

Castle Point Public Meeting

September 10 2014

District Profile

Castle Point is a small borough covering an area measuring approximately 17 square miles. Located in South Essex, at the heart of the Thames Gateway South Essex sub-region. Castle Point is bordered by Basildon to the west and Southend to the east. Just over 60% of the land area in Castle Point is designated as 'Green Belt' and there are a number of important wildlife areas in the borough.

Castle Point comprises: Benfleet, Hadleigh, Thundersley and Canvey Island. The percentage of the population's 89,400 people living within these four areas is as follows:

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Benfleet: | 22% |
| Hadleigh: | 14% |
| Thundersley: | 21% |
| Canvey Island: | 43% |

Castle Point maintains a very high level of owner-occupied accommodation at 82.9%, which is significantly above the national average. The proportion of social housing in Castle Point is very small, at approximately 1,550 homes.

Within the borough, the proportion of people over the age of 65 is expected to increase to 30% by 2030. Young people (under 20 years) will continue to make up over 20% of the population. The under-15 age group is expected to decrease by 6% over the next five years.

The diversity of the population in Castle Point is not extensive. Approximately 95% of the population regards themselves as 'White British' and the next highest ethnic group is 'Asian' at about 1.7% of the population.

Hadleigh Country Park is a popular scenic location and overlooks the Thames Estuary. It is also the site of the ruins of Hadleigh Castle which was built during the 13th Century. .

West Canvey Marshes is situated on Canvey Island and has been designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Policing Structure and Resources

A new local policing model has been introduced this month and details can be seen on the Essex Police website and [PCC website](#). The model described below is the one currently seen operating within the borough.

Neighbourhood Policing Team

Castle Point consists of four neighbourhoods: Benfleet, Hadleigh, Thundersley and Canvey Island. Each of the four neighbourhoods has a designated Neighbourhood Constable as a point of contact for the community. The officers work with the community to seek long-term solutions to local problems.

Local Policing Teams

From this month new local policing teams (LPTs) will provide a 24-hour service from within the district, attending emergency responses and routine calls from the community. The LPTs are located at Canvey and Rayleigh police stations and are made up of an Inspector, Sergeants and Constables.

Canvey Island has its own police station. It provides front counter services from Monday to Saturday, between 12pm and 6pm (with the exception of bank holidays).

Criminal Investigation Department (CID)

Based at Southend, the CID comprises Detective Inspectors, Detective Sergeants and Detective Constables. They investigate the more serious crimes such as high-risk domestic abuse incidents, serious assaults such as GBH, fraud, robbery and dwelling burglary.

Domestic Abuse Juno Team

New domestic violence investigation teams have been created across the county and begin working this month. Codenamed Operation Juno, the team providing support for the Castle Point district is based at Southend police station. It is made up of a Detective Inspector, Detective Sergeants and civilian investigators and they are responsible for investigating all domestic abuse cases and safeguarding victims.

Crime trends for Castle Point district

At the meeting on September 10, 2014, there will be detailed discussion about the crime trends and facts which lie underneath the statistics.

Comparing reports for 1st August 2013 to 31st July 2014 with 1st August 2012 to 31st July 2013, areas of note include.

- All crime increased by 10.5% (335 more offences);
- House burglary increased by 5.2% (19 more offences).
- Burglary in Other Than in a Dwelling (such as burglary of garages, sheds or commercial premises) has decreased by 6.8% (14 less offences);
- Theft and Taking of Vehicles has decreased by 11.5% (16 less offences);
- Racially Aggravated Crime has decreased by 26.1% (6 less offences);
- Anti-Social Behaviour has increased by 1.9% (39 more incidents);
- Other Theft and Handling Crime has increased by 31.2% (99 more offences);

- Other Violence Against the Person has increased by 28.5% (181 more offences);
- Serious Sexual Crime has increased by 84.6% (33 more offences).

