



Stanway

Parish Council

SPECIAL CONSTABLES

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.

The support that SPC could offer is two-fold:

- i. it 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.
- ii. the new Stanway Community Centre, financed from s106 contributions, is planned for construction next year. SPC expects to play a leading role in the management of that Centre and one idea is that we provide a dedicated, secure room available to all local police personnel to use whilst on patrol in the area.

As a general point, the 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 Stanway Specific Special Constables 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.

There is now an alternative suggestion from the Police: Parish councils funding 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. Is SPC interested?

This would appear to be a very effective solution to an on-going failure to engage any public interest in becoming a Special Constable to serve in Stanway. Community Services has a budget under Community Safety – it was meant for Police Specials but can be spent on this.

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.

There should £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.