

**Roydon, Nazeing, Sheering, Matching, Hastingwood,
Broadley Common and Epping Upland
Spring 2021**



Above: PC Matt Edwards

Introduction to your local officer

PC Matt Edwards is the Epping Forest District Community Policing Team beat officer for Roydon, Nazeing, Sheering, Matching, Hastingwood, Broadley Common and Epping Upland. He became a beat officer in mid 2019. PC Edwards has spent his time since then addressing issues of concern for local communities with assistance from partner agencies, proactively patrolling his beats and investigating crimes allocated to him. These include low and medium risk hate crimes that have occurred in these areas. PC Edwards has built up a good network of local contacts, and regularly hosts question and answer sessions for them. He is currently on a short-term secondment elsewhere in the force. Meanwhile the wider Community Policing Team and several other policing teams (as below) continue to patrol these areas and investigate reported incidents.

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.liaison.officers@essex.police.uk

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.

The Community Policing Team have been patrolling the Occupation Lane area in the last few months, to include the car park and playing fields. This is in response to anti-social behaviour and fly tipping concerns. The team have recently been made aware that concerns remain regarding drug activity in the car park off of Beaumont Park Drive. Officers on patrol over their late shifts on the weekend of the 20/21 February had nothing to report on these occasions. Further reporting is encouraged if issues persist; please be as descriptive as possible to assist with building the intelligence picture and supporting future stop and search activity.

Officers have been busy addressing concerns regarding speeding in The Street in Sheering. Recent activity includes speed checks completed on the 7th, 10th and 14th February. Traffic Offence Reports have been issued and speeds of up to 43mph observed on 2 of the occasions.

The Brentwood and Epping Forest Rural Crime Officer, PC Sheridan-Brown has recently been patrolling in Matching following reports of hare coursing, fly tipping and nuisance bikes. It is believed bikes have been arriving via Sheering and Hatfield Heath. There have been some section 59 warnings issued. This means should the rider drive that same or any other vehicle in a similar manner within 12 months, the vehicle can be seized.



Since February 2020, a new referral system has seen Border Force and Essex Police working closely together to intercept and investigate the importation of drugs and weapons into the UK. This is known as Operation Gloss. It aims to better educate around related laws, intervene early to prevent people from being harmed and to steer young people away from crime, and safeguard those vulnerable to or who are being exploited. One such example locally was the interception of a package in late January, where a lock knife was found inside. The individual from Nazeing was dealt with appropriately.



Left: Police Community Support Officer Flett on a patrol of the playing fields in Roydon



BURGLARY



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

Crime Prevention—Burglary

Residential burglaries have decreased by 23.5% across Epping Forest in the 12 months to January 2021. 11 residential burglaries were recorded in the areas covered by this newsletter from 01/11/20 to 01/02/21, compared to 9 for the same period 2019/20. Please remain vigilant: close and double lock doors and windows (particularly ground floor) overnight and when out of the house/room; give the illusion of occupancy by leaving a light on; and keep keys in a safe place away from doors/windows (and use security pouches for fobs for keyless vehicles to act as a signal blocker).

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 have been running Facebook Q+A sessions, with one just held for the areas covered by this newsletter on 16th February. You can visit our page to review the session. 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.

