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Over the past year the people of Lowton East have been experiencing a steady increase in antisocial behaviour and burglaries some of a violent nature. One young girl had to hide under the bed whilst men were robbing her house.

All this has caused huge concern within the area, so our local councillors, together with Lane Head South Residents Group and LENDF, called a meeting on Wednesday 15th March to discuss local concerns. Attending the meeting from the Police were Sergeant Topping and PC David Mayo. So many residents attended they could not all get in the room.

We support the request for the action listed below:

Quicker response when a burglary is taking place or as been discovered.

PCSOs need to be kept up to date with information, with better communication between investigating officers and PCSOs.

There was no confidence that crimes were being investigated due to lack of follow up.

Everyone in the room appreciated our small police team’s efforts and wanted to help. However the best they could offer was to keep ringing 101 and reporting incidents. One person pointed out that she had tried and after forty minutes without a reply gave up.

What came out of the meeting was the disturbing lack of Police cover in our area. For a population of over 12,600 people we have two PCSOs and one constable, they work shifts and because of health and safety they generally work together. This means we have a Police presence for only 6 hours per day 5 days a week leaving huge gaps without cover. The antisocial behaviour occurs mainly in the evenings, these kids know what shifts are being worked and when there is no cover they become very active.

We want two things - one is greater feedback when crimes are committed especially to those who have been affected. The other requirement is extra manning either with PCSOs, or better still a constable. Two constables could work with our two PCSOs giving greater flexibility so all relevant times can be covered.

It would also be helpful if the PCSO had some form of transport. One person attending the meeting was asked if he could collect a PCSO from Leigh police station, otherwise he would have to wait till he came by bus.

So to conclude everyone felt that the police cover is not good enough. The people causing problems know when we are not policed, so without improvements things will only continue to deteriorate.

**Personal Comment**

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