

OCTOBER MEETING

Policing Dover

A talk by Dover District Commander Chief Inspector Paul Barrell

Reported by Alan Lee

With a change of speaker from the original advertised the Society welcomed the newly appointed Chief Inspector, Paul Barrell, to present the view of the police on how they aim to combat crime and improve their efficiency and clear up rates within the Dover and District area.

Paul commenced with detailing his career to date and his vision and aims for policing in Dover District.

He then ran through the figures for the last twelve months. There were 9509 victim-based crimes recorded a drop of 5.6% or 563 fewer crimes. However, recorded violent crime showed an increase of 7% or 461 additional crimes. Key areas that showed an increase were domestic abuse with harassment, stalking and non-injury assault. There were just 64 recorded robberies a drop of 49% or 61 fewer crimes. Paul stated that this was the lowest recorded robbery rate in any East Kent District. He rounded off the figures by stating that 9.5% of all victim based crime had been solved. Dover District was consistently one of the highest performing districts within the Kent Police area for solving crimes.

Owing to technical problems Paul was unable to show the audience the graphs he had prepared but he managed to describe them verbally. Of the different types of recorded crime over 2021 the lowest recorded were Arson, Burglary, Robbery and Weapon Offences.

Dover Police carried out 269 Stop and Search actions with 70, or 26.3%, proving to have a justified and positive outcome. The majority, or 207, of the persons stopped were white with 54 having a positive result. Over 60% of those stopped were 24 years or younger. By gender of those stopped 86.6% were male, 13.2% female with 0.2% being of an unspecified gender.

Paul stated that his focus would be to encourage the reporting of all crimes and to increase support for the victims of crime. Three areas in particular he would be concentrating on are violence against women and girls, youth violence especially within the town centre and anti-social behaviour in residential areas including the use of motor vehicles.

The latest figures indicate Kent Police finances are made up by; £244m government grant, £148.6m council tax, £0.8m council tax deficit 2020/21, £34.8m locally generated income and £6.8m predicted savings. This gives a total financing figure of £435m. Of this sum approximately £10m is held in reserve.

Kent Police are committed to engaging with local communities so have set up "My Community Voice", a messaging service to allow the general public to keep in touch with their local policing teams. You can receive and reply to police alerts that you are sent and share information.

Paul concluded his talk by answering a number of questions from the audience.