

**EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
NOTES OF A MEETING OF NEIGHBOURHOODS AND COMMUNITIES SELECT
COMMITTEE
HELD ON TUESDAY, 19 JANUARY 2016
IN COMMITTEE ROOM 1, CIVIC OFFICES, HIGH STREET, EPPING
AT 7.30 - 10.09 PM**

Members Present: M Sartin (Chairman), H Brady (Vice-Chairman), N Avey, L Hughes, R Jennings, L Mead, S Neville, A Patel and B Surtees

Other members present: R Bassett, G Waller and J H Whitehouse

Apologies for Absence: R Gadsby

Officers Present D Macnab (Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Neighbourhoods), K Bean (Planning Policy Manager), K Durrani (Assistant Director (Technical Services)), P Gardener (Communities Safety Officer), A Petty (CCTV Operations Manager), K Stalabrass (West Local Policing Area Partnership Analyst), J Warwick (Assistant Community Health & Wellbeing Manager), C Wiggins (Safer Communities Manager) and A Hendry (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

39. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (COUNCIL MINUTE 39 - 23.7.02)

It was noted that there were no substitute members for this meeting.

40. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The notes of the meetings held on 17 November 2015 and 17 December 2015 were agreed.

41. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made pursuant to the Members Code of Conduct.

42. TERMS OF REFERENCE AND WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee noted their Terms of Reference and Work Programme.

43. PICK FORM FROM COUNCILLOR NEVILLE

The Committee welcomed David Sprunt, from the Essex Transportation Strategy and Engagement, Economic Growth; and Vicky Duff, the Essex Network Management Group Manager. They were there to enlighten the committee on those facts and policies used by Essex County Council and the guidance issued by the Department of Transport on road speeds, especially relating to the implementation of 20mph limits. A copy of their presentation are attached to these minutes.

The Committee noted that:

- That Essex CC had a Speed Management Strategy advised by the Department of Transport circular 01/2013;

- It had been established by research that 20mph speed limits generally only led to small reductions in traffic speeds – as established at Portsmouth;
- The latest advice was that a mix of 20mph limits and 20mph zones would be better, providing that the signing was correct;
- The objective would be that ‘any 20mph restrictions should be self-enforcing’;
- Any 20mph limit of zone would require a Speed Limit Order, which had to be consulted on;
- The current policy allowed for the consideration of 20mph limits on local roads if the mean speeds were between 24 and 29mph, only then would the Cabinet Member consider putting in a 20mph restriction;
- At the beginning of the limits there would have to be clear signage and also at the end of the restrictions. There would also have to be repeater signs along the route;
- 20mph zones had traffic calming measures e.g. speed humps, chicanes etc. these zones applied not just to one road but to whole areas, such as estates;
- It was noted that generally people did not like them and the low speeds over traffic calming measures also produced more noise for residents;
- The most effective method for reducing speed was the use of chicanes, but it needed some major engineering work to put them in;
- 20mph signs could be used a calming feature but they would not physically reduce the speeds;
- The county also has a “20’s plenty” scheme used mainly outside schools, but very little reductions in speeds were achieved;
- This scheme was also trying to affect the children’s behaviour as well as their parents;
- Advisory speed limit signs could be also be used outside schools, they were not mandatory and thus no speed limit order was required;
- Before a scheme was put into place, information was required in the form of speed surveys, traffic surveys and collision data;
- It was noted that a lot of areas in Essex did not have high collision rates for Children and pedestrians;
- Repeat signage in an area tended to create clutter on those roads;
- Essex police did not have the resources to enforce these areas.

The meeting was then opened out to questions from the members.

Councillor Neville thanked the officers for attending the meeting. He asked why Essex had opted for at first having mean speeds of between 24 to 29mph before they would consider putting in a 20mph limit, as the Department of Transport note for guidance did not stipulate this. Ms Duff replied that the guidance mentioned small reductions in traffic speeds if below 24mph would lead to general compliance. If you did not have compliance from the public then the police would have a lot of enforcing work to do. If speed limits were put in arbitrarily then you would be asking for a major cultural shift, equivalent to the one for the use of seat belts and for drinking and driving. The police would not be able to enforce this change. Essex CC cabinet members were happy to put in 20mph limits where the average speed was less than 24mph, on the understanding that the police could not enforce it.

Councillor Neville said that there was evidence that the average speed in Portsmouth went down by as much as 6 or 7mph, how could that fit into our network in Essex. Ms Duff said that Essex had a road hierarchy, from Motorways, to ‘A’ roads and primary routes networks – these PR1 routes were primarily about moving traffic; the PR2 network was primarily about moving traffic unless it went into a local settlement. Only

local roads could be considered for speed reductions and only if their mean speed was 24mph or below.

Councillor Surtees noted that the 20mph zones in Harlow were effective and so were the use of advisory signs. How much of this reduction was down to making drivers aware of the limits. Ms Duff replied that advisory signs could be considered for some PR2 routes.

Councillor Waller noted that the ability to change speed limits without reference to the government was a relatively recent innovation. This seems to be the default limit in most urban areas, but widely ignored when introduced in some London Boroughs, especially when applied to main roads. The Essex policy was a sensible one. Where average speeds were 30mph plus, a new limit would not reduce this and would encourage contempt for speed limits in general. The police tended to ignore the enforcement in London as it was resource intensive. Also, cars in low gear tended to create more pollution. Speed limits should only be introduced in circumstances where they can be justified.

Mr Sprunt agreed that compliance had always been an issue. If the limit was not reasonable for the road then it would get ignored. It would also put additional burdens on the highway authorities and the police. Traffic calming measures were not liked because of their impact on the cars and also how it affected some people with disabilities. If the limits were introduced across the district it would encourage people to ignore the limits and bring it into disrepute.

Councillor Patel commented that the submitted PICK form said that implementation by other authorities costed around £3 per head. How much would it cost in Essex? Ms Duff said that the scheme in Portsmouth costed over £450,000 and the police thought another £500,000 in signage and the maintenance of the signs. In some places they were struggling to get drivers down to 30mph. There was a need to identify the appropriate areas for this. Portsmouth was for the majority a residential area, it was a major project and the resulting average drop in speed across the whole network was just 1mph. Spending needed to be targeted better to achieve better results.

Councillor Brady asked if there were a lot of towns in Essex to have 20mph zones. She was told that Harlow was one of the first to have it. There were some individual roads in Loughton. They had tried it on some rural roads in Brentwood, but it had not really worked. It was noted that people in modern cars were very isolated from the conditions outside. Speed humps were designed to be taken at 15mph but modern cars could take them faster. Councillor Brady replied that she had seen them slow down cars in her ward, they did help. She was most concerned about the traffic outside schools; in her area cars tended to be parked on both sides. She noted that in some countries 20mph was mandatory outside schools, could this be done here. Ms Duff said they could do this but it was most likely that the traffic was moving more slowly than 20mph. They were also loath to put in parking restrictions as parked cars tended to slow down traffic. This was why traffic surveys were needed for each area to identify problems.

Councillor Sartin asked if County Highways had any money to carry out any of these schemes. Mr Sprunt said that the Local Highways Panel now have the money.

Councillor Sartin noted that some country roads have 40mph limits for short distances, why was that? Mr Sprunt said he suspected that they were put in before the Local Highways Panel was set up. Ms Duff added that they would have to have a

speed regulation order; this would have to be agreed by the Police who would have to say if they could enforce it.

Councillor Sartin thanked the County Officers for their presentation and information on the background to putting in a 20mph limit for the district. There was enough information to take to the parent Committee.

44. AREA CRIME ANALYST

The Chairman welcomed Caroline Wiggins the Safer Communities Manager and Kim Stalabrass, the West Local Policing Area Partnership Analyst, who gave a short presentation on the local crime and disorder figures up to and including November 2015, via the Home Office system, 'iQuanta'. This system provided data for a 3 year span. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes for information.

