



Good evening all.

I've been asked to provide a report on policing in the area and as this is the NRTC annual meeting I've tried to keep it specifically to the immediate area. Also, there are numerous incidents good and bad that I could mention but you've all got to go home tonight so I've picked out a few of the significant ones!

I'll start with the recent criminal damages to 'Drive' and 'Dearman and Bartlett'. We have obtained lots of CCTV but at the time of writing this (11/04) we have still not been able to identify the offender, but the investigation is ongoing. The damage to the Balance Bar a few months ago (now called O'HARA's Bar) I don't believe is linked to the above two and unfortunately, we weren't able to identify the offender then either. However, I am keen to stress that we don't have a marauding vandal on the loose as I believe that all three businesses were 'targeted' for some reason only known to the offenders and potentially the victims but hasn't been able to be substantiated by us.

Some may not agree with me but generally ASB especially around the high street appears to have reduced significantly. I believe that this is partly down to my colleague James and I regularly being in the area and having engaged with the youths over the past 2.5 years that this 'Beat' role has been in place. Most of the troublesome youths know us both by our first names which we have encouraged to try and build a rapport with them but unfortunately there will always be the odd few that will abuse this and will continue with their ASB and criminality. We have also contacted their parents/guardians when the youths come to our attention for the wrong reasons and will continue to do so as this is quite effective in curbing some of their behaviour.

We continue to gather intelligence and disrupt drug use and drug dealing. You may have already seen in the press that a prolific drug dealer was arrested in Dymchurch several months ago and a large quantity of drugs and cash were seized and he was remanded immediately following his arrest and sent to prison. The reason I mention this is because he was very often seen by James and I in the New Romney area and as mentioned above, we were able to gather intelligence which ultimately led to an operation which caught him. Unfortunately there will always be another dealer when one is taken off the streets but they will be targeted as much as possible and when I

post 'My Community Voice' messages which end up on social media, I quite often ask the public to email me with any drug dealing information they have or suspect and we will always look into these.

In early March we received a report of a Burglary at a business on Mountfield Industrial estate, the value of items stolen ran into several thousands of pounds. I identified the offender's vehicle and several days later two suspects were arrested after having returned to New Romney in the same vehicle. This investigation is ongoing and the two remain on bail.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to clarify mine and James's role within policing on The Marsh as I sometimes find that the public aren't clear on this matter, and it is important that they are.

James and I are 'Beat Officers' under the Community Safety Unit (CSU) which is based at Folkestone Police Station. The CSU have numerous Beat Officers that have wards allocated to them across the F&H district and this is replicated county wide. They also have a Child Centred Policing Team (CCPT) who liaise directly with the vast majority of schools across the F&H district and are regularly at the Marsh Academy doing really good stuff behind the scenes and then we have the Neighbourhood Task Force (NTF) who are a team of proactive and reactive officers and Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) who support all three teams. We are all one big team and can utilise each other for various operational tasks.

James and I start and finish our shifts at Lydd Police Station so are truly 'Marsh' based and we cover the three wards between us, New Romney, Romney Marsh, Walland and Dengemarsh.

We both used to be Local Policing Team (LPT) officers who are generally the ones that respond to 999 calls and other high and priority graded calls, in other words they are the 'reactive' lot and although James and I still answer some 999 calls, this is not our primary role, we are in place to police the Marsh in a 'Neighbourhood' role.

Therefore, the Marsh not only has LPT officers attending emergency calls when needed but also has two Beat officers who are dedicated to tackling ASB and crime by being in the areas where these things occur the most and collating information and intelligence to problem solve and deal with any issues. We do patrol all over the Marsh but as you would expect us to, we spend more time in problematic and busier towns and villages.

Thank you

Steve and James.

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