

Brentwood public meeting

November 13 2014

District Profile

Brentwood borough is part of the Epping Forest and Brentwood ‘District Policing Area’ (DPA) which falls under the West ‘Local Policing Area’ (LPA). Within Brentwood there are four policing ‘beats’, these are:

- Brentwood Town Centre;
- Brentwood North;
- Brentwood South;
- Hutton and Shenfield.

Each of these is split into wards. Within the borough there are a number of towns and villages, the largest of which are Shenfield and Ingatestone.

Brentwood borough covers approximately 60 square miles and has a population of approximately 74,000 people. A large proportion of residents commute into London because of Brentwood’s close proximity to the city and good transport links. There are railway stations located at Brentwood, Ingatestone and Shenfield, which is a key station in the region.

Brentwood contains large sections of some of the county’s busiest roads, including parts of the M25, A12 and A127. The excellent transport links make the borough easily accessible for travelling criminals.

Brentwood town centre has the highest concentration of retail premises within the district, with approximately 40 stores. There is also an active night-time economy with a variety of pubs and clubs in and around the town centre.

Thorndon Country Park and Weald Country Park are located within the borough and both parks consist of extensive areas of woodland.

Policing Structure and Resources

The Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) delivers community policing within the district and is made up of an Inspector, a Sergeant, Neighbourhood Constables and PCSOs.

Local Policing Teams (LPTs) offer 24/7 coverage of the district and are based at Loughton and Brentwood police stations. They are line managed by an LPT Inspector who comes under the command of the District Commander. These teams provide a policing response to incidents and the investigation of crime throughout the area.

The **Criminal Investigations Department ‘Proactive’** (CIDP) works under a local Detective Inspector. The department is based at Brentwood and is responsible for targeting prolific offenders and the prevention and detection of crime.

The **Criminal Investigations Department ‘Reactive’** (CIDR) is based at Loughton police station and works under a local Detective Inspector to provide cover for the district from 8am to 10pm. The department is responsible for the investigation of the more serious crimes such as dwelling burglary and robbery.

Operation Juno teams are responsible for the investigation of all domestic abuse crimes within the West LPA and are based at Harlow and at Grays Police Station.

Based at Brentwood Police Station are the **Child Abuse Investigation Team** and the **Sexual Offences Investigation Team**.

New Local Community Meeting Structure

In September this year, Essex Police unveiled new plans to change the way they meet with the public.

Under the changes, police are now hosting Local Community Meetings (LCMs) to allow officers to continue to meet with the public to discuss issues of concern. At these meetings the presence of an officer of Sergeant rank or above is guaranteed by Essex Police. In support of these PCSOs are holding weekly “street meets” to meet further with the public. These may take place in venues ranging from a supermarket to a shopping centre or library.

Overview of all crime

At the meeting on November 13 2014, there will be detailed discussion about the crime trends and facts which lie underneath the statistics.

Comparing reports for 1st October 2013 to 30th September 2014 with 1st October 2012 to 30th September 2013, areas of note include:

- All Crime has decreased by 12.8% (508 fewer offences);
- House burglaries have decreased by 18.0% (97 fewer offences);
- Theft from Vehicles has decreased by 20.8% (103 fewer offences);
- Criminal Damage has decreased by 15.7% (74 fewer offences);
- Anti-Social Behaviour has decreased by 11.9% (235 fewer incidents);
- Other Violence Against the Person has increased by 15.7% (90 more offences);

