

Police & Crime Panel meeting 1st February

The Chief constable presented her report on continuing our journey on the way forward to become outstanding for the force and to request a £13 precept for 24/25.

Presentation and questioning lasted over 2 hours.

Some highlights of the presentation.

Police numbers are now at full strength plus 40 officers (extra Home Office funding for 2 years), although the CC pointed out that many officers had under 5 years of service.

Rape and sex offences have been given a higher profile and there has been an increase of 246% in prosecutions.

More concentration is ongoing, tackling anti-social behaviour.

More actions to hold officers to account for their actions (PCC pointed out the CC has no power to sack officers)

More arrests and confiscation of drugs and busting drug rings (some of this with the help of NS CCTV)

2600 Road traffic offences, 1800 no road tax and 125,000 speeding fines.

To continue progress, a precept of £13 was requested. If not accepted, this would impact on the PCSO's which would mean a reduction. However, later in her presentation she spoke of a recruitment freeze but later, when asked a question they did not know of any PCSO's leaving.

Drones are being used more and more to help the fight against crime.

PCC.

Before the meeting and in emails and discussions with the panel Chairman had confirmed a £10 increase. Surveys carried out showed the public would support £13, although the panel thought the survey would lead people to the higher amount, the OPCC team went through the budget then the PCC proposed support for £13 increase with no mention of £10.

Four of us have been analysing the budget over the past 3 months and agreed £10 was sensible.

The Panel went into private session where we updated the members on our findings and the Chairman put it to the vote and £10 was agreed 8 to 6.

When we reconvened, a member proposed £13, two members abstained, and the vote was 7 to 6 in favour of £13.

After 3 hours 45 mins the rest of the agenda was set aside for the next meeting.

Peter Crew/Stuart Davies