



## Meeting with Tim Passmore, the Police & Crime Commissioner for Suffolk on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November at 6pm at the United Reform Church

Began with background as to why we had asked for this meeting with Tim, and thanks to James Reeder for organising this. Tim Passmore told us that he has come to listen to what we have to say and about working together moving forward. He reminded us that Lowestoft has the second lowest level of funding for the police in the country.

***Question: why do police officers have to take those arrested for a crime to Yarmouth station for processing rather than using the station in Lowestoft?***

Yarmouth's custody suite was upgraded to accommodate vulnerable people arrested and has appropriate facilities not in Lowestoft. Tim acknowledged it would be better to have a suitably resourced facility here in Lowestoft as well as other nearby towns.

***Question: ringing 101 does not always get a response and we are not sure if we are supposed to ring 999 unless it is life-threatening situation.***

People should always ring 999 if a crime is in progress and let the controller decide on the urgency.

***Question: local alley ways are regular and repeated drug dealing areas, we know who the culprits are but if we phoned 999 they would be gone by the time the police arrive. Pictures have been taken of the dealing and given to the police but nothing is done. There is a crack house but no one wants the evidence that locals have.***

Drugs are a real problem everywhere, and of course more resources are needed but we have worked hard on issue of 'county lines'. If local people do not get a response we need to keep reporting this, ring 999. Also let Tim know.

Discussion about 'Community Trigger' when a situation has not been dealt with to a complainant's satisfaction any individual or a group can access this.

<https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/anti-social-behaviour/community-trigger/>

Discussion about the issue generally, often low level and police keen to try to arrest those 'higher up the chain', often those dealing also have many social problem issues but local people need this drug issue to be tackled. Police Inspector Nick said often when dealers are caught, unfortunately they just get replaced by others and the problem continues. However, the issue of why it is concentrated up the top of High Street needs to be looked at.

Other long-term issues need to be looked at too, such as a public health issues and that those on drugs need help.

***Question: we need more CCTV as a deterrent so it just makes it unpopular to deal drugs in the area, is this the answer?***

*'Safer Streets' grant/scheme may help and will support action to make streets safer. The High Street area needs a review of their CCTV*

Discussion: should people use their own personal CCTV if the camera does view a neighbouring area - if neighbours do not object then this should be ok. It is a personal decision on whether we put perpetrators photos on Facebook page. After incident of vandalism, the police were given CCTV of woman committing a crime but they didn't take action because they did not recognise her.

***Question: can we have 'bobbies on the beat' - try for crime prevention before crime actually happens - proactive instead of reactive?***

Discussion: funding is the key to much of this. The Police & Crime plan sets out future priorities which says police visibility is important, however, the nature of crime has changed with more online, digital crime. There is a lot of local passion about improving our High Street. There is much low level crime and ASB which seems to be tolerated, we understand that people have problems but their actions affect others and people get worn down by it. Danny (putting a business point of view) said that ASB, illegal parking etc. is low level but a cap needs to be put on it. Inspector Nick said that as an example, 12 officers on duty and dealing with 36 incidents so they have to be prioritised as much as possible. Mike our PCSO will engage with locals as much as possible as will other officers.

<https://www.suffolk.police.uk/about-us/our-organisation/police-and-crime-plan>

***Question: [from local person] - I was assaulted but an allegation made against me but I had witnesses but no action was taken by police.***

Tim said talk to Nick and if not resolved, write to him and he will take it forward.

***Question: the signage for parking & traffic in Triangle is wrong yet no one seems accountable. Can Tim help find a way to help us with this? We are told parking/traffic is a police issue then told it's a county council issue?***

Discussion: if signage wrong why can it just be covered over for now? That is cheap option. It has been a waste of money and need to be put right. Tim said that need to get to the bottom of this and also James looking into this.

*(MECG meeting on this planned for New Year - let us know if you want to be involved).*

Can we work in partnership? Can we stop this feeling that Lowestoft is lawless; do we tolerate too much crime and are nervous of challenging offenders? Lots of crime linked to social problems so good that local and ES councillors were here this evening.

### **Way forward**

- Look at various bids/grants/money available to help area, including CCTV.
- Safer Streets bid next time it comes around
- If we have the bid and all information we need ready, then when initiatives come up we will be ready to bid
- Ring 999 and report it - don't be afraid to do that
- Look at data about reporting crime in the High Street and let Kestrel Team know
- Report crimes - even after the event.
- More funding for our area will only come if we have evidence that we need it: report it!

Meeting concluded with thanks to Tim and Police Officers attending.