The Committee noted that:

- All Crime was up by 14% (630 cases) in comparison to previous years figures to date;
- On a month by month total – in December 2012 there were 591 cases compared to November 2015 with 642 cases, an increase of 7.9% (51 cases) over 3 years;
- Epping Forest was 8th within Essex – that is 5.9% below the county average;
- That equated to 56.835 reported incidents against a county average of 60.421 incidents;
- Against other similar authorities we had similar figures to Maidstone, who the ONS identified as a match to Epping. Our figures were 56.835 crimes to Maidstone's 56.588 crimes;
- Broxbourne was a border council similar to us with similar proximity to London and transport links and had 62.278 crimes and Watford (with 72.614 crimes) had similar tube and Motorway links;
- The figures for violence against the person showed a 27% (246) increase in Epping Forest in comparison to the previous year;
- The November 2015 total was 50% higher than December 2012. However, this may be due to the change in the way these crimes were recorded;
- Epping was 17% below the Essex average;
- In comparison with other similar authorities, the figures for the year ending November 2015, Epping had 1690, Maidstone 2690, Watford 1704 and Broxbourne 1449;

Councillor Neville asked if there were new categories for violence against the person and was told that new communications and IT categories had been added.

Ms Stalabrass continued:

- Burglary of dwellings was up by 15% in comparison to the previous year. This increase was partly identified as people coming from Eastern Europe flying into Stanstead committing burglaries and then flying straight out.

Councillor Janet Whitehouse asked just how seriously did the police take this and did they catch anyone? She was told that they have known hot spots and have had some successes. The problem with Epping Forest was that the criminals were transient and we had good transport links.

Councillor Avey postulated that a lot of crime was not reported such as small burglaries and minor assaults. Mr Gardener, the Communities Safety Officer added that burglary was a disturbing crime and the police would always investigate as it one of the key priorities in our area. Police worked on intelligence nowadays and were targeting the 20% that was the cause of 80% of crime, and were quite successful in this area. Councillor Patel commented that maybe we could have a comparison on how much police resources were put in different areas.

Ms Stalabrax continued with her presentation, noting that:

- Within the county Epping was 33% above the Essex average;
- However this quarter had dropped in comparison to the previous quarter;
- The data on Anti-Social behaviour was extracted from a different incident recording system called 'Storm';
- Following a peak in October ASB incidents had fallen by a third in December;
- By locality, Loughton remained the highest, with 263 ASB incidents, followed by Waltham Abbey (176) and Epping (139).

Councillor Jennings noted that with Loughton being an area of high population it would have the highest number of incidents.

Ms Stalabrax continued:

- The different types of ASB was broken down into 15 categories;
- ASB incidents are at their peak between 00.00 and 03.59 between Saturday night and Sunday morning – this data was relabelled as Saturday incidents to potentially highlight NTE incidents;
- Data on Domestic Violence was taken from the Essex Police 'Athena' data system and was from Oct-Dec 2015;
- The number of incidents during the months of October and November remained level, but December saw a 22.7% rise;
- The top ward for reported Domestic Violence in our district was Waltham Abbey South with 41 incidents;
- The incidents are ranked by level of risk; the majority were ranked as medium. High risk cases get dealt with robustly;
- And it seems that Domestic Violence was more prevalent on Saturdays to Tuesdays. However, there was just a 27% variance across the days of the week.

The Chairman thanked Ms Stalabrax and Ms Wiggins for their useful and informative presentation.

45. CCTV ACTION PLAN

Caroline Wiggins, the Safer Communities Manager, introduced the EFDC CCTV strategy for 2016-2022, noting that this report had recently gone to the Cabinet for their information and agreement. She was accompanied by Adrian Petty, the CCTV Operations Officer.

The Committee noted that the strategy covered the period from 2015 to 2022, following on from the previous strategy that was produced in 2008, when the Community Safety Team took over the responsibility for the Council's CCTV provision as part of the Safer, Cleaner Greener Review.

The Strategy set out the Council's current CCTV provision, detailing respective locations, numbers of cameras, condition and costs for maintenance, and repair and

replacements over the next seven years, along with recommendations for de-commissioning of equipment. It also provided an overview of the benefits that were realised for the local communities in which it was installed and the various use made of CCTV footage by the Police and insurance companies.

The Council's success in the use of CCTV had generated ongoing demands from Directorates to install new CCTV equipment within key areas of the district and the point has now been reached where an increased budget was required, to meet the costs of replacing old equipment and the increased servicing and maintenance costs, which was also covered by the Strategy.

In July 2014 the Code of Practice (CoP) for CCTV operated by EFDC was reviewed and changes were made to reflect the new national Code released in 2013. Further to this, in 2015, a separate Code for the use of Rapid Deployment CCTV was written and was due to be incorporated into the general CCTV CoP.

Councillor Surtees noted that the requirements for CCTV signage were not as clear as they could be in places around the district. Mr Petty replied that everywhere there were CCTV cameras should be properly signed. However, they did not want to overpopulate an area with signage. In some areas they put larger signs in key areas. They acted as deterrents on their own. If you could suggest where signs are needed we could put them up. Most are of A4 size.

Councillor Patel noted that there were always technical changes in CCTV cameras and something purchased now will be quickly outdated; could we consider a rental option. Mr Petty agreed that technology did not stand still. Some areas have a thing called stockpiling, that is, a rental agreement with companies for equipment that costs a lot of money. We do not think that this was for us. We have a 7 year use of our equipment and have operating systems that can use old and new technologies at once. Councillor Bassett asked if all our systems were of evidential level. He was told that they were.

Councillor Bassett then asked if we held a list of what equipment all Town and Parish Councils have. Mr Petty said that he knew what Waltham Abbey and Nazeing had, but not what the others had. Essex Police would like a map of where all our cameras were, and he could put this together if the other local councils let him know what they have. Councillor Bassett advised that he should email all the Parish and Town Clerks and they would send you the information you want. Mr Petty agreed that this was something he could do and make up a map for ourselves and the Police.

Mr Petty then gave the Committee some updated information for the period up to January 2016. He noted that there were 40 more requests for footage in 2015 than in the previous year; that 60% of the requests were from the Loughton area; they had completed the new project in Springfields, Waltham Abbey and at Shelley Close, Ongar; the Museum installation was now complete; and there were four other main projects yet to be done for this year.

Councillor Patel wondered about the monitoring of cameras to find out if they were still working. He was told that they were all remotely accessed and they accessed each camera every day. There was also a programme of site visits for the smaller sites. A camera will never be out of action for any extended period of time; they have two companies that do the maintenance work for them and it would normally take 2 to 3 days to get to and repair equipment.

The Chairman thanked Mr Petty and Ms Wiggins for their detailed report and update of the CCTV systems.

46. LOCAL POLICING PROPOSALS

Caroline Wiggins, the Safer Communities Manager, introduced the report on the recently proposed Policing cuts and their implications on the Council's Community Safety Service.

This originated from November 2015, when the PCC, Nick Alston and the Chief Constable of Essex Police announced proposals to make significant changes to local Policing across Essex, in a move to ensure that Essex Police was fit for purpose, in the future.

This report was aimed at starting a discussion with members on the implications of the reduction in police resources and the impact it would have on the Council's Community Safety service.

The PCC and Chief Constable announced the funding challenges facing Essex Police over the next four years, which would see a reduction of £63 million in the Police budget by 2019/20. This was presented as the driver for making changes to the way that Essex Police operates in future and the need to significantly reduce community policing as from April 2016.

The Safer Communities Officer, Paul Gardener, added that the problem council officers faced were that they were best guessing what was going to happen in the district. They were looking at potential reductions in policing, such as triaging calls into High, Medium or Low risks and then only reacting high risk cases and fielding the other calls to other relevant authorities. He was mindful that the Council would pick up more work and there would be more disgruntled members of the public not having the Police act on their problems.

Anti-social Behaviour powers were given to us by the Government and they would use them. But it would raise the officer's workload, especially as the Police would not act. This may also result in more problems at the reception desks from disgruntled members of the public. Therefore, it was likely that customer facing staff would need additional training as more diverse enquiries were received from the public.

The Council only had two ASB officers to deal with the Epping Forest District. They were seeing a rise in cases from 192 to 331 cases. The public would make their feelings known to Members who will then let the officers know, increasing their caseload as they try and resolve complaints on behalf of Members and this would be very time consuming.

Ms Wiggins added that officers needed to know what Members wanted to take as priorities in referred cases. They needed to know how to balance their resources.

