

LONG EATON 50 PLUS FORUM

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2013 ISSUE

Editor Ian Neill

Report on our September 2013 Open Forum Meeting held at 10:15 am on September 9th at the Long Eaton Town Hall and updates on our various Activities.
Theme Combating Crime for you



Website www.lead50plus.com



CHAIR'S REPORT

Since our last Newsletter we have enjoyed some amazing summer days. It seemed odd to be worrying about finding shade for my grandson from Portugal when taking him out and about in Nottingham! Unfortunately then good weather did not last for the postponed Bristol Coach Trip but I think most people thoroughly enjoyed their day anyway! Many thanks to Ian for organising this.

Our computer sessions take a back seat during the summer holidays but all 3 of our outreach sessions are now up and running again. Erewash Borough Council are again funding 6 Lap-IT-Up sessions at Parklands Connexion. Do come along and join the fun but don't expect us to know very much about Windows 8.. ugh!

The committee were pleased with the September Open Forum .. good attendance and good speakers! It is gratifying that in these austere times these meetings continue undaunted!

Oh and don't forget the council-funded astronomy sessions at Long Eaton School put on for you to enjoy. See back of Newsletter for more details of these activities.

See you in December I hope!

NEXT MEETING

December 9TH 2013
THEME Health & Wellbeing
10:15 TO 12:00 AM
TOWN HALL LONG EATON

Speakers

Lynn Wilmott-Shepherd, Commissioning and Delivery Director

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Attendance 106 Members and 8 visitors
Raffle made £58.25 Thanks to Jenny who ran it and all those who contributed, both financially and prizes

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THE NEWSLETTER ARE THOSE OF THE CONTRIBUTORS AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE FORUM

Speakers:

1st Speaker - Alan Charles, Police & Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire:

Alan responded to a comment/question sent through before the meeting by forum member Donald Treece who had stated:

“The decision by the Government to create Police and Crime Commissioners was done without any consultation with Public Opinion. When it came to the election of these Commissioners very little in the way of information was given out in order for the people to know who to vote for; hence many people abstained from voting. I personally did not know who the Derbyshire Commissioner was until sometime after the election.”

Alan gave a brief explanation around the election process.

Alan started his presentation by asking the members if they understood the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner and if not, he would do his best to explain.

He stated that since commencing his position he has visited all the Derbyshire County Magistrates Courts and recently visited Sudbury Prison where they are carrying out excellent rehabilitation work and where 50-60% of prisons released are getting back into full-time employment – he would like to see this excellent work continue and being carried out elsewhere.

He also stated that 1 in 10 calls to the Police are domestic abuse reports (from both male and female victims) and he is working closely with a number of domestic abuse groups.

The Police Authority was made up of 9 councillors and 8 other individuals. Alan's position is more high profile and means he can work better with the courts, prisons and general public. He can also make quicker decisions and can make his meetings open to the public.

The role is to:

- Hold the Chief Constable to account
- Set and update the Police and Crime Plan
- Set the force budget and council tax precept
- Regularly talking to our communities
- Commissioning services of partners to deliver community safety services

Police & Crime Plan: Six Objectives

1. Work to improve support provided to victims and witnesses
2. Work to provide strong and effective partnership working
3. Work to keep people, particularly the most vulnerable, safe from harm, antisocial behaviour and criminal activities
4. Work to support local policing, distributing resources into places of greatest need
5. Work to drive continual improvement in performance
6. Encourage further investigation into the issues relating to alcohol related crime and harm

Alan also wants to tackle wildlife crime & cruelty to animals, illegal hunting, and persecution of birds of prey. They are already working with the RSPB and have investigated and convicted a gamekeeper and closed down an illegal hunt. A Wildlife summit is to be held in September 2013.

Alan would like as many members of the public to have their say and is holding a number of community engagement events across the County.

Alan then asked a number of questions of the members as there is a large misconception on what front-line policing actually is:

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Which of these roles do you consider to be frontline policing?

1. Call handler - Deals with all non-emergency telephone calls. FRONTLINE ROLE
2. Computer Forensic Examiner - Obtains evidence from computer systems. NON-FRONTLINE ROLE
3. File Builder - Obtains additional evidence by way of taking additional victim/witness statements. FRONTLINE ROLE
4. Central Referral Unit Risk Assessor - Assesses the risk to public protection victims. NON-FRONTLINE ROLE
5. Station Enquiry Officer - Deals with face-to-face and telephone enquiries from the public including the reporting of crime. FRONTLINE ROLE
6. Forensic Analytical Services Lab Officer - Obtains forensic evidence from crime scenes. NON-FRONTLINE ROLE.

Most of these roles are vital to an efficient policing service, keeping people safe regardless of whether or not they are 'labelled' frontline.

On 27 th June a Summit was held at South Normanton looking at alcohol abuse and crime – details had been given on an initiative running in Ipswich called 'Reducing the Strength' which aims to prevent young people buying high alcohol content drinks before going out in the evening. Alan is hoping to run a similar pilot in Erewash and is currently speaking to Erewash Borough Council and the local supermarkets to look at a way forward – however, the larger supermarkets are currently not engaging.

