



Minutes of the Q&A session with Donna Jones, Police & Crime Commissioner of Hampshire and Isle of Wight, held on 10 February 2022 at 6.00pm via Zoom.

In attendance: Donna Jones, Police & Crime Commissioner of Hampshire and Isle of Wight
Sgt Simeon Paulton – part of the Longmoor Neighbourhood Policing Team (covering Liss, Headley, Grayshott & Whitehill & Bordon)
Cllr Andy Tree

Cllr Tree introduced and welcomed Donna Jones, Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) of Hampshire and Isle of Wight, to the Q&A session and asked Donna to provide a background on the role as PCC.

Donna took over the role of PCC of Hampshire and Isle of Wight in May 2021 and gave an overview as her role as PCC and her plan as outlined on the More Police Safer Streets website:

<https://www.morepolicesaferstreets.com/>

- The number one priority is to add more police officers by the end of 2023. 498 police officers will be added, and the pledge is 600. This has also seen a commitment of a 3.5% pay rise as police have not had a payrise for 4 years.
- Secondly for the police officers to be more visible within our communities.
- Creating a new 'anti-social behaviour (ASB) taskforce' involving not only the police but councils, landowners, schools and parents.
- The ability to report crime with the review of 101 service and feedback that is given to residents for crimes reported. Especially medium and lower level crime.
- The 4.4% raise of council tax raises from £7m to £9m, but this does however depend on how many people pay council tax.

Donna identified that whilst the budget that is set covers wages of the police officers this also has to take into account the day to day running of buildings, insurance which takes up a large amount of the funds. She also mentioned that she is looking at housing neighbourhood policing teams to share fire stations.

Cllr Tree asked: "What would you say to our residents who report repeat ASB and feel like they get nowhere?"

Donna advised to keep reporting via the reporting channels available as it is important to capture the information and to be mindful that ASB is not always a police matter. It can be relative to civil law, neighbour disputes and it may fall under the responsibility of local councils (in Whitehill & Bordon this would be Hampshire County Council or East Hampshire District Council).

Sgt Simeon Paulton mentioned that the abstraction rate of police officers has gone down which will hopefully see an impact within the area and will be able to do more neighbourhood policing.

Questions from members of the public:

"We have reported ASB on a number of occasions which has resulted in activating the Community Trigger (<https://asbhelp.co.uk/community-trigger/>), and in 1 year the plan that was put in place has still not been completed and we have not been kept up to date on our case"

Donna advised the resident that funding has been signed off for more training towards the Community Trigger facility and also within her plan the ABS taskforce will be more equipped to support this type of repeated ASB.

"Every time I use the underpass there is always broken glass which I pick up as I am walking my dog."

Sgt Simeon Paulton checked on the recent reports and couldn't identify any reports recently. He advised that this could be classed as criminal damage, littering or as a public order offence, but without any reports to identify what time of day the glass is being smashed it would be difficult to police the area. It is important that it is reported.

"How do you get extra funding for redevelopment within town for the extra houses and residents?"

Donna confirmed that the main source would be through the council tax which is £180 million per year. Also the Home Office formula grant which keeps up to date on local plans, but the increase is not that significant. Donna confirmed that it costs around £50,000 to take on a new police officer on a £28/29,000 salary (after taking into consideration training and pensions costs).

Donna also commented that she was also looking at locating the neighbourhood policing teams within retained fire stations and would be used between both fire and police. This would help keep costs down.

Speed cameras within Hampshire

Donna confirmed that most of the yellow box speed cameras have outdated technology which all need updating. County Councils pay for the speed cameras yet the Treasury receive the fine and the if there is a speed awareness course taken the profit goes to the safer speeding fund.

There are 6 mobile speed camera vans within Hampshire and the '20 is plenty' campaign is proving to be successful, however there are not enough police to enforce on all the 20 mph speed limit roads.

Q&A session ended at 7.00pm

8 members of the public and 1 member of press present. (Press report Appendix A)

Commissioner wants more as police get 600 recruits



POLICE and Crime

Commissioner Donna Jones pledged to improve Hampshire Constabulary after accepting Whitehill Town Council leader Andy Tree's invitation to an hour-long question-and-answer session on Zoom last Thursday.

