

Portfolio Report to Full Council
Cllr Alastair Walters – Community Safety

Emergency Planning, Crime Overview, ASB, LHP and Rangers

1) Emergency Planning

Flooding Issues:

Sandbags

Uttlesford has now delivered over 1000 sandbags to 20 parish councils. Parishes are aware this is not a continuous stream of funding and as a one off project was designed to give those who requested a supply, a head start for this winter. All parishes were contacted several times.

2) Community Engagement

Resilience Roadshow

This is designed to engage with the public to raise awareness of community, family and individual resilience. Also to promote the shared partnership and allow networking for all services and voluntary groups that may only come together in an emergency otherwise. Being so successful this year in Saffron Walden and being a county wide project, the roadshow will be making an appearance in Brentwood next year and to a format designed by Lisa Lipscombe, UDC Emergency Planning Officer, and a Fire Officer from ECFRS.

Parish Council workshops

Focus is on local risk assessment, plan writing and to encourage a better understanding of community resilience and localised emergency planning.

They are multi-agency and include Essex Fire, Environment Agency, Essex Police, voluntary sector, district colleagues and Essex County Flood Protection Team.

3) Essex Police Update

Restructure

The police structure has changed in terms of Neighbourhood Policing. Details were provided by Essex Police at recent Area Community Forums. In summary there are more officers working across Uttlesford, but their management will now come under one senior officer each shift.

Crime Figures for Uttlesford District for 1st April - 19th September 2014 v 2013.

Total crimes recorded 1220 for Uttlesford District, 94 offences (7%) reduction over same period in 2013

Burglary Dwelling	48% reduction	-52 less offences
Burglary Other	20% reduction	-48 less offences
Theft from M/V	37% reduction	-59 less offences
Theft of M/V	36% reduction	-15 less offences
Theft Other	11% reduction	-19 less offences

Town Link Radio Scheme

This new initiative went 'live' on 22nd August and provides better communication for reduction of crime within the town centre. The scheme will allow users to communicate amongst themselves and provide reassurance to members of the public dealing with welfare matters.

Domestic Violence

Response Times for Uttlesford for period 1st April - 19th September 2014

Rural emergency (arrival within 20 minutes of despatch) -450 calls 79% achievement
Priority (arrival one hour) -1441 calls 69% achievement

Of the Rural Emergency calls 98 were call headed as domestic abuse
Of the Priority calls 203 were call headed as domestic abuse

4) **Anti Social Behaviour**

Incidents of ASB in the District have dropped. Most of the issues UDC is dealing with are neighbour nuisance, and boundary disputes.

Recent ASB Incident

ASB issue within the Saffron Walden castle grounds, well publicised recently in local media, concerning noise, underage drinking and very offensive graffiti on new picnic tables put in for the enjoyment of visitors. This was caused by a handful of young people. Partnership approach by local police and UDC ASB co-ordinator resulted in arrests and parents informed.

New ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014

New legislation will come into effect this month.

The legislation has been updated to give more of a victim focus response to ASB. One of the tools available to residents will be the Community Trigger (Essex ASB Review). This provides victims and communities with the right to require action is taken when ongoing ASB has not been addressed ensuring victims are not 'forgotten'.

5) **Local Highway Panel and Rangers**

The LHP is responsible for considering and prioritising a variety of small highway schemes requested by towns and parishes in Uttlesford. It also has the responsibility of organising and administering the Highway Rangers, it is funded by Essex Highways.

LHP schemes

During the 2014-15 financial year the budget allocated was £472,041, the same as the previous year. The following is a breakdown by description of the work recommended by the LHP to be carried out:

- 4 Safety Schemes consisting of signage and lining, and designs for safety improvements. These are statistics lead.
- 4 Passenger Transport schemes consisting of raised kerbs to allow passengers to disembark from buses safely, new bus shelters, dropped kerbs for pedestrians crossing the road.
- 6 Public Right of Way schemes - improvement in surfaces with 3 PROWs in Uttlesford included in long awaited winter closure trial.
- 15 Traffic management schemes including installation of VAS signs, road realignment, feasibility study and design, mini roundabout (Hatfield Heath)

The budget for 2014/2015 has been fully allocated. Full details of schemes and location contained in LHP agenda and reports.

Highway Rangers

The Rangers are working very effectively completing the requests received from the Parishes, undertaking jobs which might not previously have been considered a priority by Essex Highways.

In addition to the specific requests received, the Rangers are very proactive in identifying works which require attention.

The complexity of some of the requests means that some works take substantially longer, however prudent investment in equipment has helped to increase the efficiency of the turnaround of jobs.

Breakdown of type of work carried out;

Vegetation	76%	Footpaths	2%
Sign cleaning	2%	Weed clearance	2%
Painting	7%	Adhoc	11%