

JB attended the Police Conference when the Essex Police Transformation Plan was presented. There will be 6 main police stations, the nearest for us is Harlow, and 10 Community Policing teams across the county. Each of these will consist of PCSOs, Special Constables, Volunteers and Cadets who will deal with Licensing, ASB, Crime Prevention and Youth work. There will also be Front Offices (somewhere!) and Partnership resources. Local Policing Teams, on the other hand, will deal with 24/7 response and investigation, CID, domestic abuse investigation, gang disruption and local intelligence. There will be 15 hubs working 24/7 and will comprise Police, Fire and Local Authority services including Trading Standards all working together. NHW is needed more than ever. Main problem is funding and they prioritise major crime, which consists of murder, severe criminal activity and domestic abuse. 20% of police time is spent on Mental Health issues. Essex police receive 681 emergency 999 calls on an average day.

There was an opportunity to hear from four of the applicants for the role of PC Commissioner namely :

Kevin McNamar – Conservative. Wants to bring back Policing anti-social behaviour (at present under Local Authority) so they don't turn into full time criminals.

Roger Hunt – His job was advising companies how to get more for less.

Martin Terry was a Solicitor and in favour of leaving the common market

Sorry didn't make a note of the 4<sup>th</sup>.

*The other parish councillors sitting at my table all agreed that the PCC was an absolute waste of money, which could be spent on supplying more police officers.*

Nick Alston said crime figures were dropping, but not all burglaries are reported. Half of crime figures are assaults without injury; sexual offences have gone up tremendously and fraud most of all. Online offences are increasing.

DCC Matt Horne said £60m had to be cut from the policing budget, but would hope that by joining with the Fire Service the same level of service would be upheld

PCSOs are being asked to change duties and may be kept on, although some will be lost. Parishes could have a PCSO if they paid for it.

We then heard from PC Paul Downes updating us on Gypsy and Traveller Communities and Rural Crime, which is more robbery and petty theft and accounts for 26.9% with 17.4% being solved. An Interactive website is to start in April.

The mood changed with a presentation from DCI Tom Simons and DS Gary Robinson both of Essex Police, who spoke of the growing Sexual Exploitation of Children. We all need to watch for signs of this.