

Local Committee Community Safety Discussion 2 February 2005

A Framework for Discussion.

1. Background Information.

Surrey, and Mole Valley in particular, continues to be one of the safest areas in the country:

- **In 2002-03 Mole Valley had the lowest level of crime in the county**
- **Total crime was further reduced by 4.2% in 2003/04 in Mole Valley**
- **Violence against the person has reduced by 9.7%**
- **Vehicle related crime has reduced by 16.5%**
- **The number of burglary incidents has reduced by 10.2%**

The Home Office has identified a number of priority issues to be addressed by local partnerships – burglary, violent crime and vehicle crime. The Government's target is a 10% reduction by 2004. Mole Valley has performed very well and has achieved the 10% reduction in relation to all of these. Burglary is down by 10.2%, violent crime has been reduced by 9.7% and vehicle crime is down by 16.5%. In relation to these priorities, Mole Valley remains one of the top performing partnerships as compared with sixty-two comparable districts identified by the Home Office.

2. Audit Findings

2.1 The Community Safety Partnership considered the audit findings and the national targets, and concluded that there were three key priority areas which should be addressed locally in Mole Valley:

- Tackling crime
- Reassuring communities
- Making roads safer

2.2 The audit was published in November and made available on the District Council website. Copies of the audit were circulated to a wide range of organisations with an invitation to attend a series of Community Safety consultation workshops.

2.3 These workshops were held in November 2004, and attended by over 70 representatives of local organisations. The workshops sought ideas on how

to take forward actions to address the three key priority issues through this strategy.

3. Reassuring Communities

3.1 A Community Safety survey was sent out in March 2004 to 3,000 residents of Mole Valley. A high response rate of 54% was achieved, representing a sample of 1,627 people.

3.2 The headline result in the survey relates to feelings of safety after dark.

- 73% felt safe after dark in their neighbourhood.
This level of reassurance has been maintained since the 2001 survey. This represents an increase from the baseline year 1998/99 of 64%.
- Feelings of safety after dark in Dorking Town Centre was at 50%
- Feelings of safety after dark in Leatherhead town Centre 39%.
Both of these results for the town centres are improvements since the last survey in 2001.
There was a slight diminution in feelings of safety after dark in parks or open spaces.

3.3 73% believed that the local community did not have a problem with crime however 49% believed there was a problem with anti-social behaviour. When asked what was the most effective way of reducing crime and anti-social behaviour the answer was very clearly more effective policing.

3.4 The main reason for feeling unsafe was cited as:

- Groups of people causing annoyance – 39%
- Reports about crime on TV/radio/in the newspapers – 21.5%
- Poor street lighting – 18.6%
- Environmental concerns (graffiti, abandoned cars, etc) – 13%

3.5 In considering the issues that affected people's **feeling of safety**, the key priorities identified in the consultation workshops were as follows:

- Youth issues
- Alcohol related crime
- Visibility of police
- Criminal damage and graffiti
- Environmental issues such as street lighting
- Effective communication between partners and community
- Focusing on 'hotspots'
- Closed circuit television (CCTV)

3.6 In considering the issues that related to successfully **tackling crime**, the key priorities identified in the consultation workshops were as follows:

- Visible policing and focus on crime 'hotspots'
- Crime reduction, prevention and planning out crime
- Burglary, particularly distraction burglary
- Support for victims of domestic abuse and raising awareness
- Close monitoring and enforcement in relation to licensed premises
- Clear and accessible crime reporting procedures

4. Discussion Framework for Reassuring Communities

- Sharing information on what has been achieved and recent successes.
- How can partners support and work together on some key priority areas as identified at the consultation ie
 - Youth issues
 - Alcohol related crime
 - Visibility of police
 - Criminal damage and graffiti
 - Environmental issues such as street lighting
 - Effective communication between partners and community
 - Focusing on 'hotspots'
 - Closed circuit television (CCTV)
- Are there any areas where barriers may occur?
- Agree actions.

