

**Basildon Public Meeting – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2016**

**District Profile**

Basildon district is part of the South Local Policing Area (LPA) and includes the towns of Basildon, Billericay, Laindon, Pitsea and Wickford. The district is situated in the southern part of Essex, 30 miles east of London, and covers 42.5 square miles. 70% of the borough is rural with large areas of open farmland and scattered rural developments.

Local MPs for Basildon include John Baron, for Billericay and Basildon areas, Stephen Metcalfe for South Basildon and Mark Francois for Wickford.

The main areas of employment in the district are engineering, retail, distribution and financial services.

Basildon district has the highest population and number of households in Essex. The district includes 72,746 households and has a total population of 174,497 residents.

**Ethnicity**

Within the district, 89.5% (156,215) people are 'White British', 3.2% (5,462) are 'Other White' and 7.3% (12,820) are 'Black or Minority Ethnic'.

**Festival Leisure Park**

The Festival Leisure Park is a vibrant location that includes a cinema, restaurants, wakeboarding facilities and a number of night-time venues which remain open until early morning. The site is located away from the town, on private land, which gives it the appearance of a retail park. It is the main location, within Basildon district, for the night-time economy. Relationships between the police, site management and venue managers are positive. A strategic operational group is run for the site by the District Commander and pulls together partner agencies and venues with the common aim of agreeing measures to ensure public safety for those using the facilities.

Other areas within the district that have a smaller night-time economy include Basildon town centre and Billericay.

## **Policing Structure and Resources**

Basildon is one of the busiest districts for crime and incidents in the county of Essex. The district is policed from a number of locations and teams within the borough:

### **Basildon Police Station**

- Station Front Office
- Command Team
- Community Policing Team
- Local Policing Teams (24/7)
- Criminal Investigation Department (CID)
- Operation Juno (domestic abuse investigation team)
- Basildon Community Safety Hub (Basildon Centre)
- Custody
- Intelligence Cell
- Scenes of Crime

### **Community Policing Team**

Basildon comprises one Community Policing Team (CPT) covering the 16 wards across the district. There are currently two police Inspectors managing the CPT and the Community Safety Hub respectively.

Two Community Sergeants supervise ten Neighbourhood Constables, 20 Special Constables, 11 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and six Customer Contact Administrators. Responsibility for the 16 wards is split between the ten Constables and 11 PCSOs. The officers attend regularly advertised Local Community Meetings (monthly LCMs) and work with the community to seek long-term solutions to local problems.

Basildon Police Station is open to the public seven days a week, from 9am to 5pm.

The working relationship with Basildon District Council is very healthy and there is extensive joint working and co-operation; for example, the Community Safety Action Zone and the joint activity in relation to tackling sexual violence against women.

Community Constables and PCSOs are able to visit Basildon District Council offices (Basildon Centre), the Eastgate Shopping Centre and the larger local supermarkets, to use their facilities - helping to maximise the visible presence of officers in the community. PCSOs use these facilities to hold beat surgeries and, in the near future, the Hate Crime Officer will be holding a hate crime surgery in a local supermarket.

## **Local Policing Teams**

There are four Local Policing Teams (LPTs) each led by an LPT Inspector based at Basildon Police Station. The LPTs work shifts to provide 24 hour cover for the district.

Each team deals with a range of policing duties, including responding to emergency and priority incidents, critical incidents, other incident demand, appointments, missing persons and the investigation of volume crime.

## **Criminal Investigation Department (CID)**

Based at Basildon, CID has three teams of detectives led by a Detective Inspector, which investigate more serious crimes such as serious assaults and burglary.

## **Operation Juno Team**

The Operation Juno (domestic abuse investigation team) is based at Basildon Police Station and the team is responsible for investigating all high and medium risk domestic abuse cases. The team provides a service for the district seven days a week; it is led by a Detective Inspector and comprises Detective Sergeants and investigators.

## **Basildon Community Safety Partnership**

The Basildon Community Safety Partnership, managed by Community Safety Manager Paula Mason, works very closely with the local Community Policing Team. The Partnership will be working to the following priorities in 2016-17.

- **Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour**
- **Reduce Crime**
- **Reduce Re-Offending**

## **Basildon Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Data**

At the meeting on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September, there will be a detailed discussion on local crime figures and trends, and the facts that underlie the statistics.

The table below sets out the crime figures for Basildon, comparing reports for 1<sup>st</sup> August 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2016 with 1<sup>st</sup> August 2014 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2015.

