**Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex**

**Public Meeting – Uttlesford District**

**Public Information Pack**

**Panel Members:**

Roger Hirst, Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex

Jane Gardner, Deputy Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex,

Essex Police’s District Commander Chief Inspector Janette Rawlinson

Area Manager Dave Barnard from Essex County Fire and Rescue Service

Cllr Vic Ranger from Uttlesford District Council.

**Essex Police**

**District Profile**

The Uttlesford District is one part of the Uttlesford and Braintree District Policing Area (DPA) combining two of England’s largest districts, covering a total of 484 square miles.

The DPA consists of five growing market towns at Saffron Walden, Great Dunmow, Braintree, Witham and Halstead and their surrounding rural areas. The population of the DPA is increasing and is currently estimated at approximately 224,042 residents and 93,300 households.

The DPA presents a challenging mix of urban and rural policing. Stretching from the middle of the county to the borders with Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire, it is split into 124 parishes with 107 parish councils and four town councils.

The M11, A120, A12, A130 and A131 run through the DPA and it has two separate railway lines from London. These allow a high proportion of the population to commute to work but also make cross-border travelling more viable for criminals.

Uttlesford district covers 248 square miles and has a population of over 84,800. Between 2015 and 2025 the total population is predicted to increase from 84,000 to 96,500: an increase of 14% or 11,700 more people.

The largest employer within the district is Stansted Airport.

Uttlesford district was voted as the number one most desirable rural area in which to live in Great Britain, in the Halifax Rural Areas Quality of Life Survey 2014. Accordingly many residents of both Uttlesford and Braintree districts expect a high quality of life and have high expectations of their service providers, including the police and their partners.

Based on the 2011Census data Uttlesford District Council state the population in Uttlesford District consists of the following ethnic groups; 96.7% of the population define themselves as ‘White British/Irish or Other White Ethnic Group’, 1.5% as ‘Asian’,0.5% as ‘Black’, 1.3% as ‘Mixed Race’ and 0.3% as ‘Arab or any other ethnic group’.

Uttlesford District has an ageing population with those aged 60 or over making up **24.7%** of the population, those aged 45 to 59 accounting for 22.8% and those aged 24 to 44 amounting to 23.1% of the population.

**Policing Structure and Resources**

The Uttlesford and Braintree DPA is part of the North Local Policing Area (LPA). The DPA is run by one District Commander, who has one Community Policing Team Inspector and three Local Policing Team Inspectors.

The DPA has two operating bases: Braintree Police Station and The Lodge Police Base in Saffron Walden. The DPA is covered 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by the Local Policing Teams (LPTs) operating from these two bases.

The LPT has an establishment of 3 Inspectors, 12 Sergeants and 78 Constables. These resources are split across the two operating bases with 2 Inspectors, 6 Sergeants and 54 Constables deploying from Braintree, while 1 Inspector, 6 sergeants and 24 Constable are stationed at Saffron Walden.

Braintree and Uttlesford have separate District Councils and Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) but the DPA has one Community Policing Team (CPT) to serve them. The Community Policing Team has an establishment of one Inspector, two Sergeants, ten Police Constables and eleven Police Community Support Officers (2 funded by Uttlesford District Council). These are split across the two districts with 1 Sergeant, 7 Constables and 8 PCSO’s working directly from Braintree Police station covering Braintree Witham and Halstead.

There is a Criminal Investigation Department (CID) based at Braintree Police Station.

The custody suite at Braintree has closed and so all prisoners from the DPA must be taken to the nearest custody suite with available cells - usually Colchester, Chelmsford or Harlow.

There are two police front counters within the DPA that are currently open to the public: Braintree Police Station is open between 9am and 5pm, seven days per week and a police front counter facility is maintained from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, within the reception at Uttlesford District Council, Saffron Walden.

The DPA is supported by a cadre of Special Constables, consisting of 1 Special Inspector, 4 Special Sergeants and 40 Special Constables. The Special Constables support both the LPTs and the CPTs as well as running Policing events and operations. The DPA is further supported by a growing number of volunteers and volunteer groups including Active Citizens, Neighbourhood Watch and Farm Watch.

Essex Police run a successful Volunteer Police Cadet unit in Witham for young people aged between 13 and 18 years from a range of backgrounds. The Cadets benefit from the opportunities offered by the programme and deliver volunteering hours in support of local policing initiatives.

