



Basildon Public Online Meeting
25th November 2020
19:00 – 20.00

PFCC Roger Hirst
Ch/Insp Chris Bradford Essex Police
Ch/Supt Ewen Wilson/Supt Claire Talbot
Justin Benson-Ryal ECFRS
Darren Horsman PFCC
Lesley O'Shea, Assistant Director Communities, Basildon Council

<p>Q - There appears to be a lot of recent ASB which I have seen people discussing on social media. What are the police and the council doing about this issue?</p>	<p>Anti-social behaviour incidents – the increase in recorded anti-social behaviour incidents in Basildon over the last year predominantly relates to the additional reports of breaches of Covid-19 guidance. Wickford has also seen a lot of issues. There has also been a rise in youth related ASB and we ran operation Oxygen initially targeting the use of nitrous oxide and it ran through the summer into areas like Wickford that saw its fair share of issues.</p> <p>The hub they have in Basildon brings together all the partners to deal with ASB and the colocation of police with the council has been hugely successful as we can share case loads and work together to sort them out.</p>
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	<p>Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) incidents have increased by 6.8% (332 more offences). Police have recently recruited two additional members to our Community Policing Team into the roles of 'Community Safety Engagement Officers' (CSEOs). They have a wide-reaching role to improve engagement between the police and community including targeting areas where ASB takes place.</p> <p>A Public Space Protection Order in Basildon is also being consulted on.</p>
<p>Q – Wickford is experiencing a lot of ASB – what are police doing about it?</p>	<p>Wickford is having a lot of issues and more resourcing has been out into the area to offer a dedicated local response, and this has had a good response from local groups.</p>
<p>Q – Despite the pandemic, there are still ongoing burglaries and theft occurring. I have seen this on social media. How are Essex Police dealing with this?</p>	<p>Burglary has actually decreased during the pandemic as more people have been at home. But we have also been investing a lot in burglary and theft over the last two years so even before the pandemic burglary in Basildon was coming down in Basildon by 15% and vehicle theft by 17%. Burglary is a horribly invasive crime and we need to prevent this so we can offer people advice on how to make their homes more secure such as through home safety and safe and well visits.</p>
<p>Q – There has been recent crimes related to drug offences reported by Essex Police and members of the public on social media. How is this being dealt with and controlled?</p>	<p>Through our engagement work we have identified that the public across the district want us to prioritise the tackling of illegal drug activity. We recognise that the activities surrounding illegal drug use negatively impact our community for many reasons. With drug misuse comes violence and anti-social behaviour, we also often see vulnerable people being exploited by drug dealers. Over the last year we have put more officers into our local drug enforcement teams (Op Raptor) and have directed all of our local</p>

	<p>officers to be more proactive in tackling this issue. We have seen some very pleasing results: 126% increase in stop and search, 88% increase in people caught with drugs and a 21% increase in people caught with weapons</p>
<p>Q – How is hare coursing being dealt with, as it is still an issue in more rural areas of the district?</p>	<p>The district is not as affected by hare coursing as other parts of the county with only 5 incidents in the above period reported by the public. The Rural Engagement Team put on days of action (op X-ray) and link in with neighbouring forces for national days of action (op Galileo) to tackle this issue.</p>
<p>Q – What is being done about the rubbish dumping and fly tipping? It is an issue that seems to be ignored by the council.</p>	<p>The council take this very seriously and will bring perpetrators to justice so please report people and issues. In the 12 months to 31st July 2020, there were 21 reports of fly tipping, which the Rural Engagement Team have been addressing this in partnership with Basildon Council. The team have had several days of action (op Fume) targeting waste carriers and recently Basildon successfully prosecuted a male from Tilbury for failing to display a waste carriers licence. He received a fine of £1000, Costs £450 and a victim surcharge of £100. We also work in partnership with the Environment Agency in relation to industrial fly tipping.</p>
<p>Q – There are reports of travellers and unauthorised encampment in Laindon as well as other sites throughout lockdown on the summer. How do the council and police deal with this, and what is done about the rubbish they leave behind?</p>	<p>Between 1st August 2019 and 31st July 2020 Essex had 123 unauthorised encampments and Basildon saw 11 of those. The Rural Engagement Team managed all in partnership with the Community Policing Team and there were only 2 occasions where a direction to leave (S61 CJPOA) was issued.</p>
<p>Q – there seems to be a lot of speeding in the local areas and what is being done about it?</p> <p>Q – Why are police bothering with speeding when there are more crimes being committed out there</p>	<p>Ch/Insp Bradford – Traffic Police are always out and about in the area tackling the issues where people get hurt such as speeding, use of mobile phones when driving and drink/drug driving. We also get reports from residents about repeat speeding issues – especially in the more rural areas where the roads policing team will then go out and do an operation in the</p>

	<p>area. The local community policing team are also trained to use speed guns and will go out. We had issues over the summer of people gathering and racing in Tesco Pitsea and Cranes Park Road where sadly there was a fatality a few years ago.</p> <p>More people are killed and seriously injured through driving than any other crime type. Pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists are the most at risk. It really matters so if you are with someone who is driving while on their mobile phone or speeding pull them up on it.</p>
<p>Q – How is 101 system as there are still delays in answer time.</p>	<p>Supt Talbot – the 101 system has had a lot of resourcing put into it over the last couple of years and the waiting time now has an average of 3 minutes (but that fluctuates). It is going in the right direction. You can also use the live chat function by texting or typing and talk to an assistant who can point you in the right direction. The online reporting system is also a good way of reporting especially ASB and this will be fed into the local policing unit.</p>
<p>Q – Police officer numbers – will these increase and what will that mean for Basildon.</p>	<p>PFCC – we have invested a lot in increasing policing over the past few years and have double the number of officers in Basildon. Also invested heavily in expanding the local response teams and roads policing and domestic abuse teams and will continue to build on this. Also by using intelligence for proactive policing in order to stop crime happening in the first place will help drive those incidents down.</p> <p>We have now increased officers to just over 3000 and hope to have an extra 400 by the end of the year (2020).</p> <p>We need to crack down on crime gangs and drug driven violence and this needs to be a three pronged approach and</p>