Crime/Incident Type	# offences		# diff	% diff
	2015	2016		
ALL CRIME	12863	14637	1774	13.8
Violence with Injury	1226	1417	191	15.6
Violence without Injury	1563	2258	695	44.5
Sexual Offences	306	325	19	6.2
Robbery	170	168	-2	-1.2
Dwelling Burglary	1159	1189	30	2.6
Other Burglary	795	784	-11	-1.4
Theft from Vehicle	1348	1278	-70	-5.2
Theft of Motor Vehicle	435	483	48	11.0
Theft from the Person	180	193	13	7.2
Theft of Pedal Cycles	211	174	-37	-17.5
Shoplifting	1073	1097	24	2.2
Other Theft	1201	1282	81	6.7
Criminal Damage (incl. arson)	1770	2173	403	22.8
Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents	6360	6249	-111	-1.7

Areas of note:

- All Crime has increased by 13.8% (1774 more offences);
- Theft from Vehicle has decreased by 5.2% (70 fewer offences);
- Theft of Pedal Cycles decreased by 17.5% (37 fewer offences);
- Violence without Injury has increased by 44.5% (695 more offences);
- Theft of Motor Vehicle has increased by 11.0% (48 more offences);
- Criminal Damage (incl. arson) has increased by 22.8% (403 more offences);
- Anti-Social Behaviour has decreased by 1.7% (111 fewer incidents).

### **Violence with Injury**

Within the district, Violence with Injury offences have increased by 15.6% (191 more offences) during the reporting period. These offences cannot be attributed to any specific trend or area. Situations giving rise to this type of crime may include offences such as domestic abuse, or violence associated with the night-time economy. During the reporting period, domestic assaults accounted for approximately a third of all Other Violence against the Person offences. In part, this is evidence of the increased confidence of victims coming forward to report domestic abuse.

There is a specific focus on addressing night-time economy related offences in Basildon, particularly around the Festival Leisure Park area. Strong partnership work exists between Essex Police and the managers of the Festival Leisure Park and initiatives have been instigated to develop crime reduction associated with the night-time economy. Examples of this type of work include funding of the SOS bus, drug swabs, provision of taxi marshals and specific operational deployments aimed at policing all High Street locations feeding into the Festival Leisure Park.

The night-time economy focus of Essex Police and the Community Safety hub includes:

- Pre-planned weekend policing operations, high visibility patrols and an 'outstanding suspect' action plan at the Festival Leisure Park.
- Intelligence-led deployments of the Community Safety SOS Bus.
- Supporting the newly formed Basildon Street Pastor patrols.
- Operation Benison licensed premises visits (in conjunction with Special Constables for Tier 1 and 2 licence checks).
- Basildon Festival Leisure Park site security and establishments (specifically Unit 7) engagement plan.
- A Community Safety Hub action plan specific to the Festival Leisure Park.

### **Violence without Injury**

Violence without Injury offences have increased by 44.5% over this period (695 more offences). The offences within this category include Common Assault, a large proportion of which are domestic abuse related common assaults and harassment. A significant increase in Malicious Communications offences under the harassment legislation has also been evident over this period.

To tackle the increase in Violence without Injury, identified hot-spots, repeat offenders and victims within the district are being focused on by all our teams and partnerships. Education to reduce this offence is being coordinated through the Community Safety Hub and Tactical Crime Prevention Advisor.

The top location in Basildon for reported Violence without Injury offences is Clare House (St Andrews Health Care facility) mental health establishment. Working with the South Essex Partnership Trust (SEPT) Essex Police has introduced an initiative at this location with Basildon Mental Health Unit to establish effective preventative measures, regular police visibility, mutual single points of contact and training packages.

Due to a rise in the use of social media such as Facebook, Twitter, and 'What's App', Malicious Communications offences have increased. To tackle this Essex Police and the Community Safety Partnership has worked with partners to increase education, delivering 'Walk on Line' road shows across the district's schools and colleges. These highlight the dangers of internet misuse and the courses of conduct which constitute malicious communication. Currently 300 staff and over 2,500 children and young people have received the awareness training.

Within the district we are also developing a Smart Water project to target repeat perpetrators of domestic abuse. This forensic preventative approach to support the protection of victims will secure more convictions against those perpetrators breaching harassment orders, Domestic Violence Prevention Orders, non-molestation orders and injunctions. The Smart Water is used by a premises exterior activated spray at the victim's front door, which can be discharged by the victim if the perpetrator attends or calls unexpectedly. The police can then unequivocally place the suspect at the location through this forensic trace-back and thereby increase the likelihood of more successful prosecutions.

## **Sexual Offences**

During the above reporting period there was a 6.2% increase in sexual offences (19 more offences) when compared with the same period the previous year.

Random attacks on strangers are extremely rare. Many reported offences involve a known and/or named suspect, and a number of offences are domestic related where offenders and victims have been in an intimate relationship with one another.

Through the creation of the Sexual Offences Investigation Teams, Essex Police has enhanced the service it provides to victims of crime, which may have increased the confidence of victims around reporting sexual offences to the police.

