

PFCC Decision Report

Report reference number: 027-22

Classification: Not protectively marked

Title of report: Crime Prevention Show Garden 2022

Area of county / stakeholders affected: Countywide

Report by: Greg Myddelton (Strategic Head of Partnerships and Delivery)

Date of report: 9 February 2022

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1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1. To approve the allocation of £12,000 to Essex Police's Designing Out Crime Team to deliver a Crime Prevention Show Garden at RHS Hyde Hall in collaboration with the Royal Horticultural Society.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Approve the allocation of £12,000 from the PFCC's 2021/22 Community Safety Fund to Essex Police's Designing Out Crime Team to deliver a Crime Prevention Show Garden offering practical advice to visitors of RHS Hyde Hall on how they can better secure their properties.

3. Benefits of the proposal

- 3.1. The Crime Prevention Show Garden will practically demonstrate how the garden environment can be the first line of defence in respect of crime prevention. Applied appropriately, a garden can protect the house, garden, outbuildings, and property therein. By an innovative demonstration of defensive planting, good boundaries and physical security measures, the garden will illustrate how we can all make our properties less attractive to villains and deter crime.
- 3.2. The Crime Prevention Show Garden will provide partners with the opportunity to engage with visitors to the garden to raise awareness and answer questions in relation to home security. Secondary benefits include the promotion of various watch schemes such as Neighbourhood Watch and Dog Watch and reaching a broader audience. The garden allows often complicated academic crime prevention theories to be demonstrated in a simplistic and relatable manner.

Being a physical display, it can reach a different audience than traditional social media platforms.

3.3. Following on from the success of the previous scheme in 2019, Essex Police were able to garner the below:

- 32,959 people in attendance at the show across the five days.
- Over the duration of the show, the Essex Police team interacted with an estimated 8,000 visitors.
- A significant number of 'sign ups' to various watch schemes including Neighbourhood Watch and Dog Watch.
- An extensive media campaign supported the garden which was contributed to by an array of organisations outside of Essex Police. Such organisations ranged from BBC Essex, BBC Look East, Security Professional magazine, an RHS featured article, and a Secured by Design dedicated video to Secured by Design member companies blogs (such as Jackson Fencing, ExMesh etc).

3.4. The 2022 project's desired outcomes include:

- Young people positively engaged, and a decrease in reports of anti-social behaviour
- Visitors are inspired to take precautionary measures to protect their own property, some being simplistic and incurring minimal cost. Examples include ensuring wheelie bins cannot be used as climbing aids and signposting to other site-specific measures.
- Increase in membership of Neighbourhood Watch and the various Essex Watch schemes.

4. Background and proposal

4.1. This funding will support the Crime Prevention Show Garden at 'RHS Hyde Hall - Summer Flower Show' between 4th and 7th August 2022: A joint partnership venture with the Royal Horticultural Society, Police Crime Prevention Initiatives and Secured by Design approved member companies to provide a practical demonstration of a safe and secure garden whilst being aesthetically pleasing. This will be the only show garden in the flower show.

4.2. The funding will be used to support the costs of (but not restricted to) the pitch site, landscape design, pre and post enabling works, infrastructure, labour costs, plants, and plant husbandry (i.e., looking after the plants while they are in quarantine to ensure that they do not spread disease), plant and site maintenance, supportive garden literature, and media campaigns (internally and external).

5. Alternative options considered and rejected

5.1. The PFCC could opt not to allocate this funding, but that would miss an opportunity to support a physical demonstration that may result in improved crime prevention measures being taken by Essex residents.

6. Police and Crime Plan

- 6.1. This funding aligns to multiple priorities in the plan, including investment in crime prevention, encouraging volunteers and community support, protecting rural and isolated areas, and preventing dog theft.

7. Police operational implications

- 7.1. This funding will support Essex Police's Designing Out Crime Team to undertake this project.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1. The PFCC will approve a one-off allocation of £12,000 from the 2021/22 PFCC Community Safety Fund.

9. Legal implications

- 9.1. This funding is subject to the PFCC's standard grant agreement conditions.

10. Staffing implications

- 10.1. There are no direct staffing implications of this decision.

11. Equality and Diversity implications

- 11.1. There are no direct equality and diversity implications of this decision.

12. Risks

- 12.1. No risks are anticipated.

13. Governance Boards

- 13.1. This proposal has not been presented to any formal governance boards.

14. Background documents

Defensive Planting and Landscape Project outline



Report Approval

The report will be signed off by the PFCC’s Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer prior to review and sign off by the PFCC / DPFC.

Chief Executive / M.O. Sign: 

Print: P. Brent-Isherwood

Date: 22 February 2022

Chief Finance Officer / Treasurer Sign: .....

Print: Julia Berry.....

Date: 22 February 2022.....

Publication

Is the report for publication? YES NO

If ‘NO’, please give reasons for non-publication (Where relevant, cite the security classification of the document(s). State ‘None’ if applicable)

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.....None.....

If the report is not for publication, the Chief Executive will decide if and how the public can be informed of the decision.

Redaction

If the report is for publication, is redaction required:

1. Of Decision Sheet? YES NO 2. Of Appendix? No

If ‘YES’, please provide details of required redaction:

N/A

Date redaction carried out:

Treasurer / Chief Executive Sign Off – for Redactions only

If redaction is required, the Treasurer or Chief Executive is to sign off that redaction has been completed.

Sign:


Print:

Chief Executive/Treasurer

Date signed:

Decision and Final Sign Off

I agree the recommendations to this report:

Sign: 

Print: Jane Gardner

Deputy PFCC

Date signed: 27 June 2022

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: