

**Public Forum, Bristol – 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018**  
**Q&A Notes**

Q. A resident queried how the Police prioritise the incidents they attend. His son had reported a burglary of their garage which was attached to the house on a Sunday evening, all his electrician equipment was stolen. There was a fingerprint on a metal tray. The police did not classify it as a dwelling burglary and did not send an officer to collect the fingerprint, even though it must have been a quiet time for them. His son had since installed CCTV and had some images from another incident.

A. The local Chief Inspector advised that whilst there might be a perception that there are quiet times for the police, in fact there are very few of these. They do have to prioritise the calls they receive and keeping people safe is the top priority. He apologised as on this occasion they did not receive the service they should expect. It should have been classed as a dwelling burglary and this should have been attended by an officer. The Chief Inspector agreed to provide feedback to the communications staff as the first point of contact regarding classifying information provided. The Chief Constable apologised also and stated there are still funds to send officers to collect evidence and something had obviously gone wrong here and the images the resident had available from his CCTV would be reviewed.

Q. The Chairman of Highridge, Bishopsworth and Headley Park common rooms Neighbourhood Watch queried why Highridge was never mentioned at these meetings as an area? Why has police attendance dropped off at their meetings with residents?

A. The Chief Inspector clarified that in terms of police areas Highridge was included within Hartcliffe. The Chief Inspector has recently met with the Assistant Chief Constable and the Superintendent and discussed the community engagement strategy and the Neighbourhood Policing Model and within these plans are changes that will allow the teams some capacity to come out into the community and recommence a lot of the engagement work with local residents.

Q. A resident stated that the drop in crime was because people are not reporting it. A neighbour's van had the wheels taken off and they didn't report it as they had no confidence anything would be done. The PCSOs and the team need to be out and visible again, making residents feel safe. Although there was a burglary last week and couldn't fault the police- they were outstanding and need to publicise their good work more!

A. The Chief Inspector was grateful for the good feedback but commented that bad news is heard more often. The Chief Constable is keen that where there are strong communities that the Neighbourhood Teams have the time to engage with them, listen to and work with them. The Chief Constable noted that the constabulary recorded 30,000 more crimes last year than two years ago but it is more cyber and Domestic Abuse incidents than 'traditional' crime. It was accepted that people are reporting less but the police want to hear from people and want the crimes to be reported. The Neighbourhood Policing strategy is being refreshed and relaunched – there are dedicated and passionate staff involved.

Q. How can members of the community get involved in volunteering with the police? This will help with breaking down barriers between the local people and the police.

A. The Chief Inspector advised that there is a Citizens in Policing strategy and there are various ways the community can be involved, the police are conscious of the need to bring in skills from the local community. An example was given that currently the constabulary are recruiting for volunteer drivers to collect drugs from the pharmacy for offenders in custody. The police are always keen to hear from anyone interested in working with them. All opportunities will be advertised on the website. The PCC thanked the Community Resilience Team for the excellent work that they do. She had been out with them and seen it first-hand.

Q. A councillor was pleased to hear that the constabulary are recruiting 300 officers and the strategy to use PCSOs better. What are the timescales involved in the recruitment?

A. The Chief Constable advised that whilst the Constabulary are recruiting new officers they are not an increase but replacements for officers lost through retirement, or moves etc. The Force will be advertising for police constables in April and are always recruiting call handlers and staff.

Q. A resident queried how well the Forum had been publicised as they were disappointed with the turnout?

A. The PCC felt her office had put in a phenomenal effort to advertise the Forum – posters had been put up all around the community, leaflets were posted through doors, it was advertised on social media. She did acknowledge that it was February and it was cold and was very grateful to those residents who had turned up.

Q. A resident was very impressed with the initiative with the young cadets and asked if there were plans to roll it out wider across the force?

A. The Chief Inspector advised it was still very new and they were making sure it works before looking at rolling it out. There is a cost implication to the scheme and initially it will be focused on areas that need it the most. The PCC advised that there are already a number of cadet schemes across the constabulary for 13-18 year olds. The constabulary are looking at how to bridge the gap between mini cops and cadets.