



Above: PC Karen West

Introduction to your local officers

The Community Policing Team (CPT) beat officer for Buckhurst Hill is PC Karen West. PC West has worked for Essex Police for around 16 years, performing a variety of roles mostly within the Epping Forest District. PC West has spent around 6 years now on the CPT. Buckhurst Hill also benefits from a dedicated Police Community Support Officer, Adam Dixon-Peters (pictured on the next page), who is funded by Buckhurst Hill Parish Council. Both have built good relationships with the council, other partners and community members, working to address their concerns. PC West and PCSO Dixon-Peters work on 2 separate shifts patterns, meaning Buckhurst Hill is covered by at least one of them 7 days a week (as well as all the other policing teams mentioned below!). PC West is also responsible for investigating all low and medium risk hate crimes for the area.

Introduction from the District Commander, Ant Alcock

“Hi everybody. My name is Ant Alcock and I’m a Chief Inspector with Essex Police, currently the District Commander for Epping Forest and Brentwood where I hold responsibility for policing. I wanted to take the time in this edition to explain the policing structure within Epping Forest. Based at Loughton Police Station, there is the Local Policing Team (LPT), Community Policing Team (CPT), Town Centre Teams (TCT) and the Criminal Investigations Department (CID). LPT provide the 24/7 cover responding to emergency and non-emergency incidents. They also contribute to investigative and proactive policing. 2 shifts of CPT officers now provide 7 day a week cover. They have a number of functions to include providing high visibility proactive patrols, problem solving in partnership, community engagement and investigating certain crimes. 2 Children and Young Persons’ Officers, a dedicated Rural Officer and a Community Safety Engagement Officer are also attached to the CPT. The district also benefits from an Epping Forest District Council funded Community Safety Team, 1 Sergeant and 2 Police Constables working to address local priorities. Waltham Abbey and Loughton benefit from Town Centre Teams, 2 additional officers per area. The CID are responsible for serious and complex investigations up to, and including, attempted murder. Whilst that covers everyone dedicated to the district, there are of course a number of shared resources across the West of Essex and force-wide Epping Forest benefits from. This includes but is certainly not limited to: Operation Raptor (dedicated to addressing county lines and gangs), the Roads Policing Unit, the Dog Section, the Operational Support Group, the Domestic Abuse Investigation Team and the Child Abuse Investigation Team. I would really encourage you to share your concerns with us, so that we can continue to keep Epping Forest a safe district to be.”



Some recent local policing updates

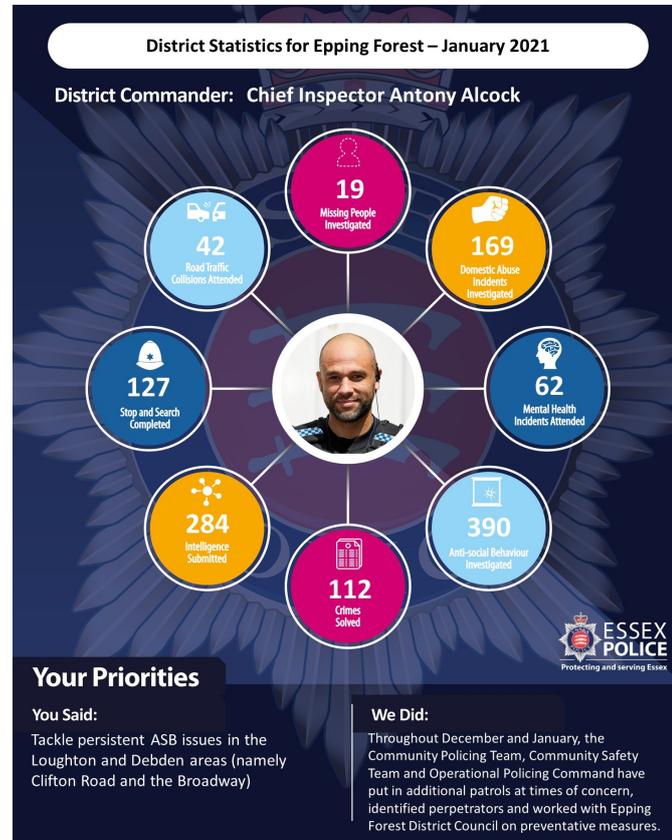
Activity has been undertaken to address recent concerns in relation to speeding, particularly on Palmerston Road. PCSO Dixon-Peters conducted a speed check in early February, followed by a further check by the Roads Policing Unit on 15th February. At the latest check, the highest recorded speed was 45mph in a 30mph limit.

