

## Uttlesford Public Meeting

19<sup>th</sup> September 2013

### Briefing information

There are two police stations within the Uttlesford District, located at Great Dunmow and Saffron Walden. Both of the police stations are open from 1200hrs to 1800hrs, Monday to Saturday.

The response and patrol function that provides emergency response cover to the district is based at Braintree Police Station. These officers are briefed and deployed from the police station to their patrol areas.

### Crime Data for Uttlesford

Comparing reports for 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013 with those from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2011 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2012.

- All Crime has increased by 4.7% (125 more offences);
- Burglary in a Dwelling has increased by 55.7% (73 more offences);
- Burglary in Other than a Dwelling has increased by 16.1% (67 more offences);
- Criminal Damage has increased by 10.2% (42 more offences);
- Anti-Social Behaviour has decreased by 12.3% (180 fewer incidents);
- Theft from Vehicles has decreased by 17.6% (73 fewer offences);
- Robbery has decreased by 33.3% (3 fewer offences);
- Racially Aggravated Crime has decreased by 72.7% (8 fewer offences).

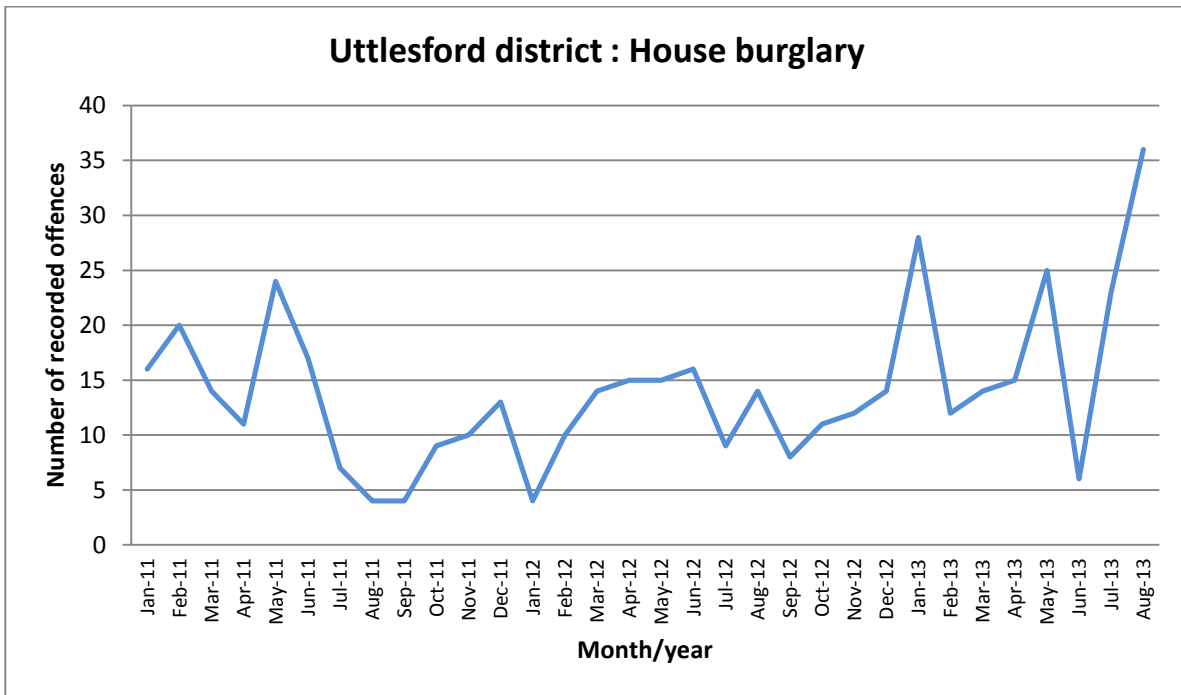
#### 1) House burglary

The number of house burglaries in the Uttlesford district in the period 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013 increased by 73 offences against the same period the previous year. These offences have occurred throughout the district in both urban and rural locations, with most offences occurring during daylight hours.

Work to address house burglaries has included additional police patrols and cross border operations, liaison with local partners and the district, town and parish councils, crime prevention visits and liaison with the local neighbourhood watch.