Councillor Sartin said that it may be useful if members could have a training course on this. Ms Wiggins replied that until the plans were made know in April, they needed guidance on how Members would like officers to handle this.

Councillor Surtees noted that all the problems seemed to be coming our way as a local authority. For example, the PSOs provided good intelligence but they were now

getting rid of them. Ms Wiggins added that they were also looking to the voluntary sector to pick up some of the slack. The Police would not have a customer facing counter in our area. We were looking to provide an office for them to share with us.

Councillor Sartin noted that a training session may come out of this as we were just beginning to get to grips the implications. This was just a start.

Councillor Patel suggested that the Town and Parish Clerks be used if they could be trained.

Councillor Brady noted that if a lot of people did not use Police Stations, why should we get a lot coming to us. Ms Wiggins said that they had about 6 people an hour attend police stations. They are now asked to use the Police website to report incidents (see attached information sheet).

RESOLVED:

That the Committee noted the implications of the recently proposed Policing Cuts and the resulting possible implications to the Council's Community Safety Service.

47. REALITY ROADSHOW 2015

The Assistant Community Health and Wellbeing Manager, James Warwick, introduced the report on the Reality Roadshow initiative.

Building on the long-standing success of Crucial Crew, the Reality Roadshow initiative was a personal safety and health & well-being event that brought together a host of statutory and voluntary agencies, to deliver a day of educational workshops to Year 9 (14 year old) pupils at school in the district. It was specifically tailored to address young people's issues that have been identified as a priority concern locally. It provides over 1100 pupils in the district with expert advice and guidance on making the right choices in life for good health and well being.

The day starts with an interactive drama production delivered by the Arc Theatre Company which tackles the high level priority of child sexual exploitation (CSE) and the law around producing and distributing indecent images of people under the age of consent. This bespoke production had been developed specifically for Epping Forest Reality Roadshow in line with emerging concerns and trends reported by schools in the area. The production explored issues relating to teenage relationships and online safety. Pupils then rotate through five, classroom based workshops which were approximately 40 minutes in duration. The event culminates in a presentation to the whole school, by an ex-offender with real life experiences of the issues explored during the day.

Pupils participated in either 5 or 6 workshops depending on individual school timetables and each session was specifically designed to address current issues facing local young people. The workshops delivered in 2015/16 were:

- The Consequences of Crime – delivered by Essex Magistrates
- Online Internet Safety – EFDC's Community Health and Well-being Team
- Sexual Health - NHS Sexual Health Services
- Legal Highs and Substance Misuse - Alcohol & Drugs Advisory Service (ADAS)

- Alcohol Awareness - AlcoHELP
- Healthy Relationships and Domestic Abuse - Safer Places

The impact of the Reality Roadshow programme on participants was generally very significant, as the messages given are very clear and designed to show the worse case scenarios of being involved in negative behaviours. The programme also promoted the opportunity for young people to make changes in their lives and to receive support and advice from the various agencies available locally.

- Pupils were equipped with current and appropriate information and able to make informed choices;
- Pupils had the opportunity to hear and learn from the real life stories of recovering addicts and ex-offenders;
- Pupils were able to ask for help and support about issues they may encounter;
- Pupils were signposted to agencies that could offer further support, and how to access this;
- The web links provided were uploaded onto the pupil pages of the school's website, thereby enabling anonymous access to information covering the support services available.

In addition to benefiting the pupils directly, Reality Roadshow also indirectly benefited parents and carers, through empowering the young people to be able to make the right choices in life regarding relationships, alcohol, substances and so on; their home life was therefore likely to improve, as well as their educational attainment and life chances.

Councillor Sartin asked if this initiative was for independent schools. She was told that it was not at present, but she hoped to include them in the future.

Councillor Patel voiced his frustration that it was only offered to one age group; it should be offered to different age groups and targeted to that age group. Councillor Sartin said that the younger children had the Crucial Crew day, which was the first stage for year 6 pupils.

Councillor Mead asked if parents were involved in the roadshow and was told that they were not.

Councillor Surtees said that it was a shame they could not start this at a younger age as they would be susceptible to changing their mind-set. Mr Warwick said that they had looked into this but it was a matter of fitting it into the school timetables.

Councillor Bassett said that as it was not open to parents could a note be given to the children to give to their parents informing them as to where they could go to get help if needed. Mr Warwick replied that they signposted them to the various agencies, but could go further and give each child some information for their parents. Councillor Surtees added that parents also needed to know what information was being given to their children as it would be helpful to them.

The Chairman thanked Mr Warwick for his interesting report on the success of the roadshow.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee noted the success of the Reality Roadshow initiative and the positive impact it had upon young people in the Epping Forest District.

48. RESPONSE TO DCLG TECHNICAL CONSULTATION ON THE NPP

Mr Ken Bean, the Planning Policy Manager introduced the report on the response to the proposed changes to the national planning policy consultation. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published in 2012 and was supported by the online Planning Practice Guidance. Amendments are now proposed to the NPPF which encompassed the following:

- Broadening the definition of affordable housing, to expand the range of low cost housing opportunities for those aspiring to own their new home (this includes the Government's intention to introduce Starter Homes as a type of low cost home ownership);
- Increasing the density of development around commuter hubs, to make more efficient use of land in suitable locations;
- Supporting sustainable new settlements, development on brownfield land and small sites (up to 10 units), and delivery of housing allocated in plans; and
- Supporting delivery of starter homes.

The consultation period, which commenced on 7 December, had now been extended to 22 February 2016. There were nine sections contained with the consultation paper and 23 questions on which answers were sought. A discussion of the issues raised in response to the proposed changes in the NPPF in accordance with the questions posed was put in the appendix to the report for consideration.

Mr Bean commented that if members had comments on the proposed answers drafted by officers to the CLG consultation then they could report them to him by 29 January. These would then be considered prior to sending the final version of EFDC's response that Councillor Bassett, as the Portfolio Holder responsible for planning policy, would sign off in time to meet the extended DCLG deadline.

Mr Bean added that the Housing and Planning Bill was now going through Parliament, the devil would be in the detail which he anticipated coming forward fairly soon in the form of draft regulations. In relation to the current NPPF consultation the key was the changes proposed to the affordable housing definition through introduction of starter homes for first time buyers aged below 40 and exactly how this would be implemented. Also, Epping Forest District bordered four London Boroughs (Enfield, Redbridge, Havering and Waltham Forest). There was very real concern that the disparity between the Starter Homes property value limit in London Boroughs (£450,000) compared with Districts immediately outside of London such as Epping Forest (£250,000), very few property types and areas within Epping Forest District were likely to qualify and where they did could lead to demand for properties from people currently in residence outside of the District. At present it was not clear what the mechanism for registering an interest in purchasing a Starter Home would be, or how this would be managed.

Councillor Brady expressed her concerns about Brownfield sites in the Green Belt and if they could be developed. Mr Bean replied that responding to the current NPPF consultation was the Council's opportunity to put our views on this to the government. He also noted that in relation to Starter Homes there was no requirement for S106 agreements and therefore questioned how supporting infrastructure was likely to be funded / provided, particularly in Green Belt locations which by definition were likely to be in more remote and therefore less sustainable locations with limited existing provision.

Councillor Sartin said that with the extended time to reply, Members could look at it in more detail and give a considered response to Mr Bean and his team by 29 January.

Councillor Surtees wondered if we could join up with other authorities and give a joint co-ordinated response. Councillor Bassett replied that the problem was that we only got 6 weeks to respond and would not be able to co-ordinate our response in that time. We do let other authorities know what we would say and so could follow our lead.

Mr Macnab said that this could also be put into the Council Bulletin for wider consultation.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the proposed responses to the questions set in the Government's consultation paper on changes to the National Planning Policy be considered; and
- (2) That any considered addition to the responses be sent to either Mr K Bean or Councillor Bassett by 29 January 2016.

