

Harlow Public Meeting

7th October 2015

Harlow District Profile

Harlow is a new town that is located in the west of the county on the border with Hertfordshire, on the Stort Valley. It is one of four districts that make up the West Local Policing Area alongside Epping Forest, Brentwood and Thurrock districts.

Harlow new town was built after World War II to ease overcrowding in London. The development incorporated the market town of Harlow, now a neighbourhood known as Old Harlow, and the villages of Great Parndon, Latton, Tye Green, Potter Street, Churchgate Street, Little Parndon, and Netteswell.

The town is divided into neighbourhoods, each self-supporting with their own shopping precincts, community facilities and pub(s). There are several night-time venues within the town centre, although these are less busy than in previous years due to the economic climate.

Over a third of the town is parkland or greensward, and each estate is separated by open space. Harlow Town Park is one of the largest urban parks in Britain, and occupies a considerable part of the town.

Policing Structure and Resources

Harlow is policed from one centrally located police station in the town, which affords easy access for the public and good tactical opportunities to respond to calls for service. The station houses the Neighbourhood Policing Team and the Local Policing Team, as well as Custody, Scenes of Crime and the Criminal Investigation Department staff. Harlow is also the base for one of the force's domestic abuse investigation teams. The front desk is open from 8am until midnight every day of the week.

Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

At the meeting on 7th October there will be a detailed discussion about the crime trends and facts which lie underneath the statistics.

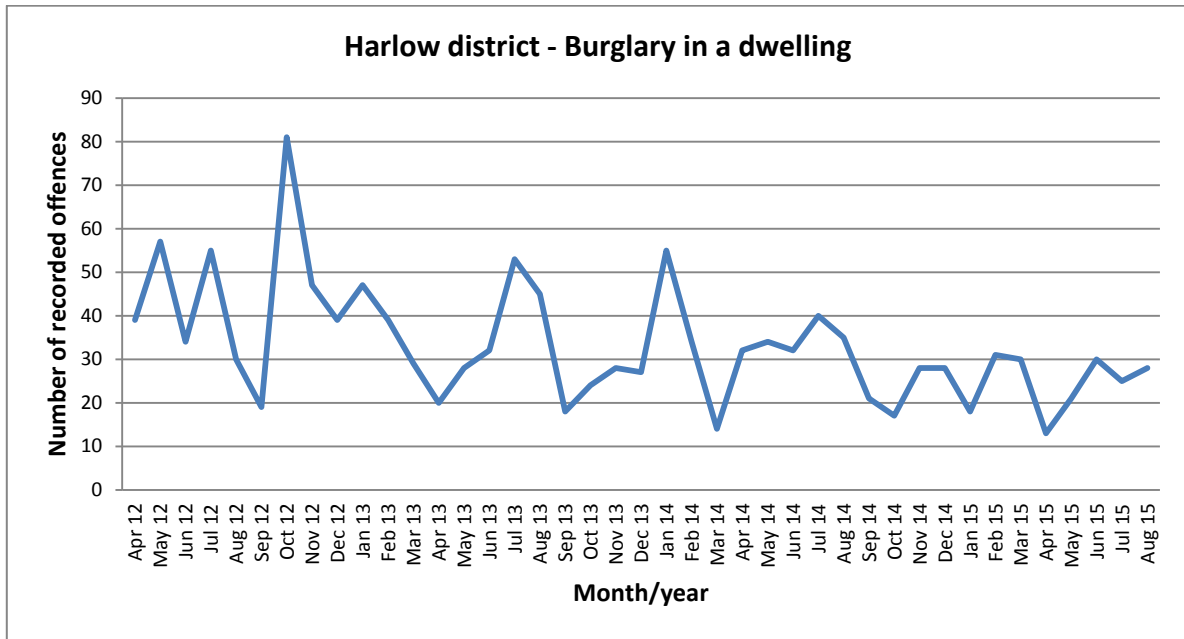
Areas of note in terms of crime and ASB in Harlow are:

- All Crime has increased by 5.2% (343 more offences);
- House burglary has decreased by 22.5% (84 fewer offences);
- Theft from the Person has decreased by 21.1% (23 less offences);
- Shoplifting has decreased by 10.6% (116 fewer offences);
- Anti-Social Behaviour has increased by 6.2% (242 more incidents);
- Sexual Offences have increased by 56.4% (66 more offences);
- Theft from Vehicles has increased by 40.2% (185 more offences);
- Theft of Motor Vehicles has increased by 85.8% (97 more offences).

