

Brentwood Public Meeting – Thursday November 10, 2016

District Profile

Brentwood borough is part of the Brentwood and Epping Forest District Policing Area (DPA) which falls under Essex Police's West Local Policing Area (LPA). Within Brentwood there are four 'beats':

- 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. The population comprises 93.4% White, 2.9% Asian (predominantly of Mauritian descent), 1.4% Black and 1.3% Mixed Race.

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 and Shenfield, which is a key station in the region and the terminus for Crossrail.

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

The borough is generally affluent and includes a variety of retail services, commensurate with the size of the population. Brentwood town centre has a high concentration of retail premises with approximately 40 stores.

There is an active night-time economy with a variety of pubs and clubs in and around Brentwood town centre.

Thorndon Country Park and Weald Country Park are located within the borough and both parks consist of extensive areas of woodland. Weald Country Park covers around 500 acres and is the largest of Essex County Council's parks.

Policing Structure and Resources

The following model currently operates within the borough of Brentwood.

Community Policing Team (CPT)

The **Community Policing Team (CPT)** delivers community policing within the district and comprises one Inspector, covering Epping Forest and Brentwood district, and one Sergeant, four Constables and two Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) who support Brentwood district only. The CPT is based at Loughton and Brentwood Police Station. There are five Special Constables attached to the CPT at Brentwood.

Local Policing Team (LPT)

Local Policing Teams (LPTs) incorporate one Inspector, five Sergeants and a team of 36 Constables that work from Brentwood. These officers are specifically allocated to Brentwood, and work shifts to cover the borough 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and Juno Team

The **Criminal Investigations Department 'Proactive'** (CIDP) works under a local Detective Inspector. There is one Detective Sergeant in CIDP and five Detective Constables. The department is based at Brentwood and is responsible for targeting prolific offenders and the prevention and detection of crime across Brentwood district.

The **Criminal Investigations Department 'Reactive'** (CIDR) 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.

CID Reactive consists of:

- One Detective Inspector;
- 4 Detective Sergeants;
- 20 Detective Constables.

One Detective Sergeant and five Detective Constables are based at Brentwood. The remaining three Detective Sergeants and 15 Detective Constables are based at Loughton. The Detective Inspector works between the two areas.

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.

Proposed closure and sale of Brentwood police station

Essex Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner Essex are making preparations to sell Brentwood police station. To progress the sale of the site on London Road, Brentwood, Essex Police and the OPCC have had preliminary talks with planners at Brentwood Borough Council to seek outline planning permission for residential use of the one hectare site.

Gaining planning permission will allow the site to be sold for the best possible price and money generated by the sale can then be used to prevent and fight crime more effectively.

The front desk at the station on London Road, Brentwood has been closed since April this year though the station continues to provide an operational base for local officers.

Uniformed officers who are currently based at the station – including community and local policing teams - will continue to have a presence in the town and will in future work from a shared hub at the Town Hall on Ingrave Road. Work is already underway to get the new accommodation ready for officers.

Officers are expected to move into the shared premises at Brentwood Town Hall by Spring 2017.

Essex Police and the OPCC are continuing to modernise the estate after announcing last October that it would reduce from 80 to approximately 30 buildings.

Roger Hirst, Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex, said: “I understand the attachment communities have to their local police stations but research carried out over two months showed only ten people visited Brentwood police station to report a crime. This is not the best use of police resources.

“As a Brentwood resident, I know that what matters is having a police presence in the town. But that means officers out and about on patrol, not inside buildings away from the community.

“I believe it is essential that we continue to modernise the police property estate across the county. I will ensure that the money raised through this process is used primarily to help deliver more local, accessible and visible policing, a priority in my new Police and Crime Plan.

“If you are the victim of, or witness, a crime in progress, you should always call 999. For non-emergency incidents, you should use the new Essex Police ‘Do It Online’ website, or you can call 101.”

Safer Brentwood Partnership

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 placed a joint responsibility upon specific agencies to work together, and with other agencies within the community, to develop and implement strategies to protect their communities from crime and help people feel safe.

At the meeting, Brentwood Community Safety manager Tracey Lilley will provide a briefing on the work of the Safer Brentwood Partnership, particularly around the four local community safety priorities.

- Protecting people from harm
- Anti-social behaviour
- Community Engagement
- Burglary

Community Concerns

Fly Tipping

The Brentwood Community Policing Team conducted an operation with Brentwood Borough Council in October this year to target trade waste licence issues. This work was also carried out with Epping Forest Council, and the CPT and council enforcement officers arrested a suspect who was suspected of fly tipping throughout the whole of West Essex.

The CPT is working with other agencies to identify how to target fly tipping and prevent future occurrences. Work has commenced to share data between agencies to identify locations where fly tipping occurs. Enquiries are also ongoing to identify the source of the waste.

Knowledge and expertise are being pooled from different agencies, as each agency has its own area of expertise and law enforcement powers. For example, the police may stop a vehicle suspected of fly tipping, and local authority enforcement officers can then seize the vehicle if justified.

Unauthorised Encampments

Between March and August 2016 there were 20 unauthorised encampments in the Brentwood Area - 15 of these were on Brentwood Borough Council land, three were on Essex County Council land and two were on private land. Essex Police worked closely with partners during this period to resolve these situations proportionately in compliance with national guidance and the law.

