

Brentwood Public Briefing Document

District Profile

Brentwood district is part of the Epping Forest and Brentwood District Policing Area which forms part of the West Local Policing Area in Essex. Brentwood is split into four policing areas, comprising Brentwood Town Centre, Brentwood North, Brentwood South, and Hutton and Shenfield. Due to its proximity to London and excellent transport links, a large number of Brentwood residents commute into the capital.

Brentwood is generally an affluent area, geographically covering around 60 square miles, and with a population of approximately 74,000 people.

Brentwood has a high percentage of retail premises, and has a thriving night-time economy, with a large number of bars and clubs primarily focused in and around Brentwood Town Centre. Brentwood district is also home to Weald Country Park which covers around 500 acres of land, including large areas of woodland, and is the largest of Essex County Council's parks.

Policing Structure, Demand and Resources

Brentwood district is covered by four neighbourhood policing teams, and a neighbourhood crime team.

The Neighbourhood Policing Teams deliver community policing within the district, and comprises an Inspector, a Sergeant, Neighbourhood Constables and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). These teams cover the district seven days a week between 8am and midnight and are supported by a Neighbourhood Crime Team which provides 24 hour coverage. Brentwood also has a Criminal Investigation Department (CID), responsible for dealing with prolific offenders, and supporting crime prevention and detection in the district. Two body worn video cameras have recently been acquired for the local neighbourhood policing team, which allow them to capture better evidence with which to prosecute offenders.

These teams largely operate out of Brentwood Police station, which is located on the London Road, and is open to the public between 12 noon and 6pm from Monday to Saturday. The police station is closed on Sundays.

Brentwood Police Station is also home to the Child Abuse Investigation Team (CAIT) who are responsible for investigating child abuse and safeguarding victims, and the Serious Sexual Offences team. Although based in Brentwood, these specialist teams cover the whole of the West Local Policing Area.

Working in Partnership

Brentwood policing teams have a strong working relationship with local community safety partners, and work with colleagues in Brentwood Borough Council, probation, Essex County Fire and Rescue Service, the Health service, local business owners and voluntary groups, amongst many others, to develop local problem-solving plans. Community Safety Partnership (CSP) meetings are held quarterly to assess priorities and address emerging issues.

The Community Safety Partnership priorities for 2015-16 focus on tackling anti-social behaviour, burglary, and protecting people from harm which includes serious violence, and hidden harms such as domestic abuse and hate crime.

The Community Safety Partnership have delivered a number of successful projects in the last year to tackle key issues in the district. A representative from Brentwood Borough Council will be attending the meeting on 2nd September to highlight some of these on-going areas of work.

Crime data for Brentwood district

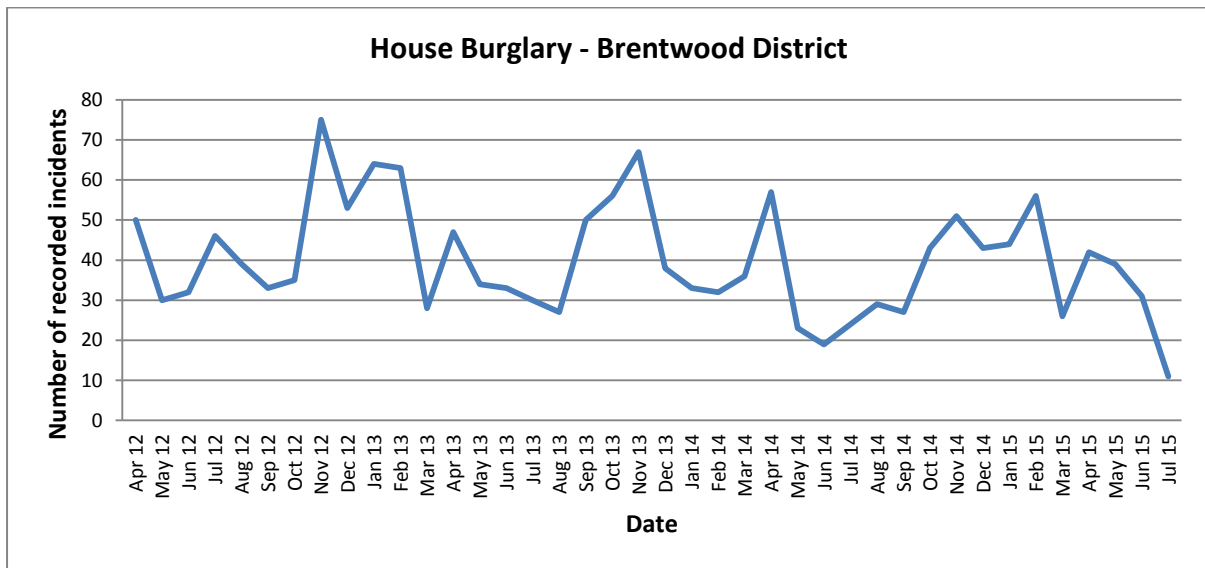
At the meeting on 2nd September, there will be a detailed discussion about the crime trends and facts which lie underneath the statistics.

