

# COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT – COUNCIL MEETING 11<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2012

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Community Safety portfolio includes policing in Uttlesford, the Community Safety Partnership, Licensing, Enforcement, Highways Panel and Highway Rangers. At a previous Council meeting, I reported to members about the work of Highway Panel and activities of the Highway Rangers, so for this report I will briefly update members on CSP (Community Safety Partnership) and Uttlesford policing.

## 2. COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

The Uttlesford CSP comprises the following agencies: Uttlesford District Council, Essex Police, Essex Fire & Rescue Service, and Essex Probation Service. The group is chaired on a rotating annual basis by the agencies and is currently being chaired by the Fire & Rescue Service.

The Partnership is part of the structure of community safety initiatives in the district, which include Neighbourhood Watch, Pub Watch and Farm Watch. It is funded by UDC, Essex Police and Essex Fire Service.

## 3. PARTNERSHIP PLAN

The Partnership Plan is being revised and slimmed down to demonstrate how the good work that is being undertaken is achieving the CSPs priorities, which are:

- Reducing anti-social behaviour.
- Increasing community confidence.
- Reducing violent crime (including domestic burglary).
- Reducing killed and seriously injured in road traffic accidents.
- Reduce the human, financial and environmental impact of fire.

## 4. COMMUNITY SAFETY 3 CORE PROJECTS

**Crucial Crew – Life skills.** Held every June each year, for all Year 6 (11 years old) pupils in Uttlesford. Covers theft and consequences of action, graffiti/ASB, bullying, danger of fire, danger of railways, road safety advice etc.

**Reality Roadshow – Awareness, Personal and Road Safety.**

Held in March each year for all Year 9 (13 years old) pupils in Uttlesford. Covers law and ASB, road safety advice, sexual health, dangers of smoking and how to stop, dangers of drugs and alcohol etc.

**Motorwise – Driving skills, awareness and the law.** Held in September every year for all Year 11 (16/17 years old) pupils in Uttlesford. Covers law quiz (choices/consequences), dangers of speed/alcohol/reckless driving, dangers of HGVs/turning circles/braking distances.

In addition to the above, it is planned to introduce a “Crucial Crew” for the elderly. There would be an input from Essex Police, giving advice re bogus callers and security, and from Essex Trading Standards, CAB, Papworth Trust, Mobility and from Essex Fire Service for potential hazards in the home.

## **5. UPDATE ON CCTV SCHEMES**

To support Essex Police, UDC will have invested circa £180,000 this financial year in providing new CCTV schemes, with cameras and recording equipment that will provide evidential quality images, night and day, to assist the police in the identification of those carrying out criminal acts and Anti-Social Behaviour.

New CCTV equipment has been installed in Great Dunmow and shortly in Saffron Walden, Stansted Mountfitchet and Felsted.

As part of the Quality Taxi Partnership scheme, CCTV has been installed in a number of taxis.

## **6. COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH**

There are eleven Community Speed Watch groups active in the district. Following the CSW events held outside Clavering and Little Hallingbury schools in March, three new CSW groups are to start up, plus interest from other towns/villages who have asked for information. Consideration is being given to setting up a Community Speed Watch in Great Chesterford.

## **7. WEST ESSEX CSP'S WORKING TOGETHER**

West Essex Night Time Economy meetings held in Harlow, and it is likely the group will re-brand itself as the Harlow NTE group. Consideration is to be given towards forming an Uttlesford/Braintree NTE group, or even a north Local Policing Area NTE group.

## **8. STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT**

Due to the introduction of the Police and Crime Commissioner, all CSPs in Essex have been reviewing how Strategic Assessments should be presented. It has been agreed that for 2013 onwards Strategic Assessments will be compiled by local policing areas (LPA) and Uttlesford is part of the North Local Policing Area. There will be three Strategic Assessments produced and one overarching county wide Essex assessment (an executive summary). It is hoped that it will be easier for the new PCC to use an overarching assessment, but to still have access to the 3 LPA S A's. All the CSP's within each of the 3 LPA will have a section in which they can detail their specific priorities, which are unique to their area etc.

## **9. NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING IN UTTLESFORD**

From April to October this year, Uttlesford has had a significant Anti-Social Behaviour reduction of 11.9%. There has been a 12.5% reduction (32 offences) in minor assaults and public order offences. This appears to reflect the increased emphasis on effective 'night time economy' patrols, especially in Saffron Walden, and targeting of repeat offenders within the community. Extra operations and targeted foot patrols during the recent Halloween and Bonfire night period reduced ASB reports to only two.

There has however been an increase of 18% (40 offences) in vehicle crime, with a significant number of these being catalytic thefts earlier in the year. Unfortunately, vehicle crime persists with much being the result of owners leaving doors unlocked.

Uttlesford Neighbourhood Policing Team has coped well with the changes imposed by 'Operation Blueprint' and budget cuts. However, they have found that the

supporting availability of the Response and Patrol teams, since it moved from Dunmow to Braintree, has been less than expected, as demand has drawn them away to 'busier' areas.

This is a situation that I will be carefully monitoring over the next few months.

This year's police target had aimed Uttlesford at third place behind Maldon and Rochford District Councils. However, Uttlesford's crime levels are currently significantly less than Rochford's, placing us in second place for now.

A very good result to end this report.