In response to a recent increase in offences which appear to target the elderly, local neighbourhood officers have visited the victims and undertaken patrols to identify vulnerable properties, people and vehicles to promote crime prevention.

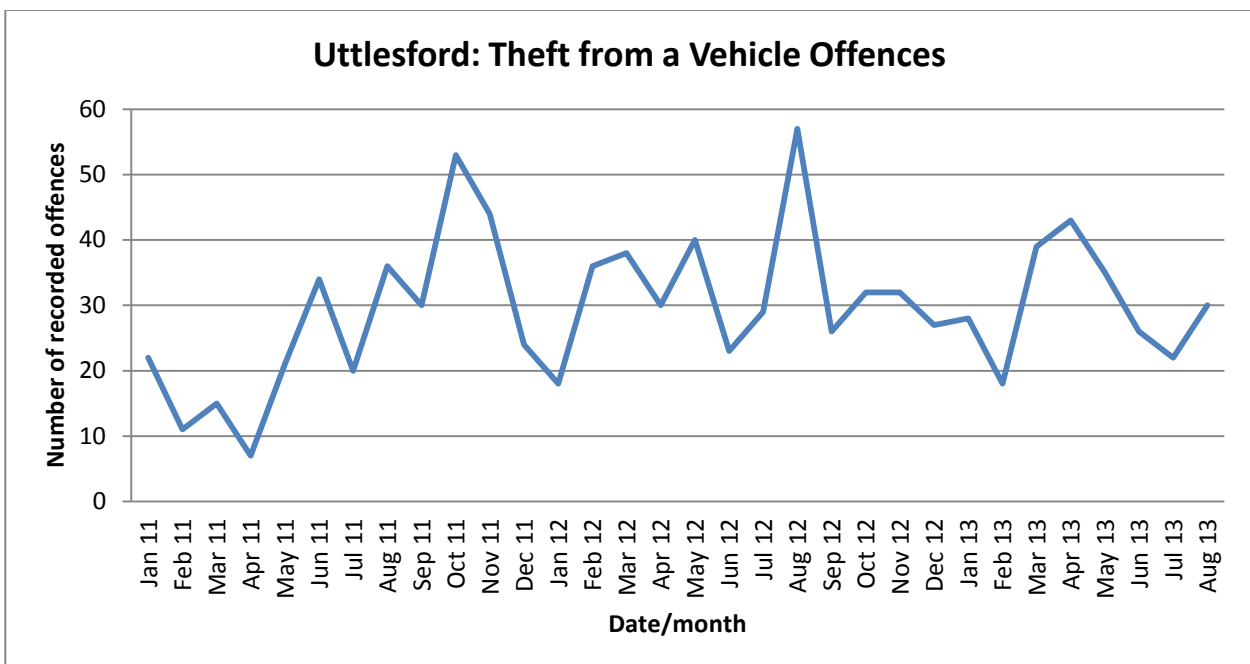
Despite the large percentage increase for this type of offence, Uttlesford has the second lowest number of house burglaries for all the districts in Essex. Uttlesford also has one of the lowest house burglary figures per thousand households in the county.



