

25th September 2014

Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex.

pcc@essex.pnn.police.uk

Dear Sir,

Rural Policing in North Essex

Great Bromley is a rural Parish situated approximately 8 miles North-East of Colchester, towards the direction of Harwich. The Parish Council has requested I write to you direct regards their concern as to what they believe to be an erosion in rural policing locally and throughout North Essex.

Various examples over the last few months are as follows. The first sign of a decline was the withdrawal of the local PCSO from his attendance at Parish meetings. The Parish Council understand the operational difficulties currently facing the police and take no issue with this change, not least because PCSO Barnes was still communicating monthly to advise on the monthly crime figures in the locality. We have since been told by him that he is no longer permitted to do this, which the Parish Council find unfortunate. Not only were these figures discussed at our monthly meeting but they were published in our village magazine. From experience we know that our residents like to be kept informed of any crimes committed locally in order to stay vigilant particularly if there are specific types of crime that are on the increase. The recent spate of thefts of catalytic converters being an example of this.

The Parish Council also recently contacted the local PCSO and his superior regards a sudden graffiti issue within the village. They were also requested to attend our village to conduct a speed watch review. On both occasions two emails were sent and were not responded to.

Whilst the Parish Council accept that local police surgeries have been arranged locally, the closest to this village is in Elmstead Market, several miles away. This is hardly accessible to residents of our village, whom are predominately elderly and whom rely on public transport.

The Parish Council would respectfully ask that you intervene as appropriate to ensure the reinstatement of the service whereby we are informed of monthly crime figures – which is a task

that we know does not take very long to undertake – and also request that an officer attends our village for the purposes of undertaking a speed watch review.

Many thanks for your time, and should there be any queries please do not hesitate to contact me on return by e-mail.

Yours sincerely,

Laura Austin

Clerk to Great Bromley Parish Council

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