Key areas of note for Brentwood, comparing reports for 1st July 2014 to 30th June 2015 with 1st July 2013 to 30th June 2014 include:

- All Crime has increased by 1.1% (40 more offences)
- Dwelling burglary has decreased by 3% (14 fewer offences)
- Shoplifting has decreased by 35.5% (100 fewer offences)
- Other Theft has decreased by 6.2% (35 fewer offences)
- Anti-Social Behaviour has increased by 16.8% (296 more incidents)
- Violence without Injury has increased by 40.5% (118 more offences)
- Theft from Vehicle has increased by 5.9% (24 more offences)
- Criminal Damage has increased by 6.8% (27 more offences)

House burglary

The above figures show that there has been a reduction in house burglary, although the district continues to suffer from this form of criminality. Under Essex Police's force-wide predictive policing operation to tackle burglary – called 'Operation Insight' - 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 local residents.



Night-Time Economy

The High Street in Brentwood has numerous licensed premises, providing a vibrant night-time economy, and bringing money and employment into the borough. However, anti-social behaviour and violent crime related to the night time economy is a topic of concern to some local residents. To tackle this, a combination of local officers and Special Constables (volunteer police officers) are tasked with patrolling the area on Friday and Saturday nights to prevent crime and support the public.

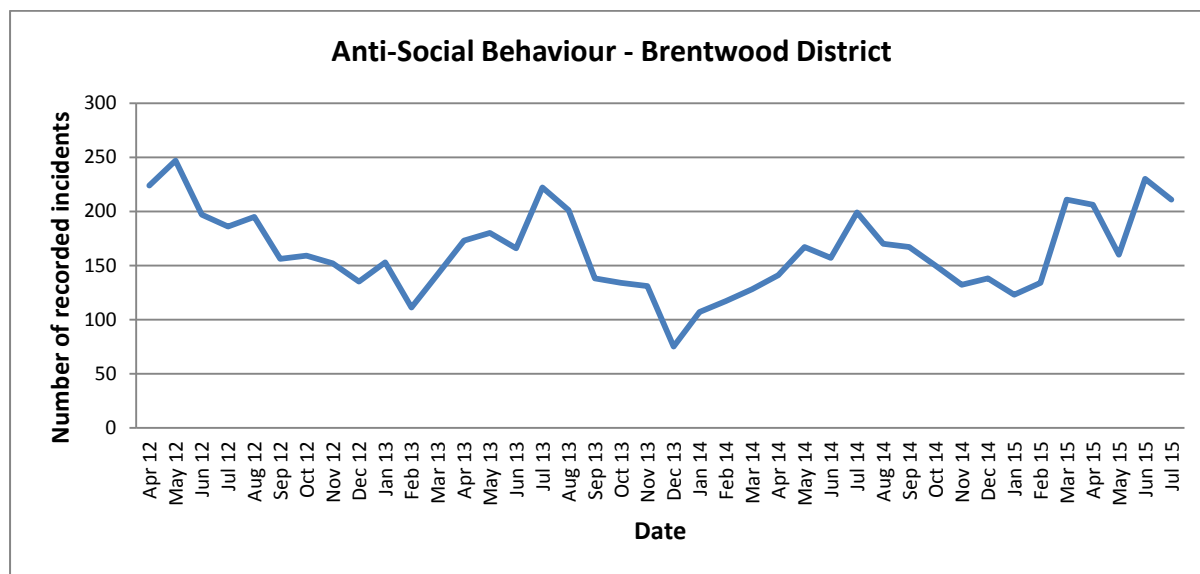
Each of the main areas with a night-time economy in the district has an active 'Pubwatch' scheme, where landlords of licensed premises will communicate with each other and the police to raise areas of concern or emerging issues during busy periods to prevent the escalation of violence or anti-social behaviour. Many licensed premises also operate a 'Behave or Be Banned' Scheme, which identifies troublemakers and excludes them from all member premises. This initiative is run by a local group of licensed premises owners who also fund a town link radio. This allows efficient communication with control room staff, and allows local police to deal with spontaneous incidents quickly and robustly.

Local policing teams work closely with the Community Safety Partnership and specialist licensing teams in Brentwood to review licensing conditions, and identify problem-solving methods for tackling issues caused by the night-time economy.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Over the last 12 months, there was a 16.8% increase in anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the district, which relates to 296 more incidents. The majority of ASB calls made to the police relate to nuisance neighbours and low level ASB issues around parking

and noise nuisance. Some ASB calls have also been received regarding the use of quad bikes within the district.