The Community Policing Team have been engaged in an operation throughout February in response to numerous reports of anti-social behaviour and drug activity in the Hornbeam Road area. This includes Oak Rise, Cascade Close, Newton Court and Bourne House, and also extends to Elgar Close, Cedar Court and Lower Queen's Road. Intelligence-led patrol activity so far has resulted in a number of stop and searches performed, with controlled drugs having been seized on a few occasions. Individuals were dealt with appropriately.

Whilst on patrol in Buckhurst Hill in mid January, PCSO Dixon-Peters and colleague PCSO Flett came across a fire at a restaurant on Queen's Road. They were able to help evacuate five people inside to safety, and stop traffic to prepare for the arrival of fire crews. Thankfully nobody was injured and it was deemed to be accidentally started.

Catalytic converter thefts are being experienced across the District. Any 'live' theft incident will be attended on an emergency response, and enquiries made with all reports to identify suspect vehicles for stop and searches. It is likely suspects are offending across borders, with information sharing across districts and forces ongoing. The Roads Policing Unit have been responsible for at least 3 arrests since 30 November on suspicion of catalytic converter theft, based on stops at the M11 J7 Hastingwood Roundabout and on the A13.

Below left: PCSO Adam Dixon-Peters.



We are aware of concerns in relation to dogs being stolen, however it has become apparent that conversations being had may not reflect current recorded crimes. At the beginning of February, officers stopped a van in Loughton linked to reports of suspicious behaviour across the district. After speaking with the driver and searching the van, officers were content there was no cause for concern and no criminal offence had been committed. Please keep reporting to help us respond. Essex Police has a Dog Watch scheme encouraging dog owners and walkers to be extra eyes and ears within the community. For more information and/or to join, please email: essex.watch.liason.officers@essex.police.uk.



Left: Findings from the A13 stop on 30th November

Left: PCSO Dixon-Peters during the early February speeding operation.





Crime Prevention—Theft from a Motor Vehicle

Theft from a motor vehicle offences have decreased by 33.5% across Epping Forest in the 12 months to January 2021. 11 of these offences were recorded in Buckhurst Hill from 01/11/20 to 01/02/21, compared to 30 for the same period 2019/20. 5 of the 11 offences related to catalytic converter theft. To prevent this type of theft, consider your parking carefully; don't park half on the kerb allowing easy access to the underneath of the vehicle, use a garage where possible or otherwise park in a well lit, populated area. Protective locks or guards are available, and you can also get your catalytic converter marked. Always ensure suspicious activity around vehicles is reported.

For more crime prevention advice, visit www.essex.police.uk/crimeprevention

Reporting Guidance

Timely reporting using the correct means is really important for a number of reasons. For example, it ensures we have an accurate understanding of crime and ASB occurring within the local area, helping to focus responses. We often become aware of things discussed elsewhere, such as on social media, that have not been officially reported. You might also have the final bit of information required to make the difference between the court granting a warrant to search a premises and not.

Do it online with the digital 101 service: Significant developments have been made to increase online reporting options for non-urgent incidents, to ease demand on the 101 telephone line. Anybody who is able to report online is encouraged to do so, so those who cannot can reach a call handler quicker. Please visit www.essex.police.uk/ to explore reporting options, which includes crime and anti-social behaviour reporting, road traffic incident reporting, breach of COVID regulations reporting and more. Why not try our 'Live Chat', available between 7am-11pm daily, where you can exchange real-time direct messages with online operators. Please always use 999 for an emergency.

Anonymous reporting: CrimeStoppers is a charity independent of the police, who will take information from you 100% anonymously and pass to the police on your behalf. There is some information that CrimeStoppers cannot process, such as if you are reporting an emergency or you are a victim of crime. Read more on their website www.crimestoppers-uk.org/ or call 0800 555 111 to report. Fearless is the youth brand of CrimeStoppers, which also allows for anonymous reporting and access to information and advice regarding crime and criminality. Visit Fearless on www.fearless.org/.

what3words: This is an app and website used to help identify locations. Every 3m square has 3 unique words associated with it, which you can communicate to an emergency service or other agency to really help pinpoint your location.

Engagement Opportunities

As soon as is safe to do so, opportunities to speak with your local police in person will recommence, such as Coffee With Cops and pop-up events. We will continue to hold Facebook Q+A sessions, with the next one for Buckhurst Hill scheduled for the 16th June at 3pm. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to get in touch: epppingcommunitypolicingteam@essex.police.uk

We are looking to recruit new members for the Brentwood and Epping Forest Independent Advisory Group. The IAG works to harbour knowledge and opinion from diverse communities, gaining insight and constructive feedback on a variety of policing issues. Essex Police look to respond to this wherever possible and appropriate, so as to improve the service for all communities and increase public confidence. If you feel able to constructively challenge the police and/or lacking a platform to have dialogue with them, this could be for you. Visit: www.essex.police.uk/iag.