A Task and Finish group focusing on sexual violence has been instigated, and is being led in partnership by the police and the South Essex Rape and Incest Crisis Centre. The aim of the group is to provide education about sexual violence and reduce the number of offences that are committed. The group has developed an action plan, the results of which are managed by the local Community Safety Partnership.

## **House Burglary**

During the period 1<sup>st</sup> August 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2016, there was a 2.6% increase in house (dwelling) burglary offences in Basildon district (30 more offences) when compared with the same period the previous year.

House burglaries are monitored on a daily basis and the police are now using more advanced analytical techniques to inform patrols, with a view to preventing further crimes from being committed; for example, ANPR and CCTV coordinated deployments.

On-going activity to tackle house burglary includes proactive policing operations, Integrated Offender Management, developing and acting upon community intelligence and collaborative work with partners. The district's newly formed daily tasking process has resulted in high risk offenders being quickly located and arrested. In June 2016, 17 prolific burglary offenders were arrested across Basildon, and in July 2016, 25 prolific burglary offenders were arrested.

Other policing activities to address burglary offences include targeted Community Policing Team deployments, cycle patrols in burglary hotspots and initiatives to locate wanted outstanding burglary offenders.

## **Theft of Motor Vehicle**

Theft of Motor Vehicles offences within the district have increased by 11.0% (48 more offences) over the reporting period. The increase has not been directly attributable to any transient criminality and many of the cars being stolen have been low to medium value and subsequently abandoned within the district. The district's

daily tasking is targeting known repeat offenders and a number of specific operations and tactics are being employed.

### **Criminal Damage**

Criminal Damage across the district has increased by 22.8% (403 more offences) over the reporting period, with some links to ASB and vehicle crime. Through the Community Policing Team and Basildon Community Safety Hub, a range of initiatives are in place, including an educational engagement plan within all district schools, clubs and public places.

Other preventative work has included:

- Pride Care Plans and partnership operations for hotspot wards, to tackle low level criminal damage such as graffiti and public/private property damage.
- An Active Citizen agreement supporting the Neighbourhood Watch scheme. An increase in members is leading to greater intelligence gathering and the identification of outstanding suspects wanted for criminal damage.
- A new Basildon district deployment initiative led by the Community Policing Team and Special Constabulary, which focuses on low risk crimes, violence without injury and criminal damage.

### **Anti-Social Behaviour**

The number of anti-social behaviour incidents has been falling in Basildon district. A joint approach to tackling anti-social behaviour with community partners such as the council, businesses, schools and residents' groups has seen 111 fewer reported incidents between 1<sup>st</sup> August 2015 and July 2016 compared to the same period during the previous year. Officers are concentrating on night-time economy and partnership check patrols, and employing the 'Behave or Be Banned' scheme, especially around the Festival Leisure Park location. Anti-social behaviour can have a negative impact on communities. The force prioritises those incidents which cause the most harm, particularly to vulnerable people.

Youth Officers have been working in schools to facilitate the delivery of anti-bullying and anti-racism campaigns to educate young people. This includes education about online bullying. Through educational presentations, the police and our community safety partners have directly engaged with over 2,500 children and 300 staff, covering the schools and colleges within Basildon.

Essex Police has introduced a specific anti-social behaviour and night-time economy action plan for the district, which is being driven through the Community Safety Hub, Community Policing Team and Community Safety Partnership. This incorporates specific ownership of key areas, such as a Basildon Festival Leisure Park action plan and plans for our top ten licensed premises, anti-social behaviour callers and locations. The top ten callers/locations are allocated to Neighbourhood

Constables/PCSOs/Specials/partners and our Anti-Social Behaviour Team at Basildon Council. Essex Police is also working closely with the Essex County Fire and Rescue Service for collaborative engagement at known anti-social behaviour hotspots in Basildon (this is all supported by a monthly Problem Solving Group). We are also actively working to increase the number of civil remedy anti-social behaviour contracts and to apply new legislation regarding Criminal Behaviour Orders and warnings.

## **Community Concerns**

### **Gangs and Drugs**

Gangs and drugs pose significant problems in Basildon. Officers work with schools and support agencies for young people, and we have dedicated gang teams working within the district (Operation Raptor). The gang teams are disrupting the organised crime gangs that are targeting young and vulnerable people in the district and who are using these young people to sell drugs on their behalf. Essex Police is concentrating efforts on removing criminals from the streets who are travelling from London to target young people. With the right education and support young people can be encouraged away from a lifestyle that can be portrayed by the gangs as 'glamorous'.

On 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016, the Basildon Volunteer Police Cadet programme (VPC) was successfully launched, bringing together young people (from 13 to 18 years of age) to develop positive life skills for their future. The VPC has been invaluable in reaching out into all communities and encouraging young people to engage in the VPC programme, ensuring they are less likely to fall into the trap of becoming a member of a criminal 'street gang'.

