

## **Epping Forest Public Meeting**

**October 22, 2014**

### **District Profile**

Within the Epping Forest District there are a number of towns and villages, the largest of which are Loughton, Waltham Abbey and Epping. The west of the area borders three Metropolitan Police boroughs and Hertfordshire to the north of the Epping West and Ongar beats.

A large proportion of residents commute into London because of the district's close proximity to the city and good transport links. There are Central Line tube stations located at Chigwell, Grange Hill, Buckhurst Hill, Loughton, Debden and Epping. The district contains large sections of some of the county's busiest roads, including significant stretches of the M25 and M11.

The population of Epping Forest District is 124,659 of which 85% (106,233) are 'White British', 6% (6636) are 'White Other' and 9% (11790) are 'Black or Minority Ethnic' (2011 UK Census).

The main towns include a variety of retail services, commensurate with the size of the population. Loughton and Epping town centres have the highest concentration of retail premises, with well over 100 stores varying from small independent retailers to large supermarkets.

The district has a vibrant night-time economy (NTE) including a variety of pubs and clubs in Loughton and Epping town centres, and this contributes positively to the economy. However, some of the violent crime in the district can be linked to the night-time economy.

### **Policing Structure and Resources**

In terms of Essex Police structure, the Epping Forest district is part of the Epping Forest and Brentwood District Policing Area (DPA) which falls under the West Local Policing Area (LPA). Within Epping there are nine beats:

- Epping Town
- Epping West
- Waltham Abbey
- Loughton
- Buckhurst Hill
- Chigwell
- Debden
- Epping South East
- Ongar

Each beat is split into wards.

**Neighbourhood Policing Teams** (NPTs) are based at three stations - Epping, Ongar and Loughton. These teams deliver community policing within the district.

**Local Policing Teams** (LPTs) offer 24/7 coverage of the district and are based at Loughton Police Station. 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 fairly urban area in the south and west right up to the north in more rural areas such as Ongar, Shearing and Theydon.

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 house 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.

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

### **The Epping Forest Community Safety Partnership**

The Epping Forest Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is made up of a number of local organisations including Epping Forest District Council, Essex Police, Essex County Council, NHS West Essex, Essex Probation, Essex Fire and Rescue and voluntary organisations including Voluntary Action Epping Forest and Victim Support.

The CSP has four priorities for the year which are:

Tackling Domestic Violence

Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour

Reducing Dwelling Burglary

Tackling Violent Crime

## **Crime trends for Epping Forest district**

At the meeting on October 22, 2014 there will be detailed discussion about the crime trends and the facts which lie underneath the statistics.

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

- All Crime has decreased by 8.8% (648 fewer offences);
- Burglary in a Dwelling has decreased by 8.6% (65 fewer offences);
- Theft from Vehicles has decreased by 38.1% (422 fewer offences);
- Theft & Taking Motor Vehicles has decreased by 16.9% (63 fewer offences);
- Anti-Social Behaviour has decreased by 11.9% (451 fewer incidents);
- Shoplifting has increased by 25.8% (85 more offences);
- Criminal Damage has increased by 3.2% (28 more offences);
- Other Violence Against the Person has increased by 12.9% (169 more offences).

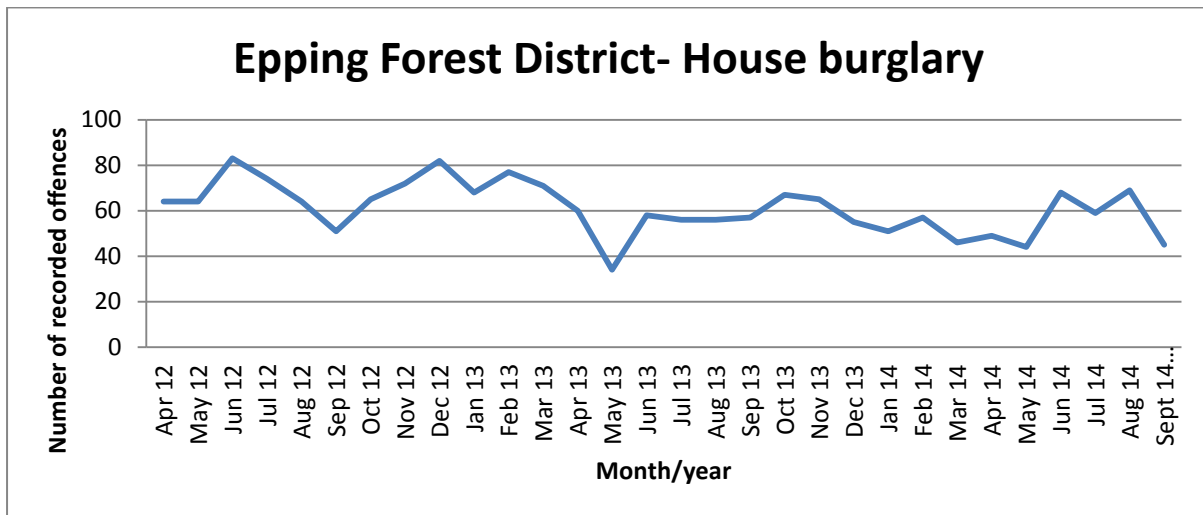
## **Overview of all crime**

There has been an exceptional decrease in overall crime of 8.8% comparing the year to date with last year. At the meeting, Chief Inspector Denise Morrissey and colleagues will provide an overview of crime trends in district and take questions from the audience.