49. LOCAL PLAN UPDATE

The Committee next considered the regular update on the current position of the Local Plan. They noted that:

- A set of member workshops were being held to get the views of Members on the draft Local plan;
- District, Town and Parish Council representatives have already attend the workshops that have been held;
- Work continued on finalising the evidence base reports which will be used to inform the policies included in the Draft Plan Preferred Approach;
- Government guidance and emerging Inspectors' reports make clear the need to undertake a comprehensive Green Belt Review of the entire District before the release of any Green Belt land is considered;
- Stage 2 of the Green Belt review has now commenced;
- The Council was also undertaking a settlement capacity analysis of the 10 largest settlements in the District, namely Epping, Theydon Bois, Buckhurst Hill, Chigwell, Loughton/Debden, Waltham Abbey, North Weald Bassett, Chipping Ongar, Lower Nazeing and Roydon. The purpose of the work was to ensure that the District can address as much of its housing requirement as possible within our existing settlements, and so minimise the potential need to utilise Green Belt land for development;
- Further transport modelling work is being undertaken by Essex County Council. This will look at the implications for the transport network of growth and how it can be distributed across the Housing Market Area. The outputs

will then be considered by the districts and jointly by the four authorities at the Cooperation for Sustainable Development Board; and

- Officers have also been involved in transport work being undertaken by the London Borough of Enfield and continue to keep a watching brief on wider transport work being undertaken as part of Enfield's Northern Gateway Access Package (NGAP);
- A set of member workshops each covering different topics / policy areas were being held to get the views of Members on the draft Local Plan.

Councillor Sartin asked when the stage 2 study of the greenbelt would be ready. She was told that the appointed consultants officers were presently undertaking the necessary fieldwork and analysis and that it was hoped that a draft final report would be produced by the end of March.

Councillor Surtees asked if we were on track for a draft Local Plan this year. Councillor Bassett said that they were but added that the council was also still waiting for the completion of information and evidence outside of our direct control, for instance from the ECC on transport. Members were being asked to attend the current programme of workshops to give their views.

RESOLVED:

That the progress report on the Local Plan be noted.

50. FOLLOW UP TO THE WASTE REVIEW MEETING

The Director of Neighbourhoods, Derek Macnab introduced his report on the recent meeting reviewing waste and recycling collection arrangements. This was a special meeting of this committee dedicated to this one subject, held on 17 December 2015 and was open to the public and members to put their questions to members of the Biffa management team and relevant council officers.

In order to ensure that the review focused on the main issues that Members wished to explore, this Committee in September 2015 established the scope of the review and how the meeting will be practically undertaken. As a result, it was agreed that the review would be undertaken in 4 parts, covering the following issues:

- 1) The procurement Process;
- 2) Mobilisation and first 6 months of Contract;
- 3) The revised arrangements from 12 May 2015.

Part four of the review was to reach a set of conclusions around what could have been done better and to recommend any key considerations with respect to how the Council could improve procurement and implementation of any future major service contracts. The report sought to reflect on the discussion that took place at that meeting in order to fulfil that requirement.

Following the review officers have reviewed the meeting and have noted the following key learning points:

Part One - Procurement:

- Competitive Dialogue proved to be an effective means of procuring the new Waste Contract, from both the Client and Contractors perspective.

- Although the Members interview only scored 10% of the quality scores, and on this occasion did not materially affect the final award, it was considered that Member Interviews are still beneficial for future service contracts.
- The role that cross-party Portfolio Holder Advisory Groups play in shaping service contracts was recognised as a positive.
- With contracts which involve major service changes, the costs to the Council should not be underestimated in terms of advising residents etc. The £50,000 on the Waste Contract was in hindsight, too small.

Part Two – Mobilisation and First Six Months:

- Overall the Waste and Recycling Contract mobilisation went well, with service quality maintained over the period November 2014 to May 2015.
- Although TUPE Arrangements were satisfactorily completed for staff transferring from SITA to BIFFA, there were some concerns highlighted regarding communication with staff despite Biffa's best endeavours.
- The innovation forum established between client officers and contractor, proved useful in addressing service issues and identifying areas for improvement, this should be encouraged as good practice.
- The original start date for the change to 4-day collection was not achieved, due to delays in vehicle acquisition and transfer of depots. However, the revised date of 12 May was still in retrospect too early.
- The number and type of informal arrangements that exist between householders and collection crews should not be underestimated and should be specifically addressed in terms of debriefing at end of contract periods.
- Whilst it was felt that the problems encountered around the change to 4-day collection were not simply attributable to the prior notification information provided, it was felt that the letter to all residents could have been clearer.
- The information contained on the Council's Website was helpful, particularly the tool which converted postcodes into revised day collection arrangements.

Part 3 – Introduction of Revised Arrangements:

- Start date for change to 4-day collection too optimistic in as much as new fleet was only delivered days before implementation, preventing crew familiarity and ability to address technical failures.
- A phased approach was not adopted and had not been elsewhere, to the best knowledge of consultants and contractor. However, should not be ruled out in future contracts, certainly there would have been value in test rounds with the new fleet.
- The new IT system would have benefited from earlier implementation and a longer period of testing. The round information from the start of revised

collections was inaccurate, leading to whole streets being missed. Lack of integration with client system also a major problem.

- Biffa lost 20% of the workforce that transferred from Sita, the outgoing contractor. This was a loss of valuable local knowledge which should have been captured in some way. Changing staff onto rounds in areas that they were not familiar with and an initial reluctance to utilise knowledge of waste client officers, compounded the problem.
- Some of the fleet purchased was not fit for purpose e.g. Street Sweepers that could not deal with rural road network. In future, demonstration vehicles may prevent re-occurrence.
- A need to utilise agency staff to cover additional rounds and cover vacancies, delayed the stabilisation of the contract. Whilst tender evaluation demonstrated that adequate resources were to be employed, did not take into consideration the effect of staff turnover. Issue to be explored in future contracts.

As a general conclusion it would appear that a number of the problems encountered by Biffa when introducing the revised 4-day collection arrangements, could have been avoided with additional time, e.g. to improve staff training and familiarisation with new vehicles and IT, to test drive new routes more thoroughly, to retain and utilise local knowledge of existing staff, to fully run in new fleet and to have operated longer from new depot locations, before the service change.

Councillor Surtees noted that Biffa were now relying on additional plant, which suggested they did not have enough equipment in the first place. Mr Macnab noted that was a fair comment and the Partnership Board would be discussing this with Biffa.

Councillor Janet Whitehouse commented that a lot of black bins seemed to have side waste next to them. Mr Durrani replied that it was still the Council's policy that they did not collect side waste, but, because of the problems we had, they are now accepting more side waste to normalise the collections. They have now almost got the problems with assisted collection down to zero and were concentrating on this for now.

The Committee agreed to put this report up to the main Overview and Scrutiny Committee before it went on to Cabinet.

RESOLVED:

That the outcome of the Review of the Council's Waste and Recycling Collection Arrangements be agreed and a report sent to Overview and Scrutiny Committee informing them of the key findings.

51. REPORTS TO BE MADE TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Committee thought that a short report back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be given on the items covered at this meeting, especially a report on the Waste Review meeting.

52. FUTURE MEETINGS

The meeting noted the future meeting dates for this Committee.

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Highways | Department

20 MPH Policy Guidelines

Vicky Duff Network Management Group Manager
19th January 2016

Page 17



Contents

- **Essex Policy on 20's**
- **Types of 20's**
- **Advisory non enforceable 20's**
- **Information required**

Fact and ECC Policy

- Essex County Council Speed Management Strategy
- Department for Transport Circular 01/2013
- Research into signed only 20mph limits shows that they generally lead to only small reductions in traffic Speeds. (DfT circular 01/2013) Portsmouth.
- Can mix and match 20mph by limit and 20mph by Zone PROVIDING the signing is correct.
- Essex Cabinet Member has confirmed that the objective is that “any 20mph restriction should be self-enforcing” (letter to all members May 2013)



20 MPH Limit



- The current policy allows for the consideration of 20mph limits on local roads if mean speeds are below 29 mph*
- **20MPH Speed Limits may be considered on PR2 routes with the agreement of the Traffic Manager and Cabinet Member**
- Physical Traffic calming measures will not be installed as part of a 20 mph Limit.
- DfT guidance Signed only 20mph speed limits are most appropriate for areas where vehicles speeds are already low with mean speeds at or below 24 mph
- Terminal and repeater signs are required.

20mph Zones



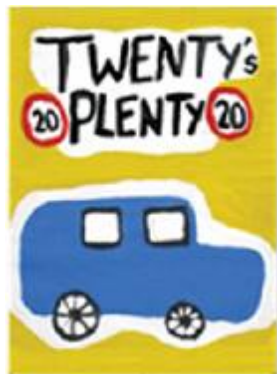
- 20 MPH Zones very effective at reducing collisions and injury
- 20MPH Zones require traffic calming e.g. speed humps, chicanes
- Recommended by DfT that they are applied over an area consisting of several roads
- Identified by a 20 MPH Zone Entry and Exit Sign
- **No point within the Zone must be further than 50 metres from a Traffic Calming Feature.**



+



20's Plenty



- Signs look as though they were designed by children and not official or mandatory.
- We need proper 20 mph signs.
- 20's Plenty should be law.

Conclusion most effective when engaging with Road Safety Officers and the children to produce a learning experience. Cost £2,000 a school (RS not factored in)

Advisory 20 mph Signs



Page 25

No Speed Limit Order Required

Advisory only non enforceable

MUST NOT OPERATE OUTSIDE SCHOOL TERM TIMES

Information

- **What is the issue/Problem**
- **Speed**
 - What surveys have been taken
- **Collisions**
 - Collision Data
 - Causation factors
- **Clutter**
 - Repeater signs

Thank You

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Crime - EFDC

Kim Stalabrass
West LPA Partnership Analyst

Figures for All Crime, Violence Against the Person & Burglary – Dwelling are taken from the Home Office system iQuanta.

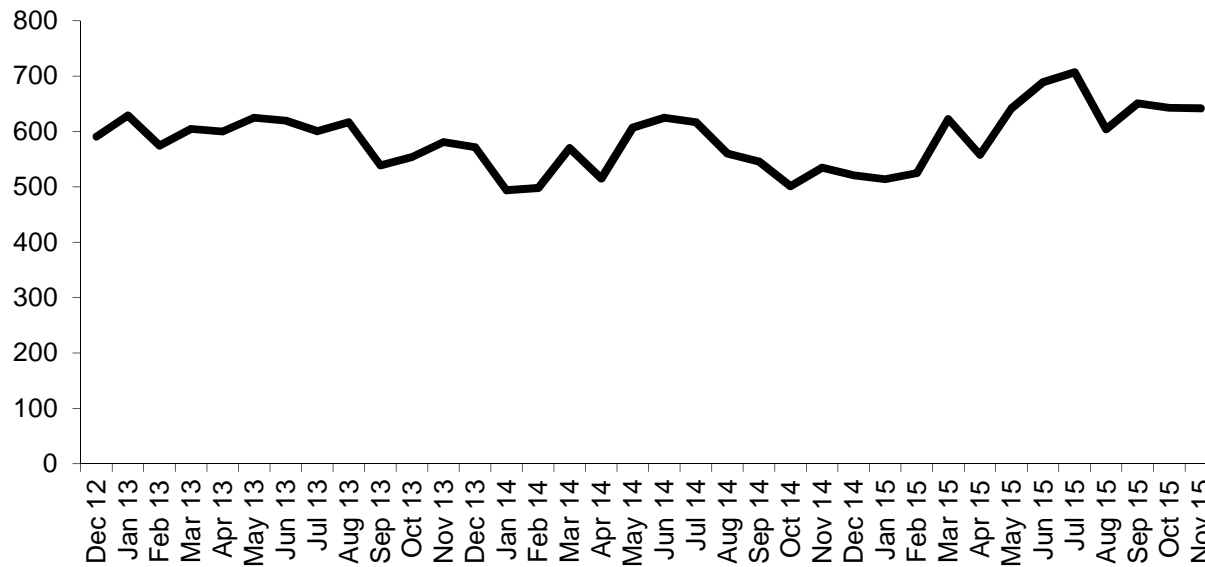
Latest data set available is for offences recorded up to and including November 2015.

iQuanta provides data for a 3 year span.

Crime - EFDC

All Crime

Page 30

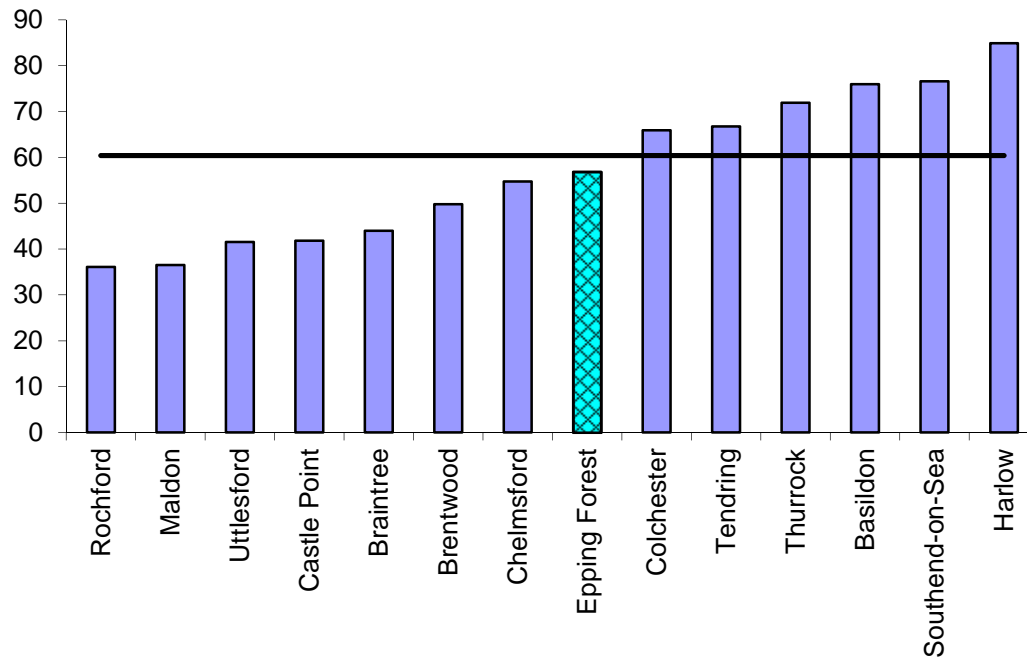


Up 14% (630 cases) in comparison to previous year to date.
4506 to 5136 cases

Month on month totals –
Dec 2012 591 cases compared with Nov 2015 642 cases. An increase of 7.9% 51 cases overall over 3 years.

Crime - EFDC

All Crime



Epping is 8th within Essex and 5.9% below the county average.

In real terms, Epping had 56.8 reported incidents against the county average of 60.4 per thousand residents.

Crime - EFDC

All Crime

All crime year to date per thousand residents.

Maidstone, Kent, (identified by ONS as a match to Epping in the Most Similar Group)

Broxbourne is a border council with similar proximity to London and transport link including M25

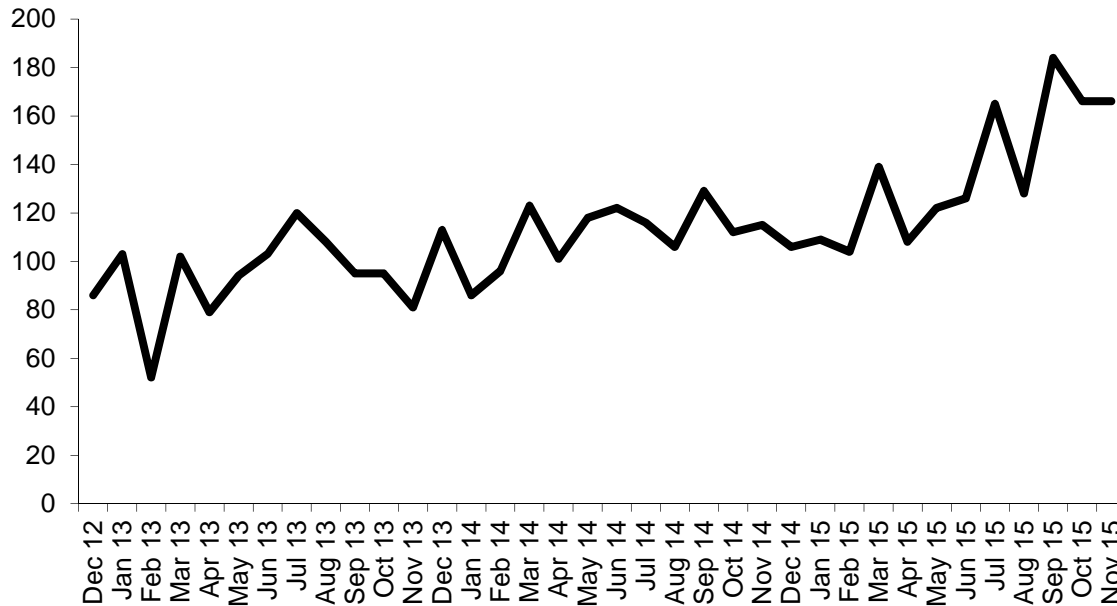
Watford similar tube and motorway links.