Through the development of the new Community Safety Hub we are proactively working to tackle gangs in the district, delivering against the Community Safety Plan and our Crime and Harm Reduction Plan. Essex Police is proactively seeking hidden harm within our communities. This includes an on-going active investigation concerning Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), human trafficking, modern slavery, prostitution and gang related drug dealing.

### **Festival Leisure Park**

Officers within the newly formed Community Policing Team have forged close links with the businesses in the area and have been working with them to solve problems at the location.

### **Knife Crime**

Residents have been understandably concerned about knife crime in Basildon after the tragic murder of Darren Kelly last year and the murder of Daniel Mitchell-Monroe



in June 2016. The person responsible for murdering Darren Kelly is now serving a 21 year prison sentence. A man has now been charged with the murder of Daniel Mitchell-Monroe and the case is going through the courts.

Incidents such as this remain extremely rare. Extra patrols were put in place to provide reassurance to the local community. Essex Police is working with partner organisations, such as Only Cowards Carry, to increase the number of knife amnesty bins in the district and to provide educational briefings within all schools and colleges.

### **Car Cruising Events**

Car cruisers at Tesco underpass in Pitsea has been an emerging issue this year. Due to the extent of the problem, and the fact that a future event had been advertised via social media, a dispersal notice was authorised.

Car cruisers cause misery for many local residents because of the noise and bad driving associated with such events. Essex Police is addressing this issue through an on-going police operation which includes roads policing officers attending locations where drivers are congregating, and closely monitoring the events. Essex Police will continue to issue dispersal notices where appropriate, with the support of the local council. This action has been widely publicised by the media and on social media to warn drivers not to participate.

### **Community Engagement**

There is good communication between the Basildon Community Policing Team, the Community Safety Hub and the local media. The number of local Neighbourhood Watch members has increased and an Active Citizen Recruitment programme has been introduced through Basildon's Community Safety Hub. Officers speak regularly with the local press and media to deliver crime prevention messages to the community and news of good work which is being undertaken in the district. The local press proactively publishes articles relating to local issues, trends and concerns, and this is helping the Community Policing Team reach their communities and encourages engagement.

Community engagement work in the district is further enhanced through an increased number of officers using Twitter accounts and social media to make themselves more accessible to the public. In addition, the number of Essex Community Messaging (ECM) online followers in Basildon has increased to 1,805 members, and we have set a target of 10,000 through engagement initiatives. Officers are attending local events, such as the popular park runs, and also take part in many other community activities.

### **Partnership Working**

There are strong working partnerships within the district. The partnership consists of statutory agencies such as fire, probation, health and police services working together with the council. There is ongoing partnership work with the voluntary sector through the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) and the

Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) and this incorporates Women's Aid, Rape Crisis and Victim Support. The local Community Policing Team has a single point of contact for women's refuges and work is in place to strengthen links with Women's Aid, Rape Crisis and neighbourhood teams.

There is a district Hate Crime Officer who attends a hate crime panel where incidents are discussed with voluntary and statutory agencies. In addition, there are Hate Incident Reporting Centres. Our district Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator has strong links with watch schemes and residents associations. A problem solving group meets regularly and this is attended by the police, residents' associations and housing representatives.

Basildon Businesses Against Crime (BAS BAC) is a business watch scheme being driven through the Community Policing Team and the Town-Link radio protocol. The licensing officer assists with a 'Behave or be Banned' scheme run by the licensees across the district and there is a dedicated team of 20 Special Constables working alongside both the Community Policing and Local Policing Teams. The Basildon Family and Safer Essex initiatives are also delivered through the partnership. Basildon Family is an initiative focusing on the Highcliffe area of Basildon which aims to improve the lifestyle of families in need of support. This includes families that are vulnerable and those that are not in education, employment or training.

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Your feedback is most welcome.

**You can have your say about the new Police and Crime Plan for Essex in an online survey or by email here:**

<http://www.essex.pcc.police.uk/police-and-crime-plan-2016-engagement-and-online-survey/>

Should you wish to contact the PCC about this meeting, or any other matter you can do so through the following routes:

**By email:** [pcc@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:pcc@essex.pnn.police.uk)

**By writing to:**

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex

3 Hoffman's Way

Chelmsford CM1 1GU

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

[www.essex.pcc.police.uk](http://www.essex.pcc.police.uk)

**News alerts will usually be tweeted via the Essex PCC Twitter account:**

<https://twitter.com/essexpcc>

### **Reporting Crime:**

All criminal information and intelligence reported to Essex Police allows them to build a picture of criminality and emerging issues in the area, and therefore plan and respond to these more effectively.

Local 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 policing team, or contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Crimestoppers is a completely anonymous line where you can report any criminal activity.