## **Burglary**

Comparing the year to date with last year, there have been 65 fewer house burglary offences in the district (falling from 752 to 687 burglaries in the year to the end of August 2014).

Operation Insight was launched on 1st October 2013 and consists of a new system of analysis and the deployment of resources into 'hot spots' likely to suffer burglaries, reducing the chance of them occurring. This policing operation enables the police to use resources more efficiently and maximises the opportunity to prevent crime. Maps are produced weekly to highlight areas for more intensive patrolling based on their vulnerability to offences.

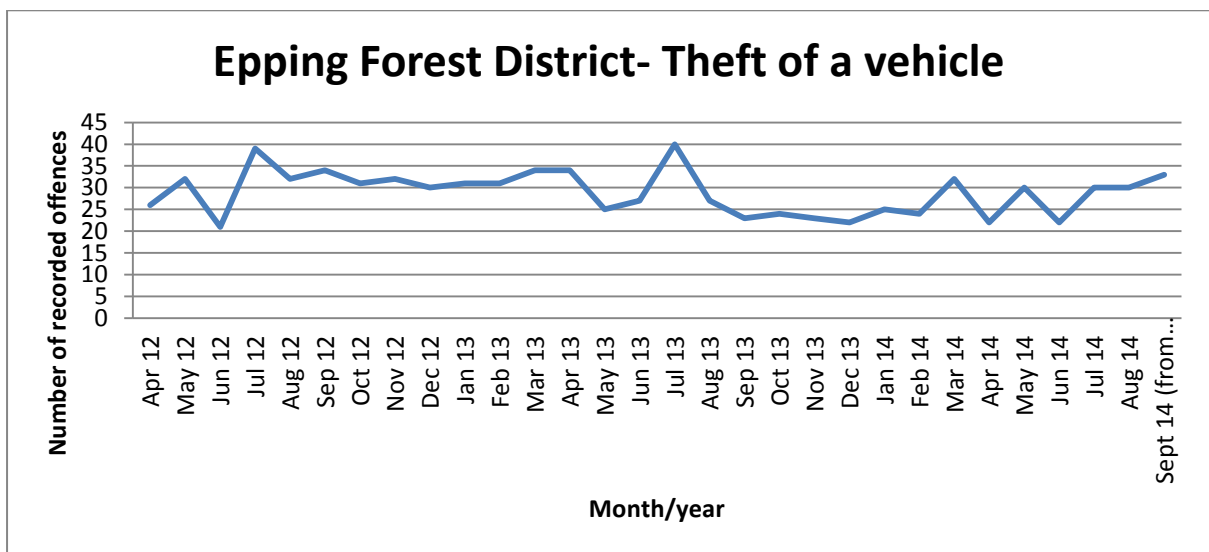
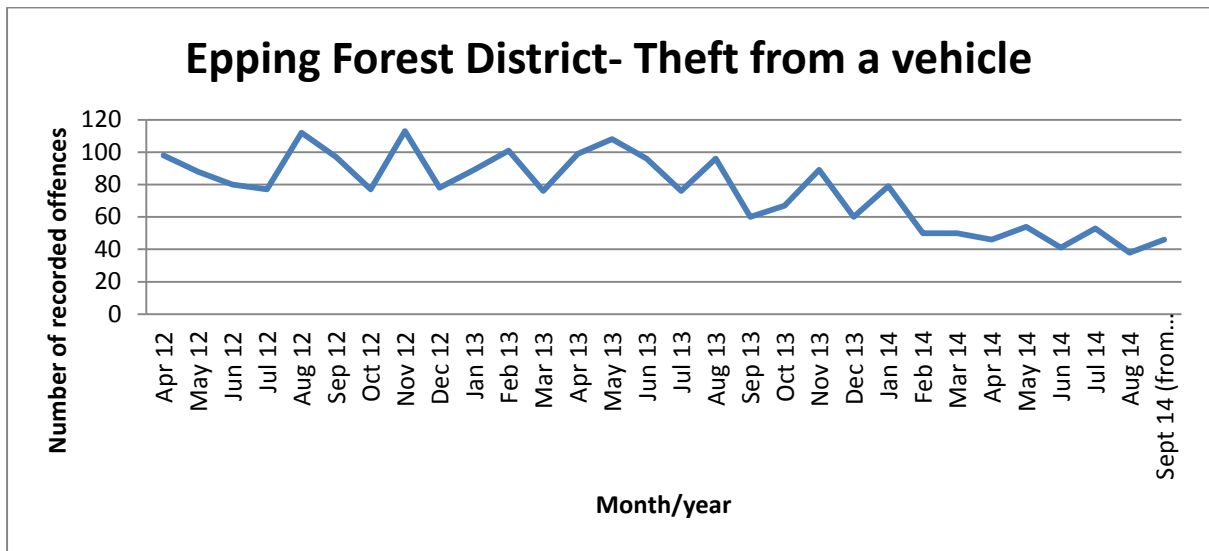


Operation Insight also includes ‘Cocooning’ which was successful in the pilot of Operation Albatross in Brentwood. This involves crime prevention work carried out by the neighbourhood policing team specifically targeting premises in the immediate vicinity of a burglary as they are statistically more likely to be the subject of a burglary themselves. Residents are visited and given crime prevention advice to ensure security measures are in place to reduce the risk of them becoming victims.

