



## EASTBOURNE CRIME REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP

“Making Eastbourne Even Safer”

### A Message from the Divisional Commander

“New Year, new plans and ideas to Serve Sussex – that’s what we’re aiming for in 2010.

We are starting off the way we mean to go on – with fresh eyes, creativity, and a steely determination to address East Sussex issues for East Sussex people.



With that in mind, I thought you’d like to know that East Sussex Division are teaming up with members of Sussex Police Authority to launch an innovative community engagement event – a Police Virtual Question Time on January 21st, when we will answer public questions on community issues, live across the web.

Taking inspiration from President Obama’s ‘Virtual Town Hall’ which took place in March 2009, we’re launching the first-of-its-kind event to provide new opportunities for the public to voice their thoughts and concerns about what matters most to them, and to build on the two-way communication between the police and members of public.

With the fast development of new media, there is no reason to rely solely on traditional methods of communication – the online Police Virtual Question Time is an important step towards creating better opportunities for sharing information about our local policing priorities.

I have invited Carole Shaves and Councillor Bob Tidy from the SPA to join DCI Ashcroft and I on the panel, and former BBC South East presenter Beverley Thompson will host the questioning.

The public will be able to put their questions to the panel in person at County Hall, Lewes, on Thursday, January 21st at 6pm, or email questions to us by January 18th when we will endeavour to answer the questions live on the web on the East Sussex County Council’s website at [www.eastsussex.gov.uk/webcasts](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/webcasts).

We will then use the feedback from residents to set our Local Policing Plan for 2010, ensuring that our priorities are in line with what matters most to the people of East Sussex.

I need your help in promoting this ground-breaking pilot event to local residents, our Key Opinion Formers, and fellow officers and staff members to ensure that we have as many people as possible logging on to the ESCC website at 6pm on the 21st to watch us live. This is exciting stuff and we'd like as many people as possible to experience the future of communication on East Sussex Division – please participate and pass this message on.

Please also encourage your local residents, friends and family to send us their questions by email at [askaquestion@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:askaquestion@sussex.pnn.police.uk) by the 18th January.

As for yourselves, I can assure you there is nothing on TV of any note at that time so show your support, see what it's like, and help us boost the number of online viewers by logging on!

This is just one of many forward-thinking initiatives I hope will become part of our regular efforts to Serve Sussex.

With kind regards

Robin Smith  
Chief Superintendent  
East Sussex Division