Examples of Community Safety Problem Solving Initiatives

Kings Road, Brentwood

During the summer of 2016, numerous reports were made to the police of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) involving young people in the location of Kings Road, Brentwood. There was a corresponding increase in reported crime.

The Community Policing Team analysed the problem, conducted extra patrols at peak times and identified some of the young people. This information was then shared with the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and joint visits and letters were sent to the parents of the young people involved.

Further analysis identified that some of the perpetrators of crime and ASB were travelling into the district via the train, so the British Transport Police were contacted and joint patrols took place at the train station and in the nearby locality.

Incidents of ASB and crime have now reduced in this area, but further joint, follow-up operations will continue to prevent a reoccurrence.

Motorcycles

Numerous reports of anti-social driving and nuisance motor bikes have been received across different areas of Brentwood district. Officers are generally unable to attend or catch the motorcyclists at the time as the bikes are very mobile. Enquiries are made by the CPT with CCTV operators at the council, at local shops, and with local residents to try to identify the bikes and riders along with where they live.

Where drivers are identified then home visits take place and, where appropriate, section 59 warnings are given which means that if a vehicle is used anti-socially in the next 12 months it can be seized.

A recent example of this is where warnings were given to a motorcyclist and then a seizure of a moped occurred in Pilgrims Hatch.

Sainsbury's Car Park

There were reports of anti-social driving overnight in the Sainsbury's Car Park, William Hunters Way, Brentwood, which disturbed local residents.

CCTV has captured some evidence and a driver has been prosecuted for careless driving. Section 59 notices have been issued in relation to these incidents.

A car cruise/meet was advertised on Facebook to take place at Sainsbury's car park on the evening of Saturday 8th October 2016. There had been previous occasions where local residents had been disturbed by anti-social driving and attendees had been endangered by dangerous driving.

Representatives from the CSP hub contacted Sainsbury's to arrange a meeting where it was agreed to close the car park for the night in question. The CPT Inspector authorised a dispersal zone for the area of William Hunters Way and the car park so that anybody engaging in anti-social behaviour in that area could be required to leave. The CPT then enforced the dispersal zone on the day in question and prevented this disruption and danger from occurring.

Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Data

The table below sets out the crime figures for Brentwood, comparing reports for 1st October 2015 to 30th September 2016 with 1st October 2014 to 30th September 2015.

12 Months to September

Crime/Incident Type	# offences		# diff	% diff
	2015	2016		
ALL CRIME	3659	4038	379	10.4
Violence with Injury	289	360	71	24.6
Violence without Injury	425	536	111	26.1
Sexual Offences	71	71	0	0.0
Robbery	23	36	13	56.5
Dwelling Burglary	440	409	-31	-7.0
Other Burglary	187	283	96	51.3
Theft from Vehicle	483	317	-166	-34.4
Theft of Motor Vehicle	194	252	58	29.9
Theft from the Person	52	63	11	21.2
Theft of Pedal Cycles	49	42	-7	-14.3
Shoplifting	209	224	15	7.2
Other Theft	503	504	1	0.2
Criminal Damage (incl. arson)	426	551	125	29.3
Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents	2034	1829	-205	-10.1

Areas of note:

- All Crime has increased by 10.4% (379 more offences);
- Violence with Injury has increased by 24.6% (71 more offences);
- Violence without Injury has increased by 26.1% (111 more offences);
- Theft from Vehicle has decreased by 34.4% (166 fewer offences);
- House burglary has decreased by 7.0% (31 fewer offences);
- Criminal Damage (including Arson) has increased 29.3% (125 more offences);
- Anti-Social Behaviour has decreased by 10.1% (205 fewer incidents).

Violent Offences

There has been an overall increase in crime across the borough, which is also reflected in the crime figures for the force as a whole. In particular, Violence with Injury offences and Violence without Injury offences have increased by 182 more offences this year. Some of this increase is as a result of changes to the NCRS (national crime recording) counting rules. Violence without Injury offences have increased nationally due to changes in the recording process, which has resulted in previously unrecorded crimes such as harassment and malicious communications being added. The latest national data comparing the 12 months to August 2016 with the 12 months to August 2015 shows that 42 of the 43 forces in England and Wales have seen increases in Violence without Injury offences.

Brentwood High Street has the highest number of night-time economy incidents in the district. The CPT and partners carry out monthly checks on licenced premises and the police will continue to monitor, on a daily basis, any incidents that occur.

Acquisitive Crime

There have been positive results in relation to some categories of acquisitive crime, with a 34.4% reduction in theft from motor vehicle offences (166 fewer offences) when compared with the same period from the previous year, and a 7% decrease in house burglaries (31 fewer offences). This equates to 197 fewer victims of these specific crimes than this time last year.

Although house burglary has decreased in the district, offences of Other Burglary (such as commercial and shed burglaries) increased by 51.3% (96 more burglaries) during the reporting period. Essex Police has recently set up a new pro-active team in Brentwood, which takes best practice from Hertfordshire Police. The new team is charged with dealing with burglary offending. This is only the third week that the team has been operating, but early results appear promising.

Anti-Social Behaviour

There has been a 10.1% decrease in reports of ASB within Brentwood (205 fewer incidents). The reduction in ASB has been as a result of police and partnership activity around 'hot spot' locations, as noted in the aforementioned examples.

Your feedback is most welcome.

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

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

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.