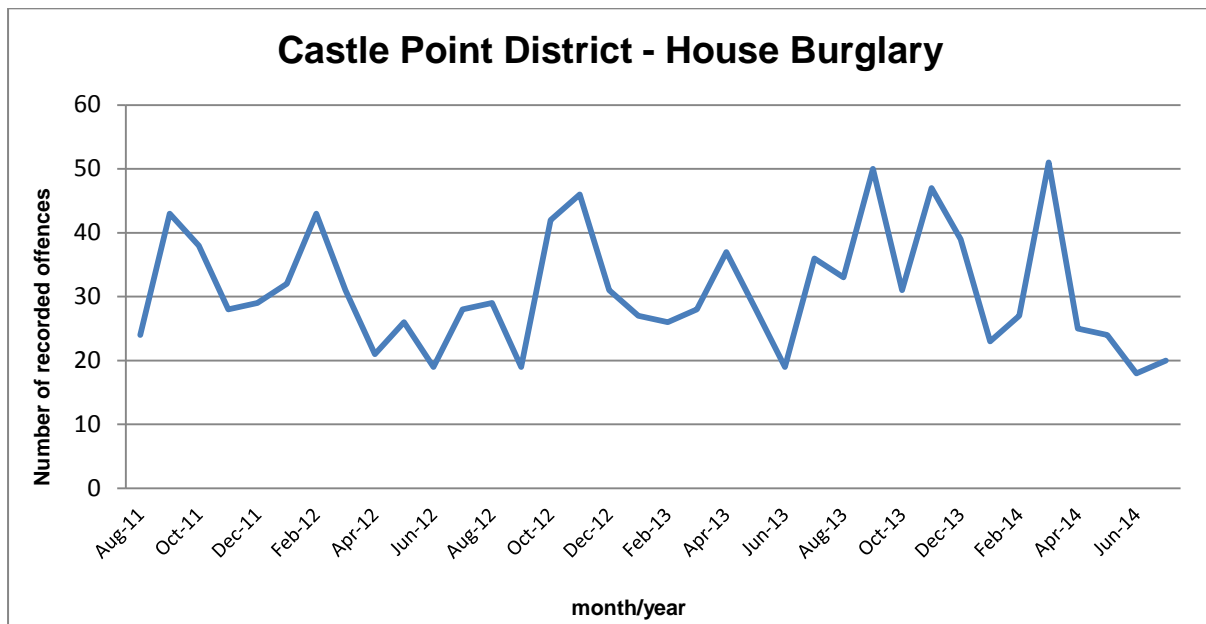
Overview of all crime

There has been an increase in all crime in the Castle Point District of 10.5% equating to 335 more offences. At the meeting on September 10, the District Commander will explain some of the trends that lie behind this increase and the operational policing work to target specific offences.

The District Commander will explain how the force's new local policing plans will work in Castle Point and there will be time for questions on all aspects of local and neighbourhood policing.

House burglary

The graphs below showing specific crime trends provide date for the Castle Point district back to April 2011.



Comparing reports for 1st August 2013 to 31st July 2014 with 1st August 2012 to 31st July 2013, house burglary increased by 5.2% (19 more offences).

Under Essex Police's forcewide predictive policing operation to tackle burglary, officers visit burglary victims and patrols are undertaken to complete risk assessments on properties in the surrounding area. The risk assessments aim to identify vulnerable properties, people and vehicles and officers provide crime prevention advice to owners of such properties.

The police work closely with partners under the Community Safety Partnership for which reducing house burglary is a key objective.

