

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - COMMUNITY – 4 MARCH 2014

QUESTION FOR PORTFOLIO HOLDER
UNDER STANDING ORDER NO.20

Question from Cllr Mitchell for the Portfolio Holder – Environment, Health and Wellbeing

Last year under delegated powers and bypassing an opportunity for effective scrutiny from this Committee, the Community Patrol hours of operation were cut dramatically. Indeed now the service ceases operation every evening at 10pm - this is generally the time that noise becomes an issue.

This is obviously of concern to the residents of the ward we both represent and to the Exeter Population as a whole.

Until recently partner agencies including the University Estate Patrol were unaware of the cut in hours and until only a few weeks ago incorrect hours of operation were still present on the City Council website.

Does he agree that the implementation of this cut in service was not effectively communicated or scrutinised and is he willing to consider extending the hours again in the future?

Answer

The proposed cut in the Community Patrol service was reported to this Scrutiny Committee in the first instance. However, I was not aware of the fact that the University were not advised of the cut in hours and I will therefore contact them about this. I cannot at this stage agree whether the change to the hours was effectively communicated.

I am willing to consider any way for improving the service to residents if this can be achieved within available resources. At present there are severe pressures on the City Council budget.

I am willing to serve on the Task and Finish Group on Community Patrol if asked to do so.