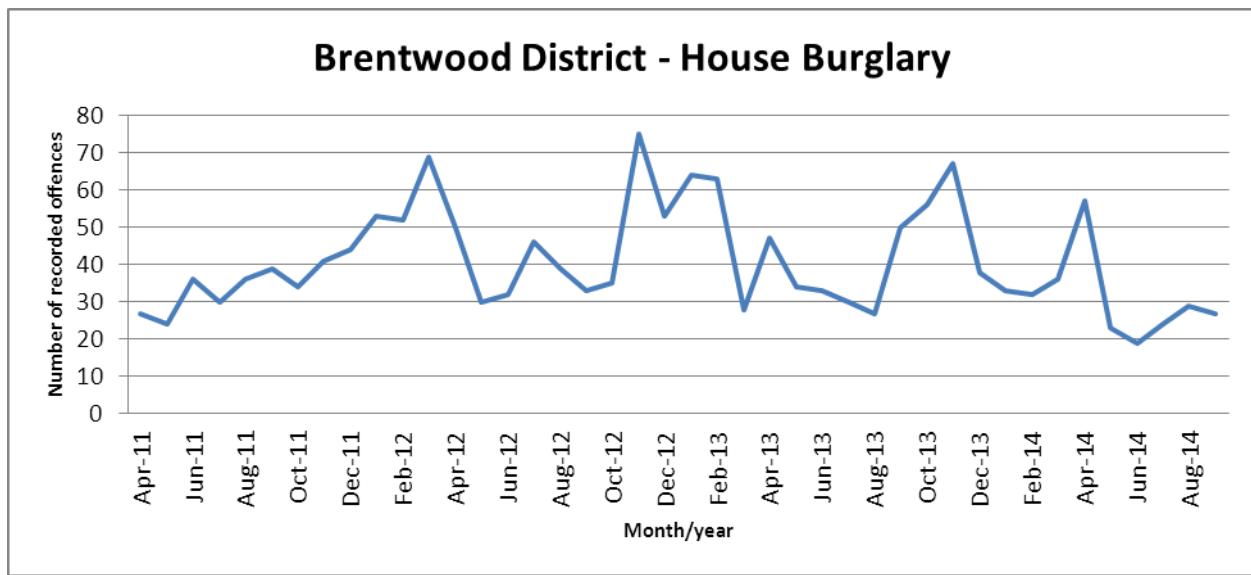
- Serious Violent Crime has increased by 118.8% (19 more offences);
- Assault with Less Serious Injury has increased by 17.7% (37 more offences).

House Burglaries

The district continues to suffer a number of dwelling burglaries. However there has been a significant reduction in the number of offences. Between October 1st and September 30th 2014 there were 97 less dwelling burglary offences, compared to the same period the previous year equating to an 18% reduction.

In October last year, Essex Police launched a forcewide predictive policing operation to tackle burglary – called Operation Insight. Under the operation officers carry out patrols in “hot spots” where burglaries are likely to occur to reduce the chance of this happening. Risk assessments are also carried out with the aim to identify vulnerable properties, people and vehicles and officers provide crime prevention advice to owners of such properties. Intelligence is produced weekly to highlight areas for more intensive patrolling based on their vulnerability to offences.

Under this operation, police also carry out ‘Cocooning’. This involves neighbourhood policing teams carrying out crime prevention work in the immediate vicinity of a burglary. Residents are visited and given crime prevention advice to ensure security measures are in place to reduce the risk of them becoming victims.



Night-Time Economy

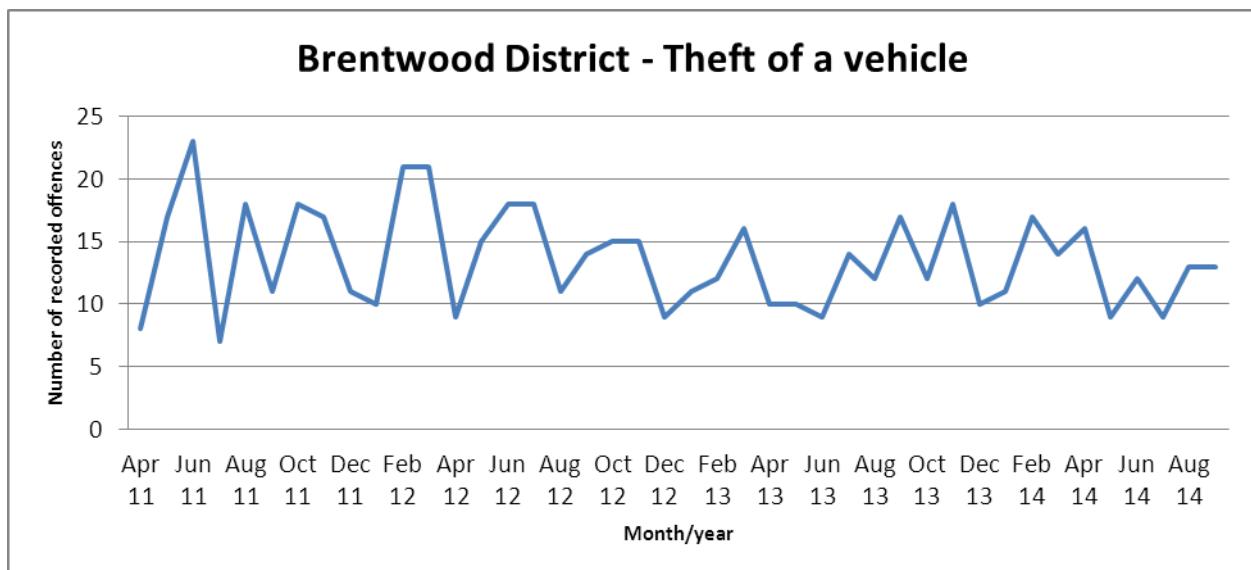
The High Street in Brentwood has numerous licensed premises, providing a vibrant night-time economy, bringing money and employment into the borough. The night-time economy and its links to crime and disorder has been a topic of concern for local residents. Positive action has been taken by the police alongside the Community Safety Partnership and a local public night-time economy meeting was held. The town also has