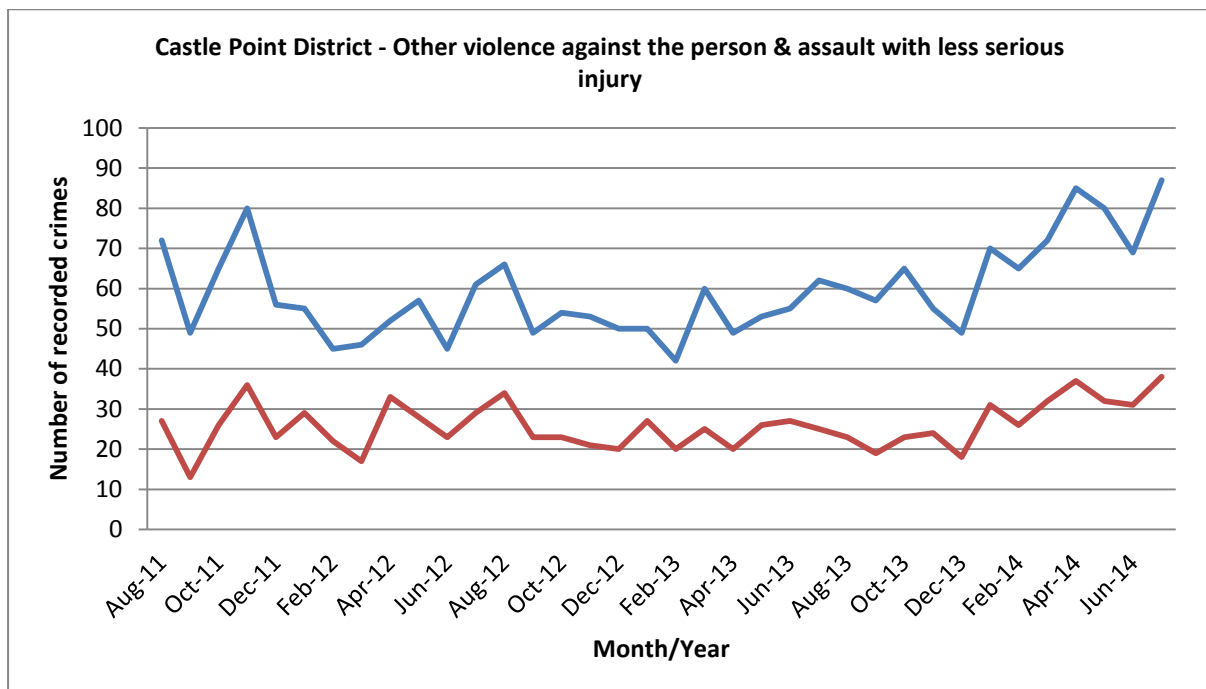
In Castle Point there are 275 Neighbourhood Watch schemes in place, i.e. 275 volunteer co-ordinators. Some of these co-ordinators cover more than one street; therefore there are approximately 375 roads covered by the schemes and 7000 newsletters are issued quarterly to residents in those streets.

Other Violence and Assault with Less Serious Injury

The number of crimes of Other Violence against the person has increased by 28.5% (181 more offences) during the period 1st August 2013 to 31st July 2014 compared with the same period the previous year, and offences of Assault with Less Serious Injury increased by 17.4% (50 more offences).

These two violent crime categories are wide ranging but include assaults occasioning actual bodily harm (increase from 277 to 321) and common assault (increase from 199 to 280). Approximately 36% of the offences of Other Violence Against the Person are related to domestic abuse. The Operation Juno team is based at Southend and is responsible for investigating all domestic violence cases.

The number of Serious Violent crimes in the district has remained at 31 offences comparing August 2013 to July 2014 with the same period during the previous year.



Local Policing Teams work in close partnership with licensing authorities to maintain robust enforcement of licensed premises' operating conditions and, where