Given the success of the unit based in Witham there is ongoing activity taking place within Uttlesford in order to create a second unit with the intention that this will be located in Saffron Walden. This has support of local officers and the Community Safety Partnership.

**Community Concerns and Media**

**Unauthorised Encampments** – During the summer months the District saw a significant number of Unauthorised Encampments. All cases have been subject to appropriate Police monitoring and activity and have followed national protocol, Essex Police policy and the law. Both Essex Police through the Gypsy Traveller & Rural Engagement Team (GTRET) and Uttlesford District Council work with the Essex County Traveller Unit and Uttlesford District Council pay towards the Essex County Traveller Unit service.

**ATM thefts** – During the past year the District has suffered a number of ATM thefts from garages, small shops and building societies. These are being investigated at a regional level by officers from the Serious Crime Directorate (SCD)

**Police Visibility**– local residents remain concerned with the perceived level of visibility. The DPA has an extensive engagement programme following the guidance given to them by Essex Police.

Local community meetings are usually well attended. Social & traditional media engagements have increased, with Facebook seeing a significant rise in followers over the last 6 months. Traditional forms of engagement include leaflet drops and parish council publications.

The DPA also continues to expand its use of volunteers such as Active Citizens and Volunteer Police Cadets to deliver targeted engagement. The message to communities is that Police Officers are tasked and deployed to locations and incidents where crime and anti-social behaviour are assessed to pose a substantial threat, risk or harm. We continue to look to our volunteers and partners to help us to provide engagement and problem solving in areas of low risk or concern.

Officers from the Community Policing Team have been allocated areas of responsibility in order to bring about a culture of ownership, pride, identifying & understanding local issues early, signposting to the correct agency and having better engagement with our residents. Details of these designated officers have been communicated to local parishes and town councils and well received.

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| **Uttlesford North** | **Uttlesford South** |
| PC 74300 Helen Stewart | PC 75767 Glenn Braden |
| PC 79073 Ryan McNamara | PC 3574 Kerry Rowson |
| PCSO 75206 James Graham | PCSO 71102 Simon Horne |

The Community Policing Team provides the local press with a weekly briefing and the media have been invited to several policing events and operations.

The local Community Policing Team, Specials and District Commander are active on social media, commenting on events, incidents and campaigns. This is supported by the local Community Safety Partnership.

**Police Visibility and Police Station Closures**

Although Essex Police and their Community Safety Partners help maintain Uttlesford as a safe, low crime district, the community remains concerned with the perceived level of visible police officers. It should be noted that Uttlesford and Braintree districts cover vast geographic areas.

There are continued concerns regarding the levels of policing within Uttlesford. These are in part due to the fact people are unaware that police officers are based in Saffron Walden. However, the Local and Community Policing Teams have been policing from The Lodge since April 2017, there is ongoing engagement with local Facebook groups who are very supportive to local officers.

Two new fully funded PCSO contracts have been signed at the start of October 2018. This funding is partnership working between Uttlesford District Council and 3 parish councils (Stansted Mountfitchet, Elsenham & Henham) and a further partnership between Uttlesford District Council and Saffron Walden Town Council. The posts are advertised on the Essex Police Website with applicant interviews planned for November.

**Examples of Problem Solving Initiatives**

**Hare Coursing**

Hare coursing continues to be a seasonal crime throughout the calendar year, this not only causes significant harm to wildlife but the associated damage to crops, gates, fencing and threats of violence made can be extensive and costs usually run in to the thousands of pounds. Partners are working together to tackle hare coursing on several fronts. In addition to the Police running cross border operations with neighbouring Police Forces and Special Constables, the CPT and partners have reinvigorated Farm watches in both the Uttlesford and Braintree Districts and are working with the National Farmer Union (NFU) to promote prevention and safety messages and to gather and share intelligence. There is additional support in the form of the Gypsy Traveller & Rural Engagement Team (GTRET) who work closely with the CPT, landowners and partners.

Where the Police have managed to catch the Hare Coursers legislation has been used to seize their vehicles and the Dog Warden has seized their dogs.

**Recorded Crime**

The table below sets out the crime figures for Uttlesford, comparing reports for 1st October 2017 to 30th September 2018 with 1st October 2016 to 30th September 2017 for the Uttlesford district and the Force.

Areas of note for Uttlesford district:

* All Crime has increased by 21.8% (755 more offences).
* Violence without Injury has increased by 39.4% (117 more offences).
* Stalking and Harassment has increased by 87.9% (239 more offences).
* Robbery has increased by 242.9% (17 more offences).
* Theft of a Vehicle has increased by 72.0% (54 more offences).
* ASB Incidents have increased by 2.1% (25 more incidents).