the benefit of having 20 street pastors who patrol the High Street every Friday night and one Saturday every month. More recently steps have been taken to develop a further patrol for those more elderly street pastors who will now walk the High Street from 8pm to 11pm once a month.

Vehicle Crime

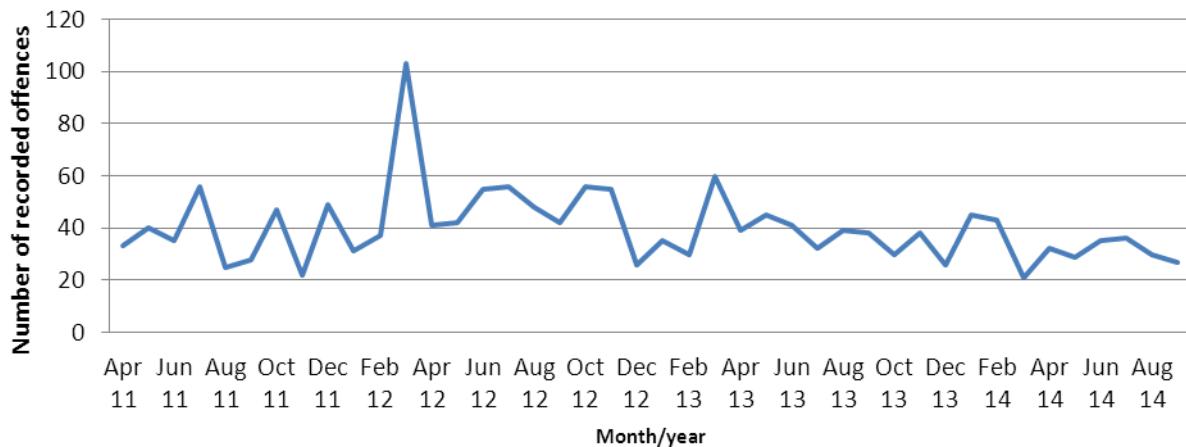
The theft of high value motor vehicles in Brentwood and the surrounding towns and villages continue to be of concern to residents.

The theft of motor vehicles has seen an increase in the number of offences. Between October 2013 to September 2014, there were 153 offences, a 3.4% increase on the same period the previous year equating to five more offences.



However thefts from motor vehicles have seen a significant reduction. Between October 2013 and September 2014, there were 393 thefts from motor vehicle offences, a more than 20% decrease on the same period the previous year, equating to 103 fewer offences.

