

Your local update

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ISSUE

Spring 2021

Debden



Above: PC Marc Arnold

Introduction to your local officers

PC Marc Arnold is the Debden beat officer working within the Epping Forest District Community Policing Team. He has been a police officer for almost 20 years, with the majority of his career spent in the Epping Forest District. PC Arnold is responsible for the following wards: Loughton Fairmead, Loughton Alderton and Loughton Broadway. His colleague, PC Jack Moore, looks after the other Loughton Wards: St Mary's, St John's, Forest and Roding. PC Arnold is very familiar with the community and enjoys being out in his beats. He is also responsible for investigating low and medium risk hate crimes. PC Arnold is supported by the Loughton Town Centre Team officers, PC Charlotte O'Brien (pictured on the next page) and PC James Shram. All work to build strong relationships with colleagues in other policing teams, partners, businesses and residents, to understand, prevent and deal with crime and anti-social behaviour.

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."



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For general enquiries (not crime reporting), please contact

eppingcommunitypolicingteam@essex.police.uk



Some recent local policing updates

In recent months, various policing teams have been involved in addressing ongoing anti-social behaviour (ASB) issues in the Broadway, as well as violent crime concerns. Reported incidents were analysed, which has informed high visibility patrols. The area became a tasking for the Community Safety Team. Local teams were also supported by force-wide resources from the Operational Policing Command, such as the Dog Section. Partnership working with Epping Forest District Council has occurred throughout. Those identified as being involved have been issued ASB warning and breach of tenancy letters. The council funded Park Guard have also directed patrols to the Broadway, and funding avenues are being explored for enhancing building security to prevent future crime and ASB.

We continue to support local businesses investigating reported crimes impacting upon them. An individual was charged in late January with 6 counts of theft (shoplifting), in relation to alleged thefts occurring across January. A second individual was charged in mid February with 3 counts of theft (shoplifting), in relation to alleged thefts occurring at the end of January and into February. Court proceedings are ongoing.

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.liaison.officers@essex.police.uk.

Below: PC Charlotte O'Brien



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.

PC Arnold is one officer supporting the force-wide Operation Gloss locally. This relates to joint working between Essex Police and Border Force, where referrals are made regarding suspicious packages possibly containing weapons and drugs. Since the new referral system was introduced in February 2020, investigations within the Debden area have led to individuals being dealt with for importation offences, and harmful items destroyed.

Left: PC Laura Chalcraft on patrol in the residential areas on the Broadway. As a Children and Young Persons' Officer, she and her colleague have built good relationships with the local secondary schools and College.





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

Crime Prevention—Theft from a Motor Vehicle (TFMV)

TFMV offences have decreased by 33.5% across Epping Forest in the 12 months to January 2021. There has been a slight increase in recent months however in the Fairmead, Alderton and Broadway wards: 23 TFMV offences were recorded for 01/11/20 to 01/02/21, compared to 17 for the same period 2019/20. 10 of these 23 related to catalytic converter theft. Some key tips to deter this type of theft: avoid parking 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.

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 antisocial 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 Debden scheduled for the 9th August at 3pm. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to get in touch:

eppingcommunitypolicingteam@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.