As well as those joining online, the audience was boosted by town council members and staff waiting for their executive committee meeting which followed afterwards.

Cllr Tree began by asking Ms Jones about her job. She has previous experience in banking, with Portsmouth City Council and as a magistrate, and felt she "did all the kinds of things I have to be aware of here".

Ms Jones said: "I took over in May 2021 and it's a growing role. The home secretary is reviewing the role at the end of February 2022. He is considering giving us greater powers over the criminal justice system."

"I have been trying to raise the profile of the commissioner, explain the decisions and show the benefits of having a police

Whitehill & Bordon Community Party leader Andy Tree hosted a public meeting on Zoom with Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire, Donna Jones, last Thursday. **PAUL COATES** reports...

and crime commissioner - for example speed cameras on the A32/A272 junction at West Meon Hut, improving support charities for crime victims, holding the police to account, setting the precept and budget, and drawing up the police and crime plan.

"I'm up for re-election in 2024 and representing more than two million people is a huge privilege."

Cllr Tree asked how the police's 4.4 per cent council tax rise would translate into what people saw in terms of reducing anti-social behaviour and criminal damage, which he said were "key areas of concern" in Whitehill & Bordon.

Ms Jones said: "The 4.4 per cent raises £7m to £9m. It depends how many people pay council tax next year. It pays for extra police, for Hampshire to have 498 more police officers than in January 2020. I need 102 more to get to my target of 600 and I have put money aside

pitch and pavilion."

Cllr Tree asked Ms Jones what she would say to people who said reporting anti-social behaviour did not result in the protection they were looking for.

Ms Jones said: "Keep reporting. Until now there hasn't been a resource for lower-level crimes but all 600 extra police should be in place by the end of March 2023."

"The more that police can engage these kids, the more you can stop them stealing cars and breaking into outbuildings and houses three years down the line."

She added the top five priorities in her police and crime plan, which runs until 2024, were the 600 extra police, increasing police visibility - possibly putting neighbourhood policing teams into disused shops - anti-social behaviour, knife crime and "unauthorised encampments".

Resident Mark Gorham said: "What about the victims of anti-social behaviour? There's been drugs, sex, drinking - three years of low-level anti-social behaviour. I should never have moved here - it's been a complete nightmare."

Ms Jones replied: "I'm really sorry to hear about that. It sounds like it's been a nightmare. Public Space Protection Orders are not being used as much as they could be. I have signed off funding for two more solicitors to do that. It gives police the ability to move people on from parks who are doing things they shouldn't be but not quite at the level of arrest."

Another resident, who gave her name as Helen, said: "In the subway by One-Stop there is smashed glass and vodka bottles - it's very unsafe for people, dogs and cats."

"I don't go in the subway daily but when I go there you'll see glass and one or two vodka bottles, so you must have people who swig their bottles of vodka there every night. It's difficult for me with a chubbier of a dog - you can't carry it."

Sgt Simeon Poulton, who also logged in for the meeting, explained it was hard to pin down such behaviour as a crime.

He said: "It depends on what they're smashing and what they're smashing it against. It could be criminal damage. Glass could be

litter. Depending how you're smashing it, it could be a public order offence, but only if someone is there."

A third resident, Linda, asked whether police funding automatically went up in proportion to the number of new houses being built.

Ms Jones said: "New homes pay council tax, and the Home Office formula grant crudely looks at housing numbers, but it doesn't give a significant increase."

She said she wanted new neighbourhood policing bases in Bordon and Alton, and was looking at sharing the fire stations. She added that by December Hampshire Constabulary would be back to the number of police it had in 2016.

Summing up her goals for 2022, she said: "We need to give detailed feedback through I01 about what is being done. It restores confidence in policing and makes people feel it was worth reporting it."

"This year I hope to see an improvement of I01, police visibility and the amount of medium and lower level crime responded to, to bring crime levels down."

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