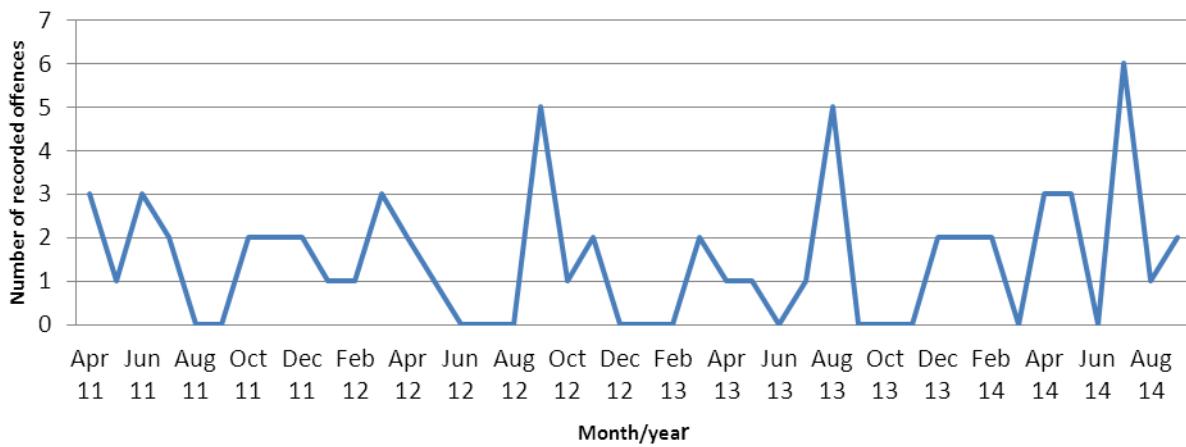
Brentwood District - Theft from a vehicle



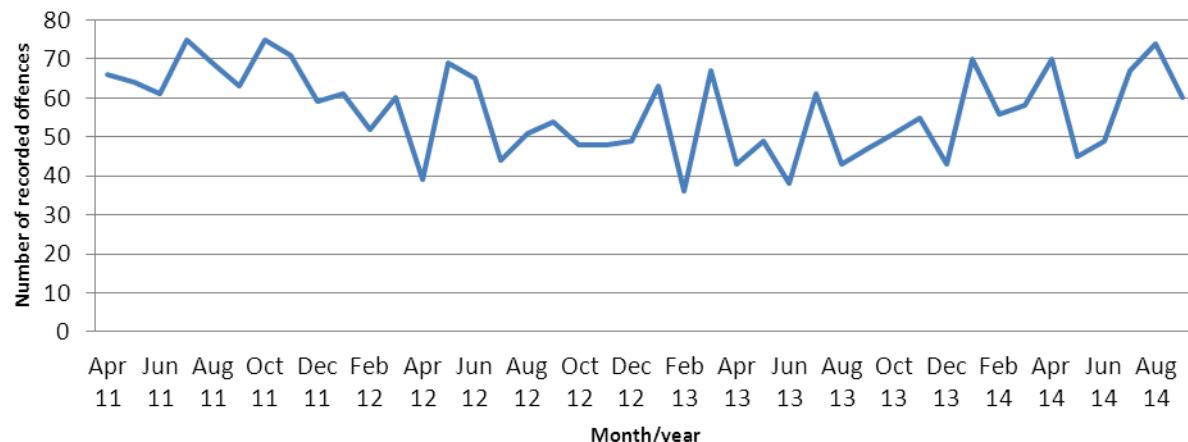
Violent Offences

Violent offences have risen across the board in Brentwood. Between October 2013 and September 2014, serious violent crime rose by 118% (from 16 to 35), equating to 19 more offences compared with the same period the previous year. During the same period offences of other violence against the person rose by 15%, equating to 90 more offences, and assault with less serious injury rose by 17% or 37 more offences.

Brentwood District - Serious Violent Crime



Brentwood District - Violence against the person



An analysis of all violent crime in the district shows that 41% of offences occurred during the day, and were commonly in relation to disputes over road traffic, parking, schools and playground bullying and dangerous dogs. Of all of the offences, 32% related to the night-time economy, 27% were linked to domestic violence and 34% of all offenders of serious violence were under the influence of alcohol, illicit drugs or both. The majority of violent offences occurred within the home.

The district has also seen reports of domestic abuse/violence double within the last year. The increase may in part be attributable to victims having increased confidence to come forward and report the crime to Essex Police.

Brentwood Community Safety Partnership Priorities

The community safety partnership priorities for 2014/15 are:

*Acquisitive crime (concentrating on burglary and vehicle crime)

*Domestic abuse

*Community priorities (anti-social behaviour/community engagement)

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.