These figures compare reports for 1st September 2014 to 31st August 2015 with 1st September 2013 to 31st August 2014.

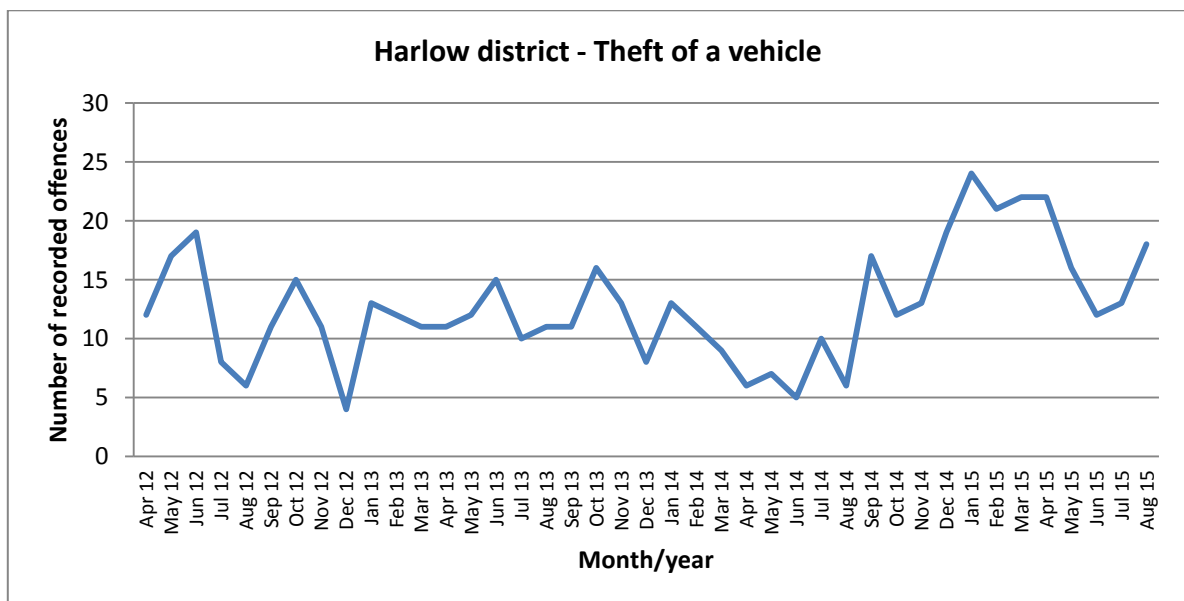
Burglary

Although burglary is still an area of concern to residents, offences of Dwelling (House) Burglary in Harlow decreased by 22.5% (84 fewer offences) during the period 1st September 2014 to 31st August 2015 when compared to the same period during the previous year. The three year crime trend data for these offences is shown in the table below:



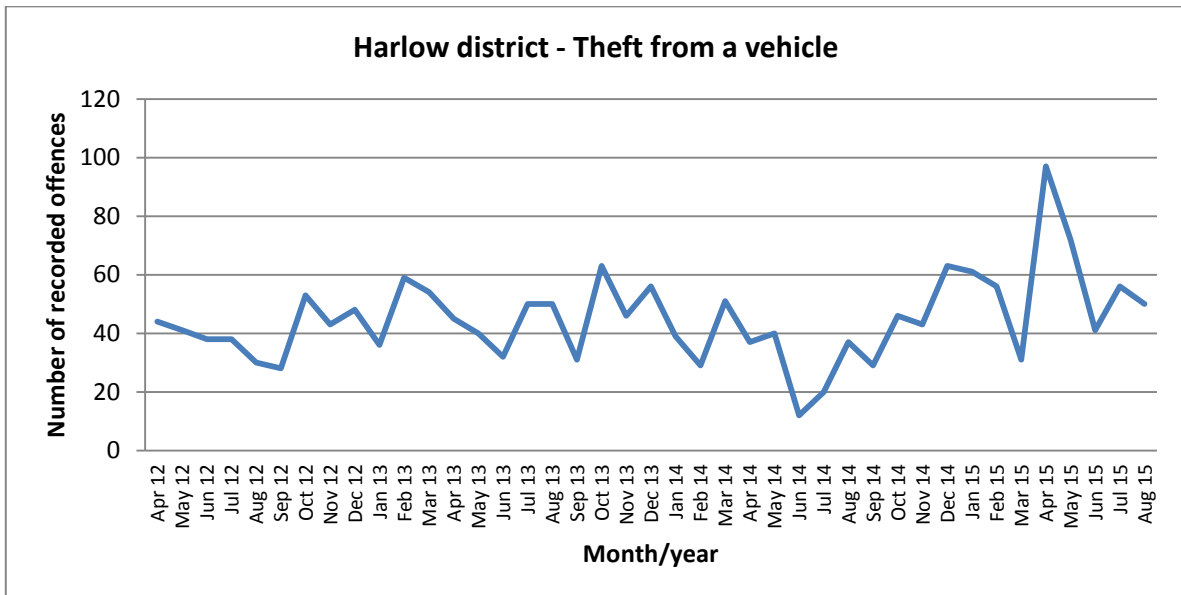
Theft of Motor Vehicles

The data in the last year shows there has been an 85.8% increase in offences of Theft of Motor Vehicles (97 more offences). The three year crime trend data for these offences is shown in the table below:



Theft from a Motor Vehicle:

The data in the last reporting period shows that there has been a 40.2% increase in offences of Theft from Motor Vehicles (185 more offences) compared to the same period last year. Numerous power tools, which were stolen from vehicles, have been recovered from sites as far afield as Slough. Essex Police has linked many of these offences to one organised crime group, and a number of arrests and convictions have been achieved in relation to these offences. The three year crime trend data for these offences is shown in the table below:



Anti-Social Behaviour

There was a 6.2% increase in anti-social behaviour during the above reporting period (242 more incidents). The local Neighbourhood Policing Team is working alongside other agencies to tackle these incidents. Many of the local anti-social behaviour (ASB) related calls to police stem from neighbour disputes due to a lack of residential parking, and the local authority and community safety partnership have a significant role to play in helping to tackle these issues.

Shoplifting

There was a 10.6% decrease in shoplifting offences in Harlow during the reporting period (116 fewer offences) when compared with the same reporting period the previous year. In the lead up to Christmas 2014, a comprehensive prevention plan was implemented in partnership with local retailers. The plan incorporated self-reporting packs and focused patrols amongst other tactics.

Sexual Offences

During the reporting period, there was a 56.4% increase in sexual offences, which equated to 66 more crimes. This increase is in line with a national increase for these offences, and may be attributed to a number of factors; including the publicity around high-profile investigations which may have increased public confidence to come forward and report sexual offences. Of the 183 sexual offences recorded between 1st September 2014 and 31st August 2015, 31 of these offences related to domestic abuse, which equates to approximately 17%.

Unauthorised Encampments

There is currently a temporary High Court Civil Injunction in place against unauthorised encampments on any land in the Harlow district. This was obtained by Harlow District Council in 2015 and is upheld by a joint approach between the local Neighbourhood Policing Team and council. This is a temporary injunction and Harlow District Council will need to seek further authorisation for it to be made permanent by the end of the current year. So far in 2015, there have been very few unauthorised encampments in Harlow.

Safer Harlow Partnership

The Safer Harlow Partnership (SHP) is the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) for Harlow - a statutory partnership of organisations and groups working together to reduce crime, disorder and the misuse of drugs in the town. It is led by the responsible authorities Harlow Council, Essex Police, Essex County Council, Essex County Fire & Rescue Service, West Essex Clinical Commissioning Group and Essex Community Rehabilitation Company (Probation), but includes many other local bodies such as Safer Places, Victim Support, Streets2Homes, Home Group Ltd and Neighbourhood Watch.

The priorities for the Safer Harlow Partnership 2014-15 are below, and each of these is delivered through a dedicated action plan involving partners and key stakeholders:

- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)
- Burglary dwelling
- Domestic abuse
- Drug offences (including alcohol)
- Violent crime

Tackling crime and improving community safety involves a lot more than just policing, and all the partners who comprise the Safer Harlow Partnership have a critical role to play in making Harlow safer.

Thank you for attending the meeting this evening – your contribution and feedback is most welcome.

Should you wish to contact the PCC about this meeting, or any other matter, please email:

pcc@essex.pnn.police.uk

or write to:

Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex
3 Hoffmans 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 criminal activity please either call your local police team, or contact crime stoppers on 0800 555 111. Crimestoppers is an anonymous phone line where you can report any criminal activity.