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\*Residential and Dwelling Burglary per 1000 Households

Other districts – All Crime offences and per 1000 population:

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**All Crime**

During the above reporting period, all crime increased in the Uttlesford District by 21.8% (755 more offences). Some of this increase is as a result of changes to the National Crime Recording Standards counting rules. Violence without Injury offences have increased nationally due to changes in the recording process, previous unrecorded crime of harassment and malicious communications are now both recorded for a single incident.

Some is attributable to increased awareness and positively encouraged reporting and recording of domestic abuse and child abuse and, whilst it is sad to see an increase in recorded offences, it is positive that more victims feel able to report such offences and allow for offenders to be dealt with.

The public in Uttlesford have also been encouraged to report offences rather than assume that the Police can/will do nothing about them, as when the Police are not told about an offence not only are they unable to investigate it they are unable to identify patterns of offences, search for intelligence and target the offences and offenders.

**Violence without Injury.**

Violence without injury has increased by 39.4% (117 more offences). This crime category includes a very wide range of offences, including Public Order Act offences, malicious communications and Dangerous Dogs.

Overall Essex has seen a rise of 11.9% increase largely due to changes in the Crime Recording Standards and in cases related to Domestic Abuse.

Operation Juno is one of the force’s responses to tackling domestic abuse. Uttlesford district is served by a team of Operation Juno officers at Chelmsford Police Station who are dedicated to investigating domestic abuse related offences and offenders.

Uttlesford is a safe place to live and does not have a significant night-time economy (NTE) or street crime problem. The DPA’s licensing officer, CPT and partners are active in ensuring that the district’s licensees maintain a safe NTE, with a particularly well supported and effective Pubwatch and a ‘Behave or Be Banned’ scheme in the main towns and surrounding villages. Over 100 offenders have been banned from drinking in Pubwatch members’ premises under the Uttlesford Behave or Be Banned scheme.

The Uttlesford district has the third lowest crimes per 1000 population across Essex.

**Dwelling Burglary**

Dwelling Burglary has marginally decreased (1 fewer offence). Working together with CID and the IOM (Integrated Offender Management Team), as well as neighbouring forces, the Community Policing Teams have successfully targeted a number of criminals who sometimes travel some distance to commit offences in Uttlesford.

Additionally, the Community Policing Teams work with partners from the District Council, Neighbourhood Watch, Essex county Fire and Rescue Service and Active Citizens to deliver crime prevention and community safety campaigns in an effort to encourage residents to take measures to properly secure and protect their property and to look out for their neighbourhood.

There are currently no identified burglary series unidentified in Uttlesford.

**Anti-Social Behaviour**

ASB Incidents has increased by 2.1% (25 more incidents). Persistent and harmful ASB is tackled through intelligence-led and targeted police and effective partnership activity, against offenders, and at key locations and events. This can be in the form of engagement, an example of this are the organised car meets held in Saffron Walden with Saffron Walden Car Culture which are supported by Essex Fire & Rescue, the Community Safety Partnership and P&A Woods who have provided a Rolls Royce Demonstrator Vehicle.

Enforcement activity also occurs in the form of proactive warrants which are intelligence led and have resulted in a number of key arrests and charges.

**Serious Crime Directorate**

Operation Etna.

On Saturday, 8 April officers were called following the assault of Kieran O’Rourke, outside of the Boars Head public house in High Street, Dunmow. Mr O’Rourke of Barnards Field, Thaxted, was taken to Broomfield Hospital and later transferred to Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge, where he sadly died on Tuesday April 18. A post mortem examination gave a preliminary cause of death as a head injury.

Enquiries established that Mr Kieren O’Rourke had intervened during a verbal altercation between David-Lee Conlan and a woman outside the Boars Head Public House, High Street, Dunmow. Conlan pushed Kieren O’Rourke causing him to fall to the ground and hit his head. One of the woman’s relatives then attempted to step in but Conlan punched him in the face, breaking his nose and a tooth.

David-Lee Conlan was arrested and charged with Mr O’Rourke’s manslaughter and causing actual bodily harm. He pleaded guilty to both charges during an appearance at Chelmsford Crown Court on 3rd May 2018.

David –Lee Conlan was sentenced on the 24th May 2018 to five years for Manslaughter and 12 months for ABH to run concurrently.