Review of previously agreed priorities:

- a) ***Dwelling burglary – Operation 'Insight' (all 5 wards):*** Pc LW advised that there had been 27 reported offences across the wards since the last meeting. Pc LW advised that 41 people have been arrested for dwelling burglary since the last meeting (figures relate to Southend and Basildon – but not able to determine specific wards). Attendees were advised that Operation 'Insight' continues to run, with police resources being deployed in response to patterns of offending and current criminal intelligence on known offenders. Operation 'Bisley' the crime prevention / high visibility deployment designed to raise awareness of patterns of offending and supply of crime prevention advice to occupants to insecure properties continues. Attendees were again requested to circulate the crime prevention advice, (detailed at the end of the minutes) and to keep a watchful eye on the elderly / vulnerable in their community. ***Inspector IH advised that a high proportion of dwellings / vehicles involved had been left insecure and introduced his '9pm routine' idea regarding crime prevention. He requested that attendees spread the message that before retiring for the night, residents went through a check list which included ensuring vehicle was locked and items removed from or secured out of sight. Gates, shed and house doors should be checked & double locked and ground floor windows closed, to prevent entry. Whilst the advice is tried and tested, a reminder often serves to motivate people to take action to protect their property.***

**b) *Crime & antisocial behaviour at identified location:*** Pc LW reported that high visibility patrols had been conducted by Police / PCSOs in the area of Eastwood Rise / Rayleigh Avenue / Gravel Road / Bosworth Road & Flemings Farm Road. Meetings had taken place with community reps and the mobile Police station had been utilised to focus on an increased presence. Pc LW updated that feedback from residents had been generally positive. Attendees thanked Police for action which appears to have displaced drug activity from Eastwood Rise / Bramble Road / Grovewood Avenue.

## **2. Current problems / Information sharing:**

- a)** Attendees reported on current areas of drug activity, which included Leigh Old Town (turning circle) / Eastwood Park / Oakwood Park / Belfairs Park (main car park – 52 NO2 cannisters recently cleared). Pc LW reminded attendees that information could always be reported anonymously via Crimestoppers. 0800 555 111  
[www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)
- b)** In response to questions, Inspector IH advised that following a reported dwelling burglary, police staff planned to visit as many properties, as appropriate, to the front, back and either side of the attacked premises. Awareness / crime prevention leaflets were distributed and enquiries to identify offenders were conducted. Discussion identified that a number of the attacked properties had been left insecure and historically these offences increased with the onset of darker evenings. Attendee thanked Police for their response and support to a relative who had been the victim of a distraction burglary in the recent past. Cllr CW agreed to discuss a specific incident with Pc LW outside of meeting.
- c)** Attendees reported on incidents of burglary and theft from vehicles at an identified location and advised that a male had been photographed in the early hours trying car door handles and that the picture had been forwarded to Police. Inspector IH updated that a male had been arrested in connection with the theft offences. Pc LW agreed to check if male was connected with burglaries.
- d)** Attendee reported on apparent increase in offences of theft of motor scooters / mopeds, where thieves had been observed riding mopeds and pushing the stolen vehicle with their foot. Inspector IH advised that he was aware of issue and that patrolling officers were briefed to focus on problem.
- e)** Attendee reported on current problems with drug activity / antisocial behaviour in Eastwood Park, particularly busy between 4pm – 7pm. Incidents involved young people as well as a 'dog walking' suspect. Pc LW and LA agreed to speak with attendees after meeting, to obtain current information.
- f)** Discussion took place regarding potential for members of the public to volunteer and assist Essex Police in a number of activities (Special Constabulary, Active Citizens, Neighbourhood Watch etc.). Inspector IH update: ***'The Active Citizen programme is a fantastic way of getting the community involved being visible in their areas. Historically this initiative has asked for people from the whole Borough to come together and focus on areas of business which do not necessarily benefit their own immediate areas. Southend Police are very lucky to have a committed group of volunteers already, however we can***

