

Ongar and surrounding

Spring 2021



Above: PC Warren Shepherd

Introduction to your local officer

PC Warren Shepherd is the Epping Forest District Community Policing Team beat officer for Ongar and the surrounding area— this includes Greensted, Marden Ash, High Ongar, Willingale, Moreton, Fyfield, Bobbingworth, the Lavers, and Abbess, Beauchamp and Berners Roding. PC Shepherd has been a police officer with Essex Police for over 3 years and began on a Local Policing Team, before joining the Loughton Town Centre Team. He has since moved into the beat officer role, which he is really enjoying having lived in Ongar for 28 years of his life. As well as being out in his beats proactively patrolling, PC Shepherd is responsible for investigating a number of crimes allocated to him, including all low and medium risk hate crimes which occur in the beats. He continues to build his network of contacts in residents and Parish and Town Councillors for example, as well as with partner agencies who can assist him in problem solving issues of local concern.

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.”



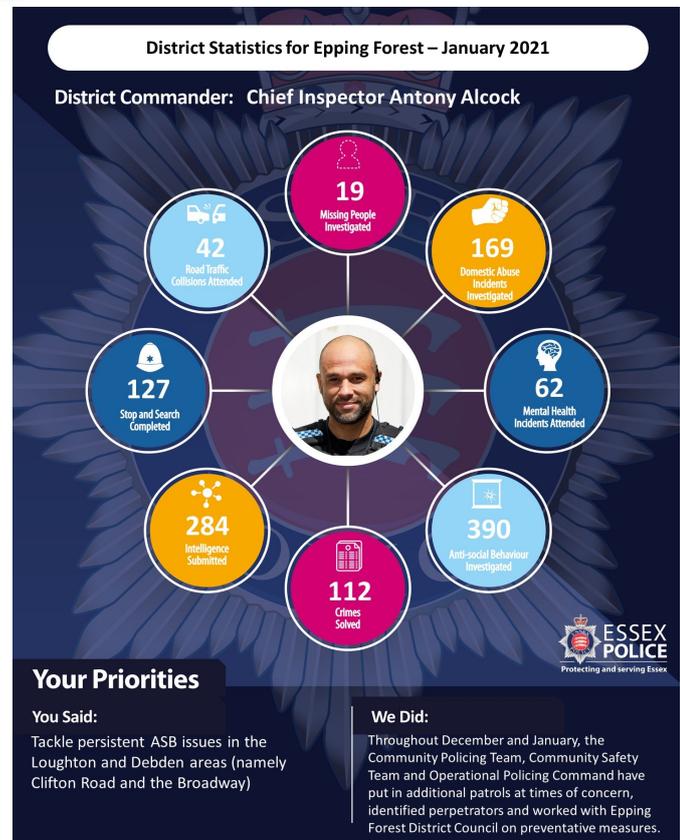
Some recent local policing updates

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

Since being in post, PC Shepherd has been working to address drug concerns in the Ongar area, including the following activity. 3 warrants were executed at addresses in Ongar and Brentwood last year, where a large quantity of cash and drugs were seized. 2 individuals have since been given conditional cautions for possession offences and 1 person remains under investigation on suspicion of possession with intent to supply cocaine. Following continued complaints of drug use near to Ongar Railway Station, patrols in the area in late December led to 2 individuals being stop and searched under the Misuse of Drugs Act. 1 individual was dealt with for possession of a controlled drug. PC Shepherd's patrol activity is informed by reports from the community, so please keep highlighting concerns.

We encourage any witnessed suspicious activity to be reported in a timely manner, to allow police to investigate. If you suspect a crime is in progress or may imminently occur, 999 would be appropriate to dial. In late January, a member of the public in Epping reported seeing suspicious activity involving 2 people in a vehicle. The vehicle soon after left the scene, but the Community Safety Team later located it in Ongar. A teenage boy was arrested on suspicion of theft of a motor vehicle, 2 offences of possession of an offensive weapon, possession of cannabis and possession of an imitation firearm. The investigation is ongoing.

5 incidents of hare coursing were reported to police between 1 November 2020 and 1 February 2021: 2 in Willingale, 1 in Moreton and 2 in Beauchamp Roding. We are working across district boundaries in response to this crime, sharing information with other forces, and are supported locally by the force-wide Rural Engagement Team. You can keep up to date specifically with the Rural Engagement Team's activities by following them on Twitter: [@EP_RURAL](https://twitter.com/EP_RURAL)



Essex Police continues to respond to acquisitive and transient criminality, such as theft of motor vehicle offences. Lines of investigative enquiry are explored with all reports in an attempt to identify a suspect. This includes using Automatic Number Plate Recognition technology to identify directions of travel for stolen vehicles and suggest any suspect vehicles. It is not uncommon for registration plates to be changed on victim or suspect vehicles; any information such as plate deposition sites or individuals being seen to change plates is encouraged to be reported. Information sharing is ongoing with neighbouring forces, and there are regular joint operations in west Essex and locally. Some vehicles are often very quickly taken to 'chop shop' locations and dismantled for the onward sale of parts. We continue to gather intelligence regarding any possible sites, so please do report any suspicious activity you may witness. Any stolen vehicles located by Essex Police, often thanks to reports from members of the public, are forensically recovered in the hope that this may locate a suspect. The force's Stolen Vehicle Examiner brings specialist knowledge and is frequently recovering vehicles using false identities. You can follow him on Twitter: [@essex_sviu](https://twitter.com/essex_sviu)





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

Crime Prevention— Theft of Motor Vehicle

Theft of motor vehicle offences have decreased by 21.9% across Epping Forest in the 12 months to January 2021. There has been a slight recent increase however in these offences in the Ongar and surrounding area (beats covered by PC Shepherd): 10 offences were recorded for 01/11/20 to 01/02/21, compared to 6 for the same period 2019/20. Always ensure your vehicle is double locked by manually checking. Keep keys out of view when at home and make use of security pouches for key fobs to prevent scanning of your key's signals. Fitting a steering wheel, gear lever or clutch pedal security device may offer additional protection. Always activate the tracker if your vehicle has one.

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 Ongar and surrounding scheduled for the **14th September at 12pm**. 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.