Watford	72.6 Crimes per thousand residents.
Broxbourne	62.3 Crimes per thousand residents.
Epping Forest	56.8 Crimes per thousand residents.
Maidstone	56.6 Crimes per thousand residents.

Crime - EFDC

Violence Against the Person

Page 33

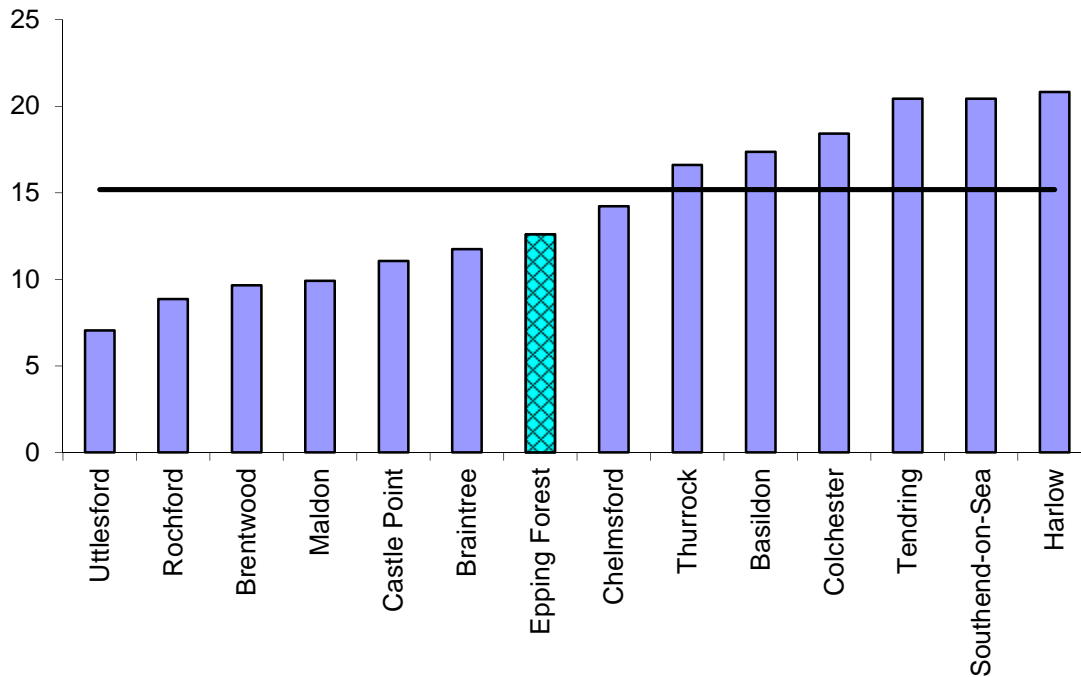


In Epping there has been a 27% (246) increase in comparison to previous year (919) to date (1165)

The Nov 2015 total is 50% higher than Dec 2012.

Crime - EFDC

Violence Against the Person



Epping is 17% below the Essex average of 15.2 per 1000 residents.

Harlow, a close neighbour had 20.8 incidents per 1000 residents.

Crime - EFDC

Violence Against the Person

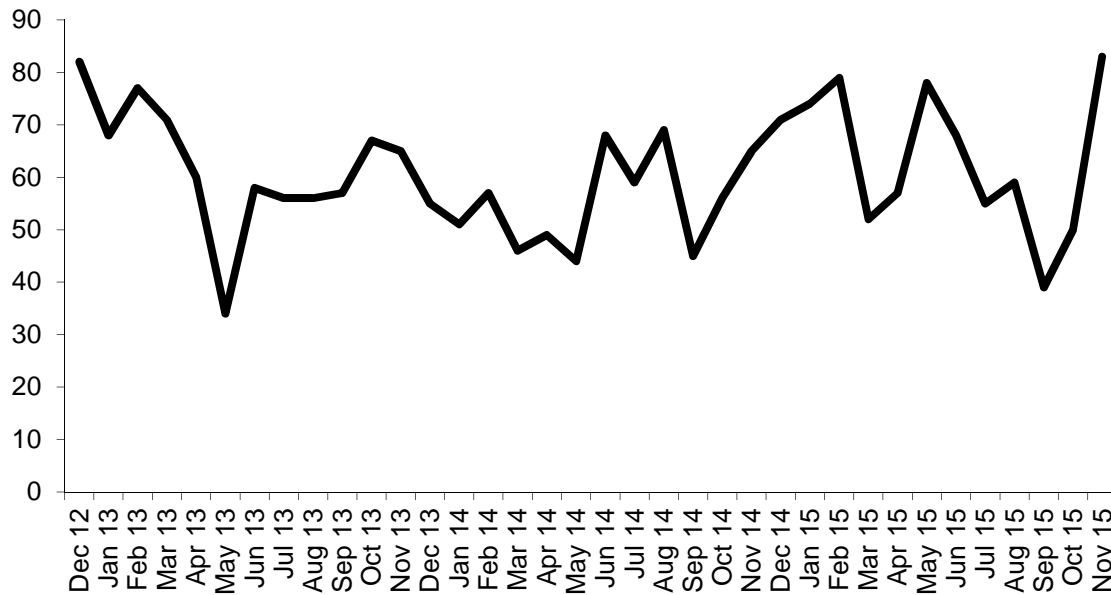
In comparison, year ending November 2015 actual incidents –

Maidstone	2690
Watford	1704
Epping Forest	1690
Broxbourne	1449

Crime - EFDC

Burglary - Dwelling

Page 36



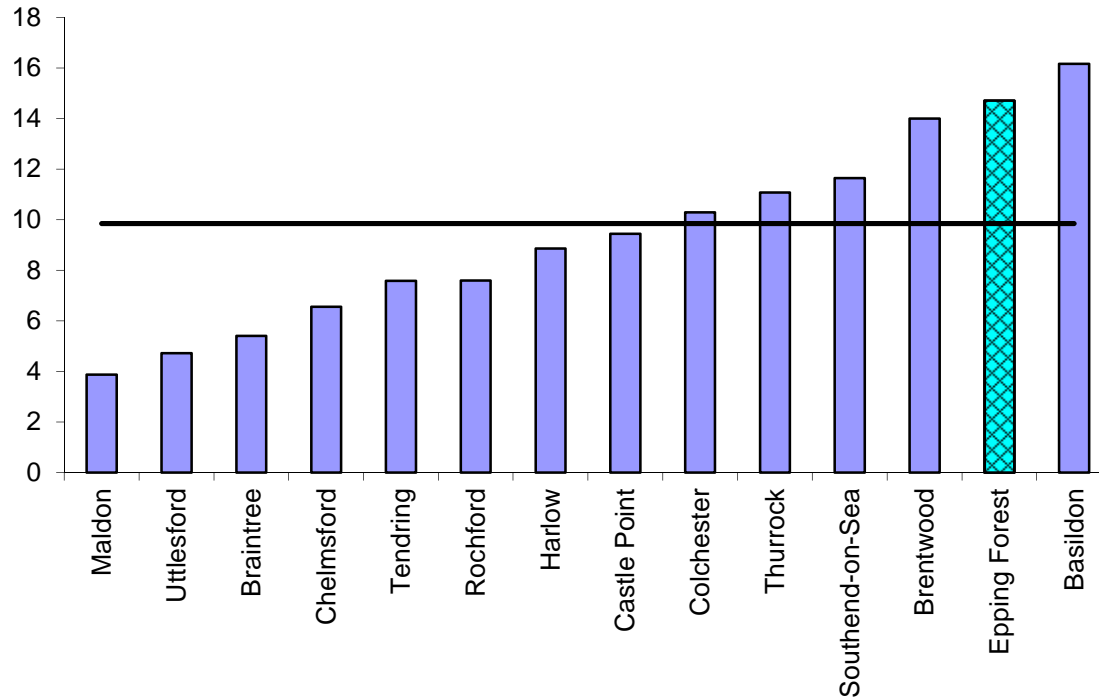
This offence is up 15% (101 incidents) in comparison to previous year to date.