ORGANISATION
Mole Valley District Council (Clive Smitheram, Community Safety Officer)
ROLE OF ORGANISATION OR GROUP
To ensure that the District Council delivers against its responsibilities within the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.
PLEASE HIGHLIGHT SOME RECENT SUCCESSES
Final commissioning of CCTV in Ashted, North Leatherhead and at Burford Bridge. (Evidence from recordings already being used in criminal cases.) Continual close partnership working in areas of anti graffiti. Home security for the vulnerable. Delivering the anti drugs and alcohol message to schools, clubs etc.
ASPIRATIONS FOR THE FUTURE
In the process of developing the Community Safety Strategy for the next three years. To increase contact with non statutory organisations and open up broader association with Statutory agencies to maximise delivery 'mediums' within the community. To develop the multi agency working of the Drug Action Group further. Continue the partnership approach of addressing ; Repeat Victimisation and delivering support to 'Vulnerable Persons ' within the household security improvement scheme. Support the police in introducing a Designation Order to cover Dorking Town Centre.

ORGANISATION
Surrey County Council Highways (Roger Archer-Reeves, Local Transportation Director - Mole Valley)
ROLE OF ORGANISATION OR GROUP
Highway authority.
PLEASE HIGHLIGHT SOME RECENT SUCCESSES
Any thing we do with the road network is viewed as to little to late! But there has been success with the A24 Safety Works being funded and started on site, the repairs to Hunts Bridge. The ongoing maintenance of approx 500KLM of network and the high level of public engagement that takes place. We are the only highway office to have police officers working out of to aid both of our roles through the synergies that creates. We have also started a Travel Awareness Programme that is beginning to work with local businesses to hopefully change the mind-set of "one car – one occupant." The team has also reformed to target more effort towards engagement with resident groups and parish councils.
ASPIRATIONS FOR THE FUTURE
To do all that we do at present better, more effectively and with a more informed community about what we do.

ORGANISATION
Surrey Police - Mole Valley District Policing Team (Colin Green, District Inspector)
ROLE OF ORGANISATION OR GROUP
Law and order (Specifically reduction of crime and reassurance issues)
PLEASE HIGHLIGHT SOME RECENT SUCCESSES
Graffiti detections and removal. Productive partnership with Ashted Residents Association/Panel Joint Operations with Trading Standards on underage drinking Close working with BTP & Railwatch Regular Disorder/Reassurance Operations Close working with Off-Licences CCTV systems NHW expanded by 30% in the last 3 months
ASPIRATIONS FOR THE FUTURE
Future Trading Standards Ops Transport for Youth Project Continued Disorder/Reassurance Operations Continued partnership work with BTP More graffiti successes

ORGANISATION
Leatherhead Area Police and Community Partnership Group (Michael Anderson, Chairman)
ROLE OF ORGANISATION OR GROUP
Link / liaison between Police / Police Authority / Community
PLEASE HIGHLIGHT SOME RECENT SUCCESSES
Car Crime initiatives in Ashtead, Bookham and Leatherhead (Summer 2004) Public Meetings in Leatherhead (March 2004) and Fetcham (November 2004) Safer Cycling initiative, working with schools and newsagents (Autumn 2004)
ASPIRATIONS FOR THE FUTURE
Further involvement / consultation with the public Stronger links with Crime Reduction Partnership More effective links with younger people

ORGANISATION
Dorking and Rural Area Police and Community Partnership Group (John Scotcher, Chairman)
ROLE OF ORGANISATION OR GROUP
PLEASE HIGHLIGHT SOME RECENT SUCCESSES
ASPIRATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

ORGANISATION
Neighbourhood Watch (Pat Gibbs)
ROLE OF ORGANISATION OR GROUP
Good neighbourliness. Neighbours joining together to keep watch on each other's homes especially whilst on holiday. Crime prevention by neighbours acting together in an attempt to protect themselves and their property from criminal activity.
PLEASE HIGHLIGHT SOME RECENT SUCCESSES
By prompt contact with police, perpetrator of "doorstep" crime arrested.
ASPIRATIONS FOR THE FUTURE
Reduce fear of crime especially among the elderly.