

Report on B.A.L.C Meeting of the 18th January 2023.

I attended the meeting via zoom. It was a hybrid meeting held at Witham Town Hall.

The guest speaker was the Chief Constable, B.J. Harrington.

He spoke about:

- The size of the Police service is growing. 3500 Police Officers and 2500 support staff.
- Domestic abuse counts for 1/5th of all crime in Essex.
- Anti Social behaviour is being treated as a crime whenever possible.
- There is an increase in the roads Policing unit with an increase to 140 Officers.
- More Speeding tickets are being issued.
- Better vetting for potential Officers and many have been dismissed.
- PCSO's are doing a fantastic job.
- County Lines are being blocked.

Parish representatives were able to ask questions which related directly to their areas.

The poor response times from the 101 was mentioned and C.O. Harrington stated that there were more call handlers in training and that it will improve as these come online.

He also encouraged people to use the online chat service which is manned 24/7 and should garner an immediate response. It was pointed out to him by the Chair, that this was not the case and there are delays with that system too.

Essex police are using the "What Three Words" app to improve finding the location of incidents and so improving response times.

Local Highways Panel.

I was confirmed as the replacement for David Gronland on the Local Highways Panel. The next meeting is to be held sometime in March.

Further Information.

BDC intend to reduce street cleaning by 33%.

BDC are stopping the printed recycling date leaflet. Residents will have to look up the dates online.

Councils have received the consultation regarding BDC's plans for charging for the Green bin collections.

An "Awards for All" grant was available from the National Lottery for up to £10,000 for community events celebrating the King's coronation.

The date of the next BALC meeting is to be held in Braintree. 19th April 2023.

Cllr Garry Warren.