

Sussex Police and Crime Panel

27 April 2018

Written Questions

Report by the Clerk to the Police and Crime Panel

The table below provides a schedule of the written questions received prior to this meeting and where possible responses have been included. Responses will be tabled at the meeting that were not available at the time of despatch. Written Questions must be received 2 weeks before a meeting of the Panel and the Commissioner or Panel Chairman is invited to provide a response by noon of the day before the meeting.

Questions that relate to operational matters of Sussex Police will be passed to a relevant officer at Sussex Police for a response and a brief summary of the question will be provided below.

Question	Response
<p>1) I would Like to know what the Commissioner's stance is on enforcing the Law regarding Cyclists riding on public pavements.</p> <p>It would appear that more cyclists use pavements rather than the provided "cycle" routes. The cost of which needs no enlighten from me.</p> <p>I have seen, in the past, only one Community Officer stop a cyclist who rode around her on the pavement. I have noted a number of police officers who disregard the problem and blatantly turn a blind eye.</p> <p>It would appear that motorists can be fined for driving in "cycle lanes" but cyclists can endanger people walking on pavements.</p> <p>I live off a main road that has to contend with school and work, nose to tail traffic, children walking and adults and children speeding on cycles along the pavement. Exiting the front gate can be like playing "Russian Roulette" if</p>	

<p>one is not knocked down it makes the day. If the worst happens the cyclist involved just rides off !!!</p> <p>I might add that vehicles, cars, lorries, parked on the pavements exacerbate the problems'.</p> <p>It would appear that the police decide what Laws to enforce and those to ignore. Perhaps the Commissioner would clarify.</p> <p>A Worthing Resident.</p>	
<p>2) The PCC will be aware that W. Sussex is a national poor performer on road deaths and injuries. Cycle injuries are high and rising. Most are the driver's fault. In the first year after introducing Operation Close Pass in its area, West Midlands Police reported a 20% reduction in cyclists killed or seriously injured.</p> <p>Does the Commissioner therefore have a view on whether Operation Close Pass should be introduced in Sussex, given this proven effectiveness?</p> <p>Morwen Millson, West Sussex County Councillor for Horsham Riverside.</p>	
<p>3) What is the Commissioner's view on the degree to which Sussex Police addresses the welfare of animals? Is this an area of focus within her Police and Crime Plan? Is she satisfied by the extent of partnership working with animal welfare charities? Can she point to any evidence of the success of this approach?</p> <p>Mr Hammond of Hassocks</p>	
<p>4) What is the Commissioner's view on Operation Close Pass, which has been implemented with great success in the West Midlands? Does the Commissioner feel such an initiative should be adopted by Sussex Police?</p> <p>Mr Smallman of Amberley, West Sussex</p>	

<p>5) The West Midlands Police have been carrying out an award winning, hugely successful initiative called the "Close Pass Operation", based on the philosophy that "if poor driving makes people too scared to cycle, it's a police matter", and that "people who drive poorly around cyclists are likely to do so around other road users so it benefits all". Since the operation has been implemented the WMP have reported a 50% drop in poor overtaking, and a 20% reduction in the number of cyclists killed or injured, this confirms it is a hugely effective use of limited resources, representing excellent value for taxpayers.</p> <p>In November 2017 it was reported that Sussex police were evaluating the initiative, however there has been no further action regarding the implementation of such an operation.</p> <p>Does the Commissioner have a view about Close Pass Operation? Is she satisfied that Sussex Police are moving quickly enough to adopt best practice from other forces in respect of protecting our cyclists?</p> <p>Mr Tweed of East Grinstead</p>	
<p>6) An operational question regarding Sussex Police's response to drug dealing in Bognor Regis was received, and forwarded to Acting Chief Inspector Kris Ottery, Arun and Chichester District Commander for a response.</p>	