A number of anti-social behaviour concerns have been reported relating to fast food establishments in town centres within the district, with groups of people intimidating local residents and shop owners. The local neighbourhood team have worked closely with CCTV operators and the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to identify those involved, and put measures in place to prevent further occurrences. The number of ASB incidents on the High Street has fallen dramatically since this work was undertaken.

The anti-social driving of quad bikes is of concern within the district. Officers have issued a number of section 59 notices (for vehicles being driven in an anti-social manner) and have reported various drivers for careless driving. There was an incident at the end of July whereby a local officer followed a quad bike which crashed after trying to make off from the police. The driver was subsequently arrested and is awaiting trial for various offences.

Shoplifting

There have been 100 fewer shop-lifting offences in the district in the last year. This is thought to be due to a crime reduction initiative which has placed a dedicated PCSO in the top five repeat locations for these offences in the district. This has also been supported by targeted work by the local crime reduction officer.

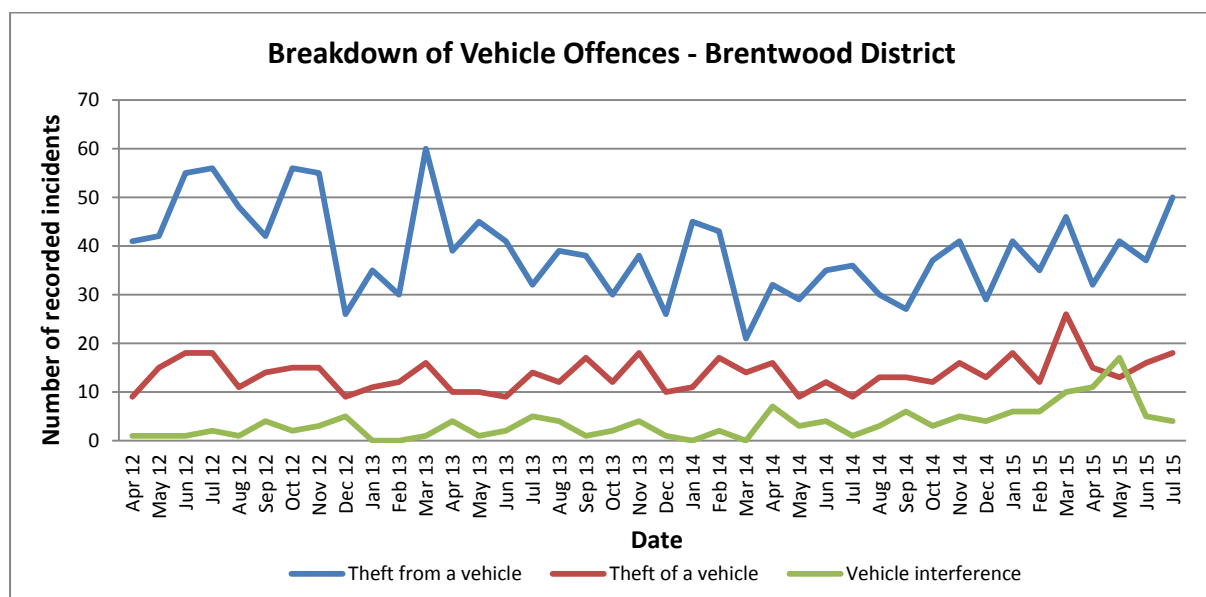
Violent Offences

During the above reporting period, there was an increase of Violence With Injury from 279 to 296 crimes – an increase of 17 crimes of 6.1% on a year-to-year basis. There was also a 40.5% increase of Violence without Injury offences, which relates

to 118 more offences. The majority of this increase can be attributed to domestic abuse, and the increase in reporting may in part be down to the work being completed by Essex Police and our partners to improve the confidence of victims of domestic abuse to come forward and report incidents to the police.

Theft from Vehicles

There was a 5.9% increase in 'Theft from Vehicle' offences in Brentwood district in the last year, which relates to 24 more offences, many of which involved tools and equipment being taken from vans. A number of arrests have been made in relation to these offences, and a reduction in this crime type has been seen as a result.



Reporting Crime:

If you witness any suspicious activity, or are a victim of any form of crime, no matter how seemingly low-level, it is important you report it to the police. All criminal intelligence reported allows them to build a picture of criminality and issues in the area, and therefore plan and respond to these more effectively. The neighbourhood policing teams will always act on intelligence received from the community. If you have information regarding any criminal activity please either call the force control room on 101, your local team, or contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Crimestoppers is a completely anonymous line where you can report any criminal activity.

Thank you for attending the meeting, we hope you have found it useful. Please take the time to complete the feedback form on your seat - 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

You can learn more about the PCC's work at:

www.essex.pcc.police.uk

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