

## **A little bit of direct democracy**

5.6.08

I recently tabled a Parliamentary Question to the Home Secretary asking if we could have a debate on crime. Despite the valiant efforts of Superintendents Beautridge, Hogben and Gladstone, antisocial behaviour that in the past would have been dealt with by the police in Gravesham is now not being dealt with. It is almost as though the bar on what is acceptable behaviour and what is not has been raised.

I also believe we need a complete shake up of how the police are operated and controlled. So to that extent I support directly elected chief constables, elected by you, the people and only answerable to you on crime in your area. Not answerable to the Home Secretary and therefore constrained by government diktats (of any political colour) but policing that is accountable to the local community. If that chief constable does not perform, then he/she is sacked by you, the electors.

I proposed this idea in 2005 as part of a centre-right think tank, Direct Democracy. It seems others are now listening.