Alan's department holds a £250 k Crime Prevention Fund which can be issued for:

- Innovative crime related projects
- Informal application process
- The project must link to one of the six Police & Crime Plan Objectives

Alan finished his presentation by asking the same question 'Do you understand the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner?' to which a ringing majority of members answered 'Yes'.

Alan then took questions from the members:

Comment:

It is estimated that 50% of all crime is drug related; a way to deal with this would be legalisation – what is your opinion on this?

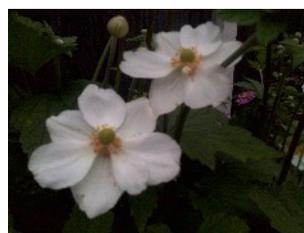
Response:

There are strong arguments for and against legalisation – there needs to be honest and open debate and more research done to combat the 'war on drugs'.

Figures are not as high now as in previous years – there have only been 4 deaths in Derbyshire. Alan is working with SPODA in Chesterfield and supporting a new website which is gathering information on white powders being purchased as many dealers will regularly change the contents to stop them from being banned substances.

Comment:

We need to be concentrating more on where the supply of drugs is coming from – 1 town in Mexico has the highest death rate of people being killed due to drug production and supply.



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Comment:

You stated that you have undertaken an event in Ilkeston, how can we get an event in Long Eaton?

Response:

You can request a walk round your area by telephoning the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner on: 0300 122 6000. Alan likes to undertake the walk around with other officers such as Community Safety officers, local Councillors etc., and if enough officers can be brought together a walk-around will be arranged. One of the 'Have Your Say' Events was held in Long Eaton in August.

Final Comment:

from Donald Treece – the election process was a shambles but thanks to Alan attending this meeting and making the role clearer he now feels he understands why the position was created - he then asked for more background information which Alan happily gave.

2nd Speaker – Jamie Robinson, Police Constable in the Terrorism Squad

Jamie gave a brief explanation of his personal background – being a 'Derby Lad' raised in Stockbrook. He was a joiner by trade and joined the Police Force in 2001 covering the Pear Tree Estate!

He then gave a 'Prevent Strategy Briefing' on Terrorism.

The Strategy looks at the eradication or reduction of terrorism.

Jamie appealed to members to go with their 'Gut Feeling' and have courage to report any issues or concern they may have as many people do not report many crimes that they either see or hear for fear of not being believed or made to look silly.

Terrorism is a very sensitive but topical debate – it affects us all and all of us will have heard about or seen memorable incidents.

The 'Contest Policy' works to the 4-Ps

:

Pursue –

this will be done by MI5 or Counter Terrorism – who will follow leads on suspected Terrorists.

Protect –

carried out by Border Control

Prepare –

Infrastructure has to be prepared for any atrocity i.e. glass in new buildings, roadways for emergency services to attend incidents. We no longer get warnings of terrorist incidents e.g. Sergeant Lee Rigby.

Prevent –

Focuses on individuals – no one knows what a radicalises/terrorist may look like (only preconceived ideas). We all need to look out for signs of changes in people. We need to share information prior to incidents (i.e. important information was not shared before 9/11).

Radicalisation can start at the early ages of around 6-8 years. Vulnerable people can be easy targets for radicalisation.

Jamie asked members what they think of when they hear the word terrorism and gave some examples of recent radicalises such as Andes Breivik, the Norwegian, who was of right-wing mentality and did not believe in immigration; he was contacted by Kristian Vikernes, who, having received the manifesto before Breivik committed his crimes and having been sentenced in Norway in the past for murder, was close to a neo-Nazi movement, and was likely to prepare a large terrorist act.

The prevent ideology is:

- To challenge terrorism.
- Prevent people being pulled towards radicalism & terrorism.
- Speak to the public and a range of sectors and organisations.

Jamie gave a number of examples of radical groups including Combat 18; a very right-wing group with strong views – it is illegal to join this group & The Animal Liberation Front who target people with letter bombs.

Self-radicalisation is now prominent with people finding out information and self-teaching via the Internet. Jamie asked the members to be aware of what their children/grandchildren are looking at on the Internet and to ask questions /check file histories if they have any concerns.

Jamie then asked members what they think a terrorist or radicaliser looks like and asked the members to open their eyes and not expect it to be the stereotypical picture.

Warning signs:

- Extreme changes in behaviour
- Secrecy
- Changes in faith
- Learning of obscure languages
- Bookings to obscure locations.

A Multi-agency Panel has been set up to identify vulnerability and speak to individuals.

A 'Prevent Tool-kit' is available.

But most of all members were asked to pass on any concerns; all reports are taken seriously and completely confidential.

If you have any information for Jamie at any time in the future, you can call him on his mobile number: 07711 045420

HELP REQUIRED

Margaret Farrow-Johnson | Clinical Facilitator | NHS Erewash CCG

We would like to be aware of our patients experiences through their healthcare journey.

From either a good experience or bad experience in order that we can review services for the benefit of patients.