November saw a monthly increase of 40% 33 cases compared to October.

Dec '12 82 burglaries
Nov '15 83 burglaries

Crime - EFDC

Burglary - Dwelling



Within the county, Epping is 33% above the Essex average per thousand residents.

However, whilst Epping is still above the Essex average this quarter has dropped from 52.6% above the average when compared to the previous quarter.

Crime - EFDC

Burglary - Dwelling

Using our own comparison council data, year to Nov 2015

Epping Forest	765
Maidstone	349
Broxbourne	331
Watford	230

Crime - EFDC

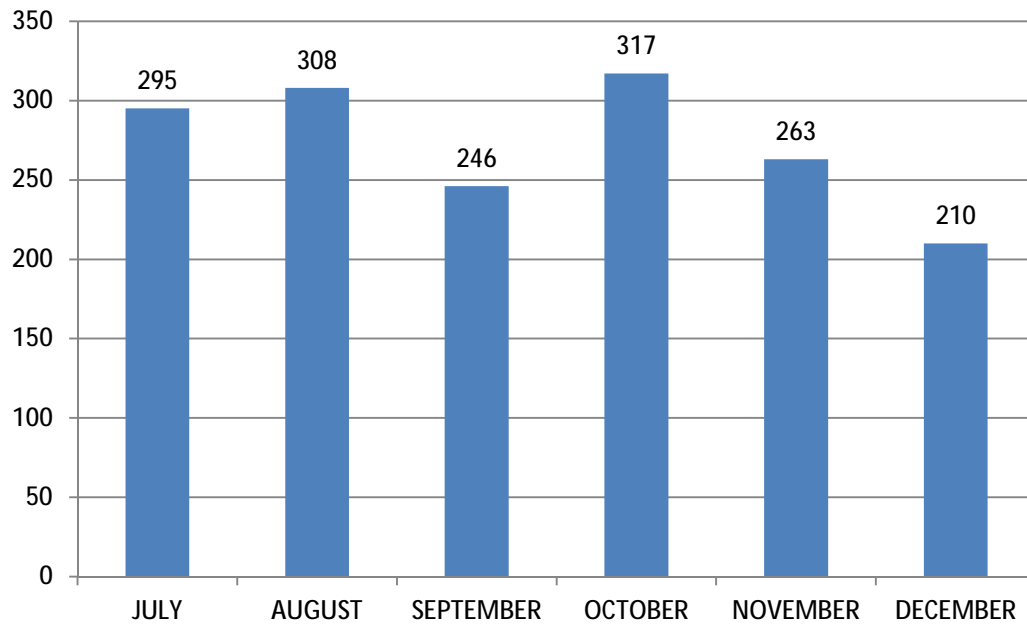
Anti Social Behaviour

Data is extracted from the Essex Police incident recording system called Storm. There is limited detail available about the incidents.

Crime figures

Anti Social Behaviour EFDC

ASB incidents by month

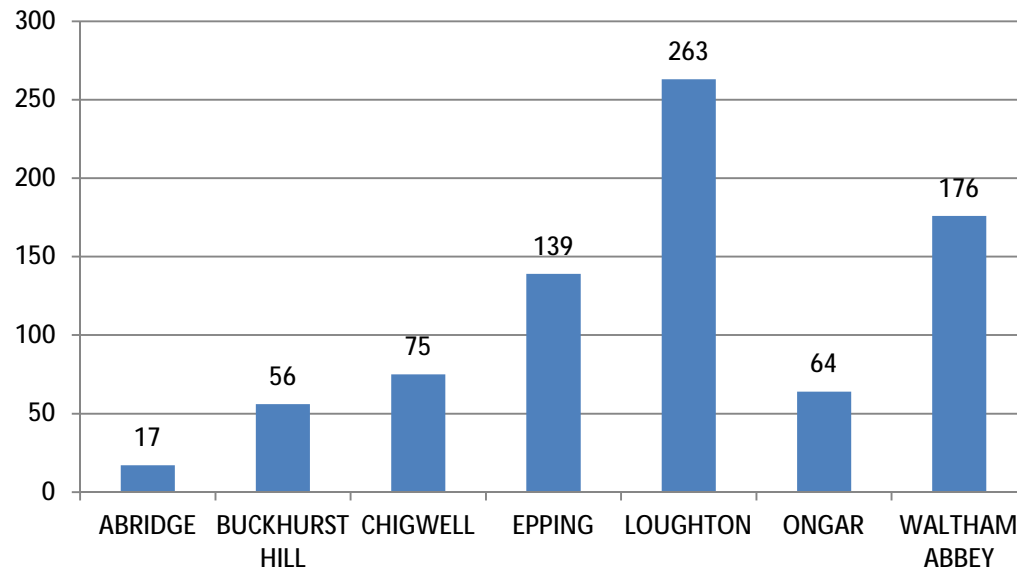


Following a peak in October ASB incidents have fallen by a third in December compared to October.

Crime figures

Anti Social Behaviour EFDC

ASB incidents by locality
October - December



Loughton remains the locality with highest ASB incidents (263), followed by Waltham Abbey (176) & Epping (139).

Loughton is 33% higher than Waltham Abbey.

Crime figures

Anti Social Behaviour EFDC

DISTURBANCE	156
NUISANCE -YOUTH	112
NUISANCE-VEHICLE	84
ABANDONED VEHICLE	64
NUISANCE-OTHER	52
NUISANCE NEIGHBOUR	51
INFORMATION	35
SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES	31
FIREWORKS	29
OBSTRUCTION	23
REQUIRE POLICE	16
DRUGS	13
NUISANCE COMMUNICATIONS	13
DISPUTE - CIVIL	11
CONCERN	10

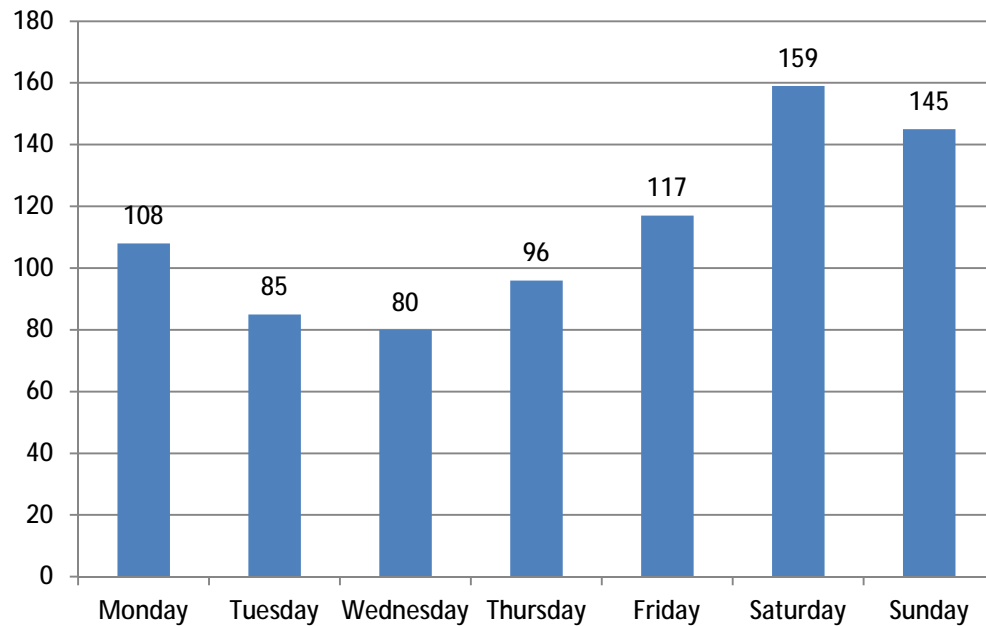
In the last quarter these are the top 15 types of ASB calls received by Essex Police.

Types with less than 10 incidents have been removed.

Crime - EFDC

Anti Social Behaviour EFDC

All ASB incidents by day of week

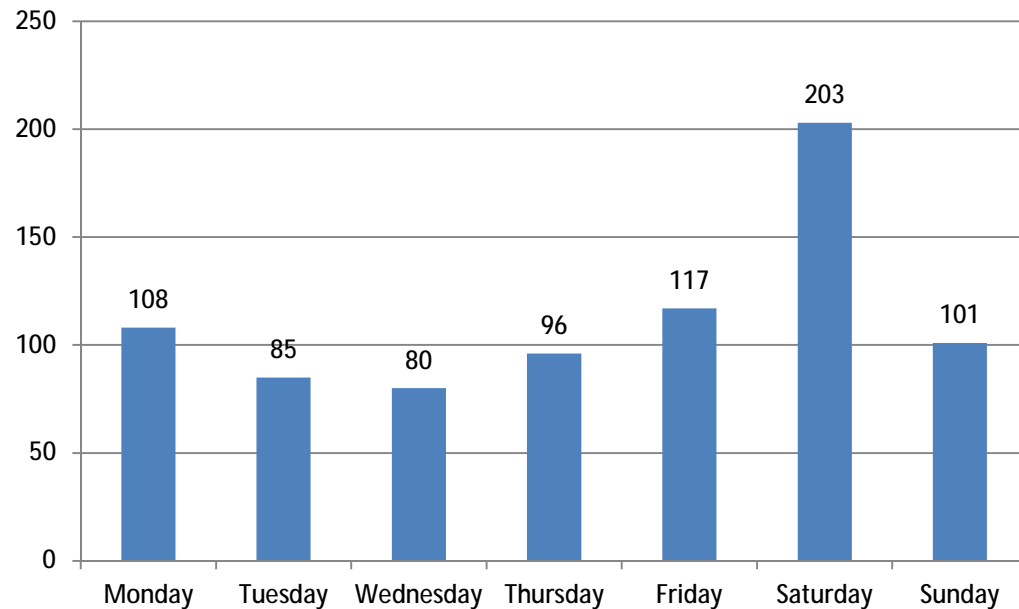


Across EFDC ASB incidents totals particularly dip Tuesday-Wednesday which are approx. half the Saturday total.

Crime - EFDC

Anti Social Behaviour EFDC

Incidents by day of week - amended

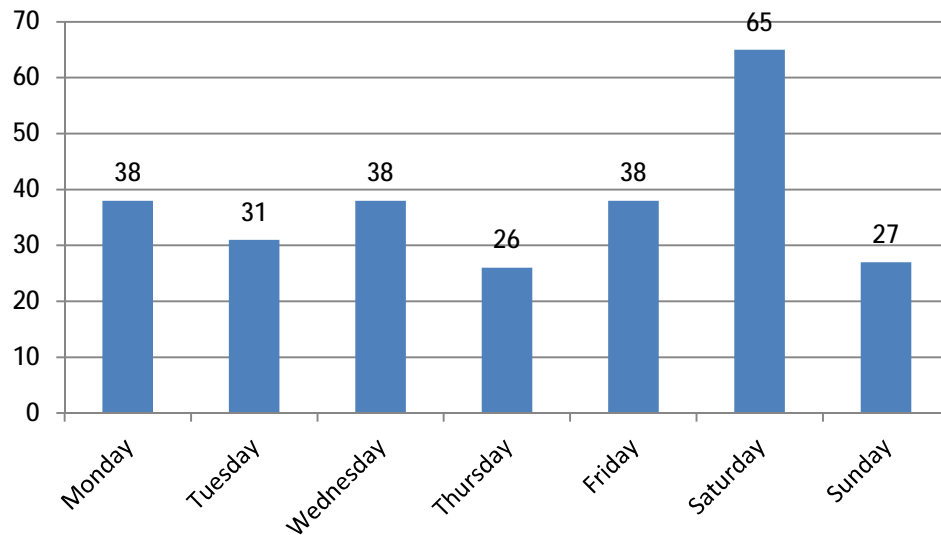


If taking incidents reported 00:00 – 03:59 on Sunday as Saturday NTE related incidents and adding them to Saturday totals there is a rise in Saturday incidents from 159 to 203.

Crime - EFDC

Anti Social Behaviour Loughton

ASB incidents by amended day of week



However, figures for Loughton (highest ASB area) where Luxe and Nu bar are located, show a significant increase for Saturday following a fairly consistent Sunday – Friday pattern.

This is using data where incidents 00.00-03.59 Sunday are attributed to Saturday.

Crime - EFDC

Anti Social Behaviour Loughton

Page 46

DISTURBANCE	62
NUISANCE-YOUTH	48
ABANDONED VEHICLE	19
NUISANCE-VEHICLE	18
FIREWORKS	17
NUISANCE-OTHER	15
NUISANCE NEIGHBOUR	14
INFORMATION	11
SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES	9
OBSTRUCTION	7

The highest categories of ASB for Loughton area (highest EFDC ASB area) are

Disturbance - 40% of district total (156)
Nuisance Youth - 43% of district total (112)
Abandoned Veh – 30% of district total (64)
Nuisance Vehicle 21% of district total (84)

Crime - EFDC

Domestic Violence

This data is taken from the Essex Police data system Athena and is from Oct – Dec 2015.

Crime - EFDC

Domestic Violence

<u>Month</u>	<u>Count</u>
October	146
November	145
December	178
<u>Grand Total</u>	469

October and November remained level but December saw a 22.7% (33) rise.

In the previous quarter the monthly average was 150.

Crime - EFDC

Domestic Violence

<u>Ward</u>	<u>Count</u>
Waltham Abbey South	41
Chigwell	34
Loughton Broadway	29
Epping Lindsey & Thornwood Common	26
Loughton Fairmead	24
Loughton St John	24
Waltham Abbey Honey Lane	23

The top 7 wards for Domestic Violence

Crime - EFDC

Domestic Violence

<u>Risk level</u>	<u>Count</u>
Medium	254
Standard	140
High	68
(blank)	7
<u>Grand Total</u>	<u>462</u>

Medium risk assessed incidents form 55% of DV incidents in EFDC.

Within a 5% tolerance medium risk DV comprises 50% of all DV for Harlow, Brentwood and Thurrock

Crime - EFDC

Domestic Violence

Day of Week	Count
Monday	72
Tuesday	72
Wednesday	56
Thursday	61
Friday	62
Saturday	74
Sunday	72

Domestic violence remains more prevalent in the Saturday – Tuesday window. However, there is just a 27% variance across all days of the week.

Crime - EFDC

Kim Stalabrass

Epping Police Station:

Visits by members of public

The survey was taken over two periods of 28 days this year February and July. There were 381 noted attendances. This equates to an average of 1.2 people per hour, or 6 – 7 people a day. Overwhelmingly people attended for:

- Advice 144 visits
- Property Enquiries
- Deliveries
- Toilet
- Traffic documents 12 visits
- Traffic Collision reports 23 visits
- Crime reports 6 visits

The current front counters are staffed by civilian officers. Essex Police are currently updating their website this will enable Reception staff/ or volunteers to research questions asked by members of public. This should reduce the need for bespoke training.

ASK Police <https://www.askthe.police.uk/content/@1.htm> is the national website for general police enquiries. Receptionists would be able to direct customers to the website or carry out searches on their behalf.

In the absence of the Police station we could provide phone and or terminal access, 101 to speak to Police direct or access to a terminal to report an incident online. We may get enquiries around lost and found property, there is a new function being planned which will allow you to report this online with the Police you would then be asked to retain the property for 28 days, we would need to consider storage retention policies if we report the property on behalf of a customer.

On occasions members of public are asked after a traffic incident to produce their documents at a Police station. These occasions are reducing dramatically with the police being able to access insurance and tax details on line, and if a member of the public does have to produce a document they are given the option of choosing which Police Station they wish to attend, so this should not be an issue for the proposed contact point.

I asked about the usage of the phone outside the police station. I was advised that although he didn't have the data to hand, the usage of the phone was minimal. These phones were used more commonly outside larger police stations with custody suites such as Harlow where people are required to attend. I have asked the Police Inspector to provide some data on this.

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