## 2) Vehicle Crime

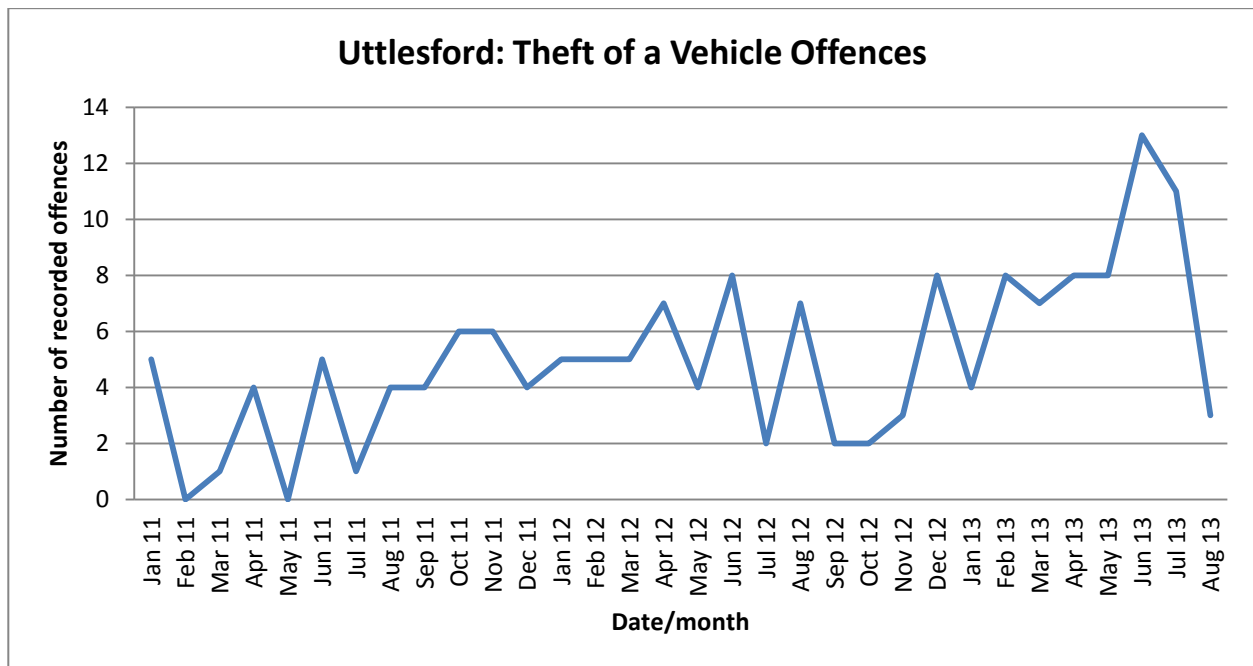
Over the past year, theft from motor vehicles in the Uttlesford district reduced by 73 offences, from 415 between September 2011 and August 2012 to 342 offences during September 2012 and August 2013.

During the past year, the majority of thefts from vehicles in Uttlesford occurred overnight, many as a result of owners leaving their vehicles insecure with valuable items stored inside. A number of police and media operations have focused on raising public awareness of this issue as well as targeting offenders.



The theft of motor vehicles showed a slight increase from 57 offences recorded between September 2011 and August 2012 compared to 70 offences during September 2012 and August 2013.

These are often high value motor vehicles targeted by organised criminals who travel into the district to commit these offences.



### 3) Rural Crime

Essex Police defines 93% of Uttlesford District as 'rural'; so the vast majority of crime occurs in a rural setting. This demographic brings with it the challenges of dealing with types of crime that are not frequently experienced in other areas of the force.

The local neighbourhood policing teams run a number of beat surgeries from public buildings in order to provide greater access and reassurance to members of the public in rural areas.

The current rural crime trends in Uttlesford include the theft of portable equipment, fuel and small vehicles such as quad bikes from outbuildings, theft of gas canisters from bird scarers, battery theft from farms and tack theft from equestrian establishments.

Uttlesford has a very effective Farm Watch system (currently 112 farms are participating). Good communication exists between participants and the police, including regular bulletins and instant SMS text messages to alert farmers to incidents such as hare coursing and vulnerable missing persons.

As a result, the police receive good intelligence from farmers, especially concerning suspect vehicles, and through the network we are often able to track suspects' movements around farms and warn the farmers.

A rural crime team consisting of special constables is currently being trained. The initial base for the team will be Great Dunmow police station and a second team will be based at South Woodham Ferrers later in the year.

The main aim for the rural team is to build relationships with the local farming community, providing support and crime prevention. There are a number of areas of focus including the theft of heavy farm equipment, theft of diesel, scrap metal and hare coursing.

The force also holds regular farmers' Neighbourhood Action Panel (NAP) meetings.

A rural crime day is to be held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

**Your feedback is most welcome.**

Should you wish to contact the PCC about this meeting or any other matter please e-mail: [pcc@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:pcc@essex.pnn.police.uk) or write to:

Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex  
3 Hoffmanns Way  
Chelmsford, CM1 1GU

News alerts will usually be tweeted via the Essex PCC Twitter account:  
<https://twitter.com/essexpcc>

You can learn more about the PCC's work at:  
[www.essex.pcc.police.uk](http://www.essex.pcc.police.uk)

The neighbourhood policing teams will always act on intelligence received from the community. If you have information regarding any criminal activity please either call your local team or contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Crimestoppers is an anonymous line where you can report any criminal activity.