You may be in a position that you know someone who would share their patient story with us, if so please give my details to them or I can contact them if they wish.

Some examples might be:

If a patient saw their GP and was then referred to hospital, how long did they have to wait, did they have a good experience, where they referred to another specialist, were they satisfied with the treatment they received, or did they not have a good experience, what went wrong etc.

Or another example might be of the ambulance service, did a patient have an emergency and called for an ambulance, did they have a good experience, were they happy with the treatment from the paramedic, where they transported to hospital what experience did they have there.

We would like to take the Patient Stories to Governing Body meetings and these can be anonymous if the patient prefers.

Anybody for tea!



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CHARITY ADS.

PARKLANDS STROKE CLUB

HAVE YOU OR SOMEBODY YOU KNOW HAD A STROKE

Why not come along to Parklands Stroke club.
We meet every second Friday, starting on the 7th
of November, from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Where? At Petersham Hall

Contact:- Pat on 0115 972 2389

LONG EATON AND DISTRICT INVALID CLUB

Meets every second Tuesday of the month at
Sawley Memorial Hall.

Come along and join us
We run 3 coach trips per year
Pick up points are too numerous to mention but
there will be one near you,

LONG EATON ALL MEDIA AND ARTS GROUP

Meets every Thursday evening from 7.00 PM
until 9:00 PM at Petersham Hall
Contact **Colin Bourne on 01158 490 048**
All Welcome

LONG EATON INDIAN ASSOCIATION

Meets every Monday (except bank holidays) from
12:00 until 3:00 PM
United Reformed Church, the Green, Long Eaton
Chair based exercise lunch and social
£3.00 per month
All welcome

TRAVEL CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

Suggestions for 2014 Trips

April –
Railway Trip: Keighley & Worth Railway
covering Bronte Country.



or East Lancashire Railways covering Burnley,
Bury & Rawtenstall



Bury transport museum

July – Scarborough

Sept/Oct – Gloucester Docks or Ely/Cambridge



Gloucester



Cambridge

21st -24th November Xmas Market at Gloucester

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TRAVEL CLUB NEWS

BRISTOL TRIP

The Bristol trip finally got underway on October 3rd amid a Carol Kirkwood prediction of thunder, lightning and heavy rain.

There were short spells of heavy rain, light rain and even the Sun took its hat off for us.

Pete and I with others took the ferryboat to Brunel's SS Great Britain. Nothing like the ferryboat I am used to in crossing the Mersey. It was a small boat, open to the elements, but the rain kept away while we crossed but heavy rain fell as we had lunch. The trip round the SS Great Britain took us back to the first days of Cast Iron ships. We followed this with a trip round the cathedral and a half to set us up for the journey home.

PETE'S PICS



Brunel's SS Great Britain



The umbrella protecting me from the rain

NEXT TRIP

It was proposed to go to Peterborough Xmas market but it has been cancelled

The next trip is a change from the usual trip we are proposing to go to:-

CHESTER XMAS MARKET

DATE 12TH DECEMBER

PRICE £10.00

TIME 9.00 AM

FROM PETERSHAM HALL

Then at roughly 5 to 10 minutes between
ASDA

LONG EATON RAILWAY STATION
WEST PARK LEISURE CENTRE

Could you advise me if you want to reserve a set as the trip is only three days after the Forum Meeting. Contact me on 0115 972 6057 or trips@ianconsult.co.uk



Visiting shoppers will be able to revel in the choice of stalls at the brand new FREE Christmas Market with over 40 traditional wooden chalets positioned outside Chester's Town Hall. The Chester Christmas Market will be offering a variety of quality products, including crafts, clothing, jewellery, giftware and local food and drink from carefully chosen suppliers.

Visitors will be able to enjoy some Lanson Champagne at the Lanson Bar as part of the Christmas Market experience. As well as Champagne, there will be a large selection of beers, wines and spirits in addition to traditional hot drinks to keep shoppers warm whilst they enjoy the market.

LAP IT UP SESSIONS

There will then be help sessions and further session on the taster subject for those that want a bit more.

The sessions are all at Parklands connections between Stanhope Street and Leopold Street starting at 10:00 AM

November 29th

December 13th

Also do not forget our Astronomy sessions
Astronomy Beginners Course started on October 2nd

Continuing Astronomy on Beginners November 6th,
December 11th, January 8th, February 5th, March 5th, April 2nd,

Continuing: November 20th, January 22nd,
February 19th, March 26th.

All sessions start at 7.45 PM at Observatory Building, Long Eaton School, Thoresby Road starting at 7.45 PM .. all welcome!

For Details Contact Pete Wearn at :-

petewearn@hotmail.com

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Thursdays from 1:00 to 3:00 PM
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benefit of 50 plus members

Courses are:-

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Word Continued

Places are limited to 5 per course.

Please contact Ann Bennett to add your name to
the list or to ask about courses

0115 972 3448

Your Views

In future editions we propose to have
a letters page so send you views to
50plus@ianconsult.co.uk

or

LEAD 50plus

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