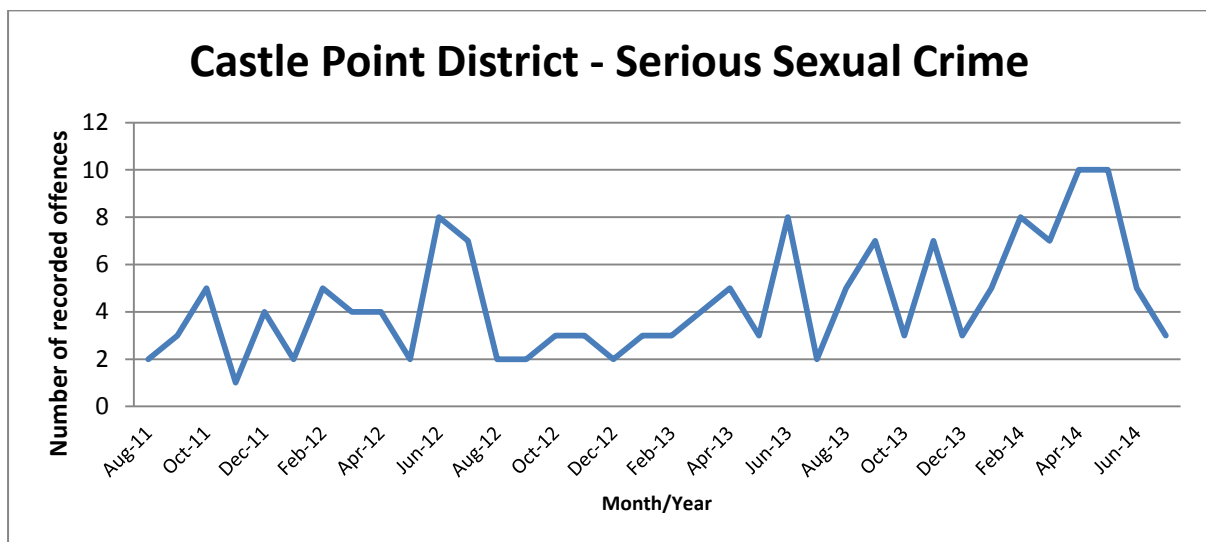
necessary, call licenses to review or seek to prosecute. Analysis of the violent crime does not suggest that there are particular concerns related to the local night-time economy to account for this increase.

The new Local Policing Team operating from Canvey Island police station is expected to provide an increased visible policing presence and to be a deterrent on the island and across the Castle Point borough.

Serious Sexual Crime

Comparing reports for 1st August 2013 to 31st July 2014 with 1st August 2012 to 31st July 2013, the number of serious sexual crimes has increased by 84.6% (33 more offences).

This increase may be attributed to a number of things; for example, the publicity around the Jimmy Savile inquiry may have encouraged more people to come forward. In addition, victims of domestic abuse and missing children are asked specific questions about whether they have been a victim of sexual assault.



Cruising/Roscommon Way

Vehicle based anti-social behaviour in the area of Roscommon Way, Canvey Island, has been a cause for concern, but sustained policing operations have significantly reduced the number of such reported incidents. Essex Police monitor social media to identify and combat any organised car cruiser venues in the area, but these are relatively infrequent. Calls from the public regarding noise or bad driving behaviour are recorded and responded to on a case by case basis. The Local Policing Team continues to work closely with Castle Point Borough Council on this issue. Two CCTV cameras have been installed at Roscommon Way, and it is hoped that they will capture and record evidence of any dangerous driving behaviour. Officers from the Casualty Reduction Unit continue to support the local officers by visiting

Roscommon Way and other known car cruiser venues most weekends. There have been a number of drivers reported for traffic offences.

Local Policing Plans

From September 1, 2014, Essex Police has made changes to the way officers and police staff work across Essex. Each of the ten policing districts, under the direction of a local Chief Inspector, will now have a team of officers responsible for responding to and investigating crime and other community concerns. The new teams will be known as Local Policing Teams and will work from local stations 24-hours a day.

The changes will move officers to work under the direct control of local police commanders. A policing hub will operate in each district and will be led by a local inspector responsible for maintaining strong community ties and working with partners to tackle local problems.

The District Commander will provide a more localised overview of how these changes will take effect in Castle Point.

Essex Police Emergency Response to Critical Incidents

Several high profile incidents have occurred on Canvey and within the wider Castle Point district in recent months. These include the heavy rainfall which caused severe flooding in July and August.

During incidents such as these Essex Police works alongside partner agencies, such as the Environment Agency, Essex County Council and Castle Point Borough Council. The force also has its own specialist resources to call on including the police helicopter, armed response units, road policing units and extra officers can be drafted in from other parts of the county to assist where appropriate.

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

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

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.