

Epping Forest Public Meeting

23rd Epping Forest 2013
Council Chambers
18:00 to 20:00

Speakers

Nick Alston (PCC) – Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex
Chief Inspector Tracey Harman - Local District Commander
Cllr. Gary Waller – Chair of Epping Forest Community Safety Partnership

Agenda items

1. House Burglary
2. Vehicle Crime
3. Policing Urban and Rural Areas
4. Topics for discussion raised by the audience

Highlights of Presentation

All Crime

- Epping Forest has shown that 'all crime' has reduced by 3.0% (234 fewer offences) when comparing reports for 1st May 2012 to 30th April 2013 against with those from 1st May 2011 to 30th April 2012.

Community Safety Partnership

- Priorities for Epping Forest District
- CSP supporting the work of the police

House Burglary

- In 2012/2013 there were 830 incidents of House burglary (including attempts)
- Burglary of sheds and garages reduced 36% (63 fewer offences)
- Operation Albatross launched in Loughton

Vehicle Crime

- There has been vehicle crime throughout 2012/13
- Many offences result from vehicles being left insecure and valuable items left visible

Policing Urban and Rural Area

- Challenges of policing both the urban centres and rural communities in the district
- Engagement with rural and farming communities - Farmers
- Neighbourhood Action Panel (NAP)

1. House Burglary

Burglary offences in the Epping Forest district remained at a similar level during the period 1st May 2012 to 30th April 2013 (830 offences) compared with the same period in the preceding 12 months (839 offences).

Q.1 Do police attend house hold burglar alarms?

A.1 If it is reported that an intruder is still on the premises a police officer will attend the incident.

Q.2 Key holders have reported a poor response when the police have been contacted when a house hold burglar alarm has been triggered off. What is the advice?

A.2 Advice to key holders is to only call the police if there is evidence of entry to the property. The alarm will reset itself after a period of time. Burglar alarms are seen as a good deterrent with at least 2/3 trusted key holders.

Q.3 What is the advice to people if you are present in the house when a burglary takes place?

A.3 Do not put yourself at risk, dial 999 and a response and a patrol unit will deal with the incident.

2. Vehicle Crime

Over the past 12 months, there has been a rise in vehicle crime in the district. There are particular challenges involved in tackling vehicle crime, including criminals travelling into the district to commit offences.

Q.1 Tradesmen are often targeted for tools or equipment. Are the police monitoring stolen goods?

A.1 The police use intelligence led information to build a picture and target criminals.

Q.2 How do residents know how well the police are doing and how do they find out?

A.2 The police publish details of performance, arrest results and convictions on social media websites and Essex Police website. Information is also shared with Neighbourhood Watch and Parish Councils on their noticeboards and via their local leaflets/newsletters.

Q.3 Is theft of catalytic convertors a problem because they are easy for criminals to dispose of and make money?

A.3 Essex Police have recently undertaken an operation with local scrap yards to crack down on metal theft. As part of the operation, scrap metal dealers are given photographs of people who have been convicted of metal theft so they can contact police if they try to sell them metal.

Q.4. Parking is an issue in Epping which is having an impact on local residents, what can be done to deal with enforcement parking?

A.4. Parking enforcement is managed by the local authority. Epping Council are looking to provide an extra 300 short term parking spaces. Reviews are currently taking place to get a sense of public opinion and to ensure that the right schemes are in place.

- Q.5. Complaints are reported to Essex Police about illegal parking, why is nothing done about it?
A.5. Essex Police have to prioritise competing demands based on the nature of the incident and nature of the call but will respond where possible.

3. Policing Urban and Rural Area

Epping Forest is a large, diverse district. It has some very affluent urban areas with vibrant town centres and good transport networks into London and also some very rural parts, which present different policing challenges.

- Q.1 There are on-going problems with motor bikes when crimes have been committed in rural areas. The police are unable to catch the culprits as often their vehicles are not suitably matched. What is being done to deal with resourcing?
A.1 A risk assessment needs to be undertaken when chasing bikers as a controlled approach needs to be adopted. The Rural Crime forum is looking at what other forces are doing.
- Q.2 When was the last prosecution by Essex Police on vehicle weight and restriction?
A.2 A written response will be provided by Chief Inspector Tracey Harman.

4. Open Questions Raised By Audience

- Q.1 What can the PCC offer to NAPS and Parish Council?
A.1 PCC supports local NAPs and Parish Councils and has attended several meetings across the county.
- Q.2 What are the police doing about anti-social behaviour in the summer, kids setting cars on fire in the Buckhurst Hill area?
A.2 The police can apply for orders and work with the council to deal with anti-social behaviours. The local authority has educational programmes 'Crucial Crew for Young People' to outline the consequences of risky behaviours.
- Q.3 Will there be a Youth Police Commissioner?
A.3 There will be two interns working in the office over the summer, looking at the best ways of engaging with young people.
- Q.4 Should residents be caused a nuisance by neighbours who break the law?
A.4 The police will work in partnership with the council to gather evidence and enforce the law.
- Q.5 Will there be more money available to fund more policing?
A.5 The Chief Constable is responsible for all operational matters and decisions.

Actions or priorities

- PCC, Essex Police and Community Safety Partnership to proactively campaign to tackle burglary, e.g. 'Lock 'em Out' and crime prevention advice
- Car Take Back scheme – Essex Police to continue to monitor and investigate criminal activity
- Essex Police to publish performance data on website and PCC to provide a link to the Force
- Essex Police to provide a response on the last prosecution on vehicle weight and restriction
- Epping Council to review parking enforcement
- PCC to continue to support Neighbourhood Watch and NAPs