### **Vehicle crime**

There has been a significant reduction in vehicle crime during the reporting period. There are particular challenges involved in tackling vehicle crime, including criminals travelling into the district to commit offences. Comparing the year to date with last year, theft from a vehicle has reduced by 38.1% (falling from 1109 to 687 offences, or 422 fewer offences), with the district seeing significant reductions in index plate theft, catalytic converter theft, fuel theft and satellite navigation theft. During the same time period, theft or taking of vehicles has reduced by 16.9%, from 372 to 309 offences, a reduction of 63 crimes.

Across the district, Police Constables and PCSOs are well briefed on a pro-active patrol strategy which focusses on identifying vulnerable property and taking action to make it less vulnerable. For example, where valuable property is clearly on display in an insecure vehicle, trying to identify and locate the owner, making the property secure and educating the individual.



**Night Time Economy**

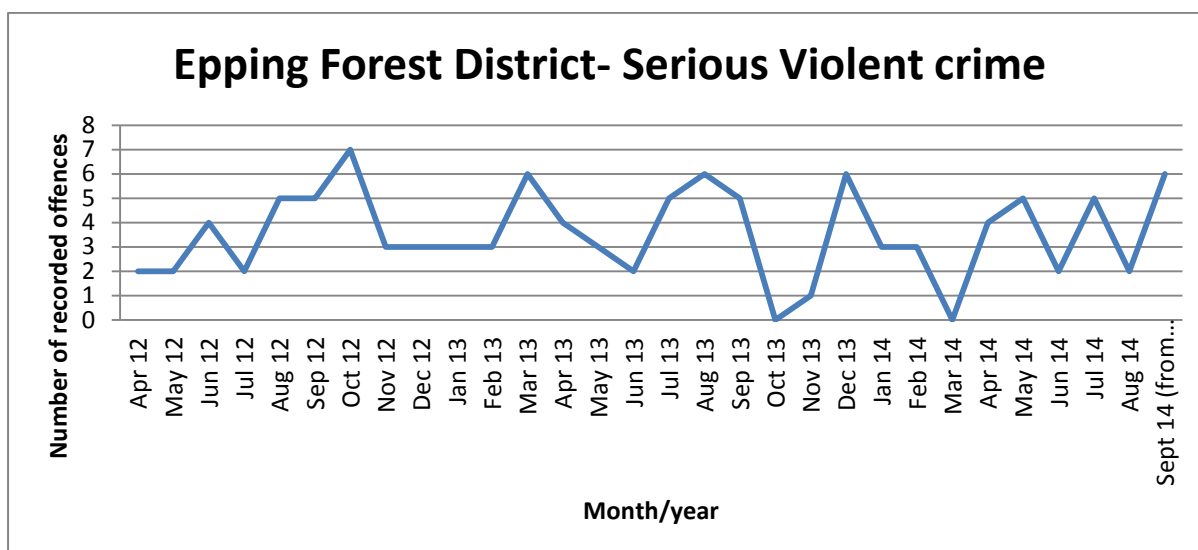
Epping High Street and Loughton High Road are areas which both have a busy Night Time Economy (NTE). Police and partnership activity around the NTE includes the police carrying out monthly licensing checks at venues and checking that licensees are complying with their conditions.

**Pubwatch**

Each of the NTE areas in the district has an active Pubwatch.

**Violent Crime**

Comparing reports for 1st September 2012 to 31st August 2013 with 1st September 2013 to 31st August 2014, there were ten fewer offences of serious violent crime in Epping Forest district, from 65 offences to 55 offences.



Offences of other violence against the person increased by 12.9% (169 more offences, rising from 1312 offences to 1481) during the reporting period, compared to the same period last year. Within the district, offences of serious violence cannot be attributed to any specific trend or geographical area. Situations giving rise to this type of crime may include offences such as domestic abuse, or violence associated with the night-time economy.

The police are undertaking partnership work to reduce the number of repeat victims of domestic abuse - the Community Safety Officer and the Crime Prevention Officer visit high-risk victims to reduce the likelihood of them suffering further abuse.

There is a specific focus on addressing night-time economy related offences in Loughton and Epping, with on-going work around licenced premises and the options open to the police and the local authority, such as early morning restriction orders and late night levies.

A licencing review group is in place and partnership work continues with the key stakeholders to develop crime reduction initiatives associated with the night-time economy. For example, the provision of taxi marshals and specific operational deployments aimed at policing all High Street locations.

**Your feedback is most welcome.**

Should you wish to contact the PCC about this meeting or any other matter please e-mail:

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or write to:

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

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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.