



Stanway

Parish Council

SPECIAL CONSTABLES (2): FUNDING OVERTIME

It has been a long-held commitment of Stanway Parish Council to support an initiative for recruitment of Special Constables, with funding by the council.

SPC has created a 'Community Safety' budget which will increase substantially over the next three years. Part of this budget is earmarked to underwrite the ongoing costs related to CSC's. There should be £6,000 in the reserve at year end, another £1,000 in the 21/22 budget, then another £6,000, then £8,000 in subsequent years.

Stanway Parish Council is keen to work in partnership with Essex/Colchester Police. As Stanway is increasingly becoming the size of a small town, this also brings the crime and disorder problems along with it. SPC also recognises the constraints on policing budgets and sees the value in supplementing policing services from its own budget. The plan to recruit Special Constables specific to Stanway has, to date, been unsuccessful, and even if there were some volunteers, it does seem to be a complex area for which the council to become involved, with all the problems of training and management over a two-year period.

The alternative suggestion from the Police is that Parish councils fund overtime for additional high visibility patrols in the parishes to engage and enforce any ASB, Crime, speeding etc. Some of the parishes in Tendring have funded overtime for officers to conduct additional patrols in their area and it works very well. This has led to enquiries from some of our parishes. Details of what they are doing can be found following this link:

<https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/community/communitysafety/CSP%20Delivery%20Plan%202019%20-%202020.pdf>

Another advantage is that policing will still be managed by the Police and SPC does not need to get involved with that. The question would be a decision on how many patrolling hours are required, as it could be an easy way for the Police to fund overtime for their officers, which normally would come from their own budget. Specific guidelines would need to be set before becoming operational.

After the discussion about SPC funding additional patrols in the area at the last Community Services committee meeting it appears that in principle the councillors are interested in this proposal but have requested more information before deciding whether to proceed with this option.

1. Cost per hour of police patrols?

The overtime is usually costed at around £24.00 an hour per officer.

2. How many police officers are involved in each patrol?

The number of officers would depend on what the key issue was to deal with.

3. How is it possible to audit the time of police that is being charged for?

The officers who complete the patrols will be expected to provide a full return on what activity they have completed, areas they have patrolled, amount of people spoken to etc.

4. How immediate is the response if they are called at short notice – is this overtime or normal service?

For the control of the patrols, the Police would listen to the issues raised and concerns from SPC and these would be what the patrols would be based around.



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5. Is the control of patrols with SPC or the police?

The overtime does not replace normal service and would be on top of normal service. The additional patrols would need to be planned in advance due to them being overtime patrols so would need to be timetabled by the officer(s) completing them.

6. Is it a fixed schedule or effected by availability of police?

As these would be additional patrols, it would be in place for when SPC felt it would be most beneficial. However, these patrols would be carried out before or after the usual tour of duty and as such timings would need to reflect this. Generally, the Police shifts are 0600-1500/1600/1700 (different uniform departments work different times), 1400/1500 – 2200-0000, 2000-0400 and 2200-0700.

7. Can SPC devise its own patrol timetable?

Timings would need to be based around the above times for people to do it before or after work, or there would be no take up by officers.