	includes proactive stop and search local town centre teams and building on intelligence.
Q – What presence does the fire service have in the district	<p>Basildon is one of the busiest stations but this year they have only attended 1500 incidents which is a great indicator of how proactive fire safety education over the years has paid off as looking back 20 years ago they were attending 4500 incidents. Basildon is a two pump station and has an incident command centre too. The surrounding stations are on call stations where firefighters live/work within five minutes of the station. If people were interested we are recruiting on call fire fighters at Wickford.</p> <p>We also do a lot of preventative work such as educating children about fire safety and home visits to residents around fire safety in the home as well as hospitals and businesses. Prevention and protection is an equal draw as operational firefighters.</p>
Why do we see less and less policemen and specials patrolling streets that are busy thoroughfares and often witness to what seems low level crime but can have enormous impact on the people that live, work, shop in those areas. Officers these days seem to be distancing themselves from the public and rarely do I see policemen have a chat with young people/shoppers etc.	We are really sorry you feel this way. We have been working hard over the last 12 months to improve our visibility in the community. Some of the typical events we would hold have been curtailed due to the coronavirus pandemic, however we have increased the volume of proactive visible patrols across the district like you describe. If you follow us on Facebook or Twitter you will get some insight into the work we are doing in the community.
Are you receiving the lateral covid tests for frontline officers and what is the current percentage of officers off sick self-isolating?	Our officers receive the same access to testing as the wider community. The rates obviously vary over time but at the moment less than 4% of the Essex Police workforce are absent through sickness self-isolation or track and trace dependency. We have worked hard to ensure our officers are supported with

	the appropriate PPE to allow them to do their job as safely as possible.
Are you receiving the lateral covid tests for frontline officers and what is the current percentage of officers off sick self-isolating?	Our officers receive the same access to testing as the wider community. The rates obviously vary over time but at the moment less than 4% of the Essex Police workforce are absent through sickness self-isolation or track and trace dependency. We have worked hard to ensure our officers are supported with the appropriate PPE to allow them to do their job as safely as possible.
Do the crime stats confirm if ASB has increased in Wickford as an example since the closure of the Police station which although I agree doesn't stop crime, but it gives the Police a place to base from and hence complete foot patrols etc?	Wickford Police Station closed to the public on 28th November 2011. The volume of ASB incidents recorded in the 12 months prior to the closure date was 853. The volume of ASB incidents recorded in the 12 months to 28th November 2020 (excluding Coronavirus related incidents) was 584. This reduction is in line with the reductions seen in recorded ASB across Essex.
Final question for the residents of Wickford this eve, it has been raised that we requested cctv 2018 in the high street and in our parks. Councillors have not picked this up but it appears unfit for purpose and has not been adequate to help police in investigations. Can you confirm if cctv is something the council safety and police response centres can utilise, maybe have these in wickford linked observation rooms set up monitor.	Basildon Council: Thank you for your enquiry regarding the CCTV cameras located in Wickford High Street and the Parks. I can confirm that 6 CCTV cameras were installed in Wickford Memorial Park in August 2019. These cover the car parks and the café area. The High Street has 4 CCTV cameras with a further 2 CCTV cameras installed in Market Lane as part of the regeneration of this area. These cameras were installed in 2018. The cameras in the Memorial Park and on the High Street & Market Lane can all be monitored from the Basildon Centre CCTV control room and are recording 24/7. Furthermore, the daily camera checks throughout November show that these cameras were operational 100% of the time.
Are all frontline officers equipped with tazer yet because they should be	We are in the process of increasing the number of Taser Trained officers available in Basildon and now have good coverage amongst our uniformed response teams. We have more officers booked on courses early next year and therefore the amount of Taser Trained officers is continuing to improve.

	We do not have plans at this stage to equip all officers with Taser.
There was a lot of drug problems in Billericay especially with young people. During the last lockdown there were many areas where empty small cylinders of Nitrous oxide were discarded. I have witness drug dealing in the railway station and Hannikans Park. This needs to be dealt with.	We are aware of issues of anti-social behaviour in Billericay, particularly during the summer lockdown and understand that this may dissuade the community from using these spaces and therefore we patrolled and continue to patrol open spaces as part of Op Oxygen. This aims to deter and disrupt anti-social activities, including the use of cannabis and nitrous oxide canisters. We continue to act on information received from the community and carry out both plain clothes and hi-visibility patrols to develop intelligence leading to subsequent enforcement of those engaged in criminal or anti-social behaviour.
How many specials are there in Basildon	<p>PFCC – Specials are incredible people who give up their time to help keep their communities safe and we now have the second largest and fastest growing special constabulary in the country. We really value them and make sure they are well dove tailed in with the regular police.</p> <p>We have 33 Special officers in Basildon who gave 902 operational hours in Basildon last month and helped us over the Halloween and bonfire night period.</p>
How many superintendents are there at Basildon?	There is one superintendent based at Basildon who has a wider responsibility for uniform policing across the districts of Basildon, Castle Point, Rochford and Southend. Chief Inspector Chris Bradford is responsible for uniform policing specifically in the Basildon district.