*always do with more to take some of the pressure away from the existing cohort. This is a very rewarding role which gives people a chance to give something back and address some of those frustrations which can be dealt with by those other than a warranted Police Officer. In order to increase participation and from listening to comments at a number of the community meetings, a slight change of concept is being suggested. Recognising that more people may get involved if the time they volunteer benefitted their immediate community. The range of activities which can be participated in is very broad, visible patrols, participation in events, crime prevention advice at key locations and assisting in cocooning (delivering crime prevention leaflets linked to burglaries which have occurred within the area) this is not an exhaustive list. There is a sign up process which will need to be completed, but you will be helped through this by staff from the Community Policing Team. If you are interested in becoming an Active Citizen and want any further information, please contact Insp Ian Hughes (ian.hughes@essex.pnn.police.uk).*

- g) **REMINDER** that requests for updates / information / answers should be Emailed to SW at least 7 days prior to a meeting, to enable the necessary research to be undertaken and an appropriate response prepared.
- h) **VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES:** If unsure about who to contact to volunteer, please Email SW to ensure information is directed to appropriate person.
- i) **REMINDER:** Reminder for attendees on the appropriate method of reporting matters to the Police. Any request for emergency attendance should be via the **999** system. For non – emergency situations requiring Police attendance then calls should be made via the ***national non-emergency number 101***. For direct contact with the Community Policing team, to pass on information, please Email A/Sgt. David Gardiner.

**3. Set new priorities:**

- a) Burglary - prevention / detection (Operation 'Insight') (all 5 wards).  
b) Increased visibility re crime & antisocial behaviour at identified locations.

**4. Any other business:**

- a) None

**5. Date of next meeting:**

**7pm Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018 at Woodland Centre,  
Belfairs Park, Eastwood Road North, SS9 3SH**

**REMINDER:**

- Make your home safe and secure by fitting 5 lever mortise locks on all external doors and secure locks on all other doors and windows.
- Install a burglar alarm.
- Lock and secure all windows and doors when you leave your home – take special care with UPVC doors (lift handle and lock door with key).
- Remove keys from locks and place them out of sight.
- Never leave tools or implements outside the property which thieves can use to forcibly enter your home.
- Use automatic light timers / sensors to make your property look occupied and

consider leaving a radio on.

- Ensure the perimeter of your property (gates, fences, and hedges) is secure, to prevent access to thieves. Consider planting shrubs (e.g. pyracantha) to reduce access.
- Avoid leaving car keys on view near windows and doors (use a safe location to remove from sight of trespassers) and secure vehicles in garages or behind gates.
- Photograph and record serial numbers of valuable items (laptops, computer consoles, satellite navigation systems, TV's etc), use an ultra violet marker pen to security code your property, to assist with later identification.
- Where possible hide smaller valuable items in unusual places where thieves might not look (laundry baskets or food containers). Jewellery is stolen for its metallic value and is rarely recovered.
- Do not leave packaging on view as it may highlight a recent purchase of valuable items, dispose of it carefully.
- Do not advertise that you are away – ask a trusted person to check on your property and remove mail. Cancel milk & newspaper deliveries. Ensure light timers and burglar / fire alarms are working.
- Suspect callers should never be admitted to your property – always check identification and if necessary verify with a telephone call to the agency concerned. If you are still concerned call for advice from friends / relatives / Police. Remember that opportunist burglars usually knock on doors to check whether the premises are occupied and may use an excuse by asking for a named person. If you are unsure close the door and ring for assistance.
- In the case of a suspect being disturbed by you in your home, let them make their escape without any resistance. Make a note of their description, vehicle details and direction of travel and call '999' immediately.
- **VEHICLES** – ensure that vehicle is locked / secure and that all valuable items are removed / hidden from view.
- Ensure that vehicle is locked by manually checking door handles (electronic locking system is operational).
- Where optional – fold away wing mirrors to prevent damage.