

Spring 2021

## Waltham Abbey



Above: PC Sukh Tiwana

### Introduction to your local officers

Waltham Abbey benefits from 4 dedicated police constables. The Community Policing Team beat officers for Waltham Abbey are PC Catherine O'Mahony and PC Sukh Tiwana. PC O'Mahony has worked as the beat officer for around a year. PC Tiwana took on the role in February 2021, and is looking forward to getting to know the community and addressing residents' concerns. The beat officers also have responsibility for investigating certain local crimes including low and medium risk hate crimes. PC Amber Forrow and PC Luke Watson (pictured on the next page) form the Waltham Abbey Town Centre Team. It is their role to proactively tackle ongoing issues, anti-social behaviour and business related crime in the area. The Town Centre Team was established in July 2019, and have since built a good rapport with local businesses and are constantly keeping up to date with the latest intelligence to conduct targeted patrols.

### 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

Right: PC Luke Watson and PC Amber Farrow

After significant work from the Town Centre and Community Policing Teams, a closure order was secured for Knoll House in Sewardstonebury, following 4 parties since New Year's Eve in breach of COVID regulations. On the 30 January alone, officers issued nearly £15,000 worth of fines. An individual has also been arrested on suspicion of fraud in connection. The Closure Order prevents anyone entering the property or residing in it.

Despite minimal recent anti-social behaviour (ASB) reports for locations of historic concern such as Roundhills, Hillhouse, Sun Street and Highbridge Retail Park, patrols have continued. The teams continue to deal with persistent issues. For example, following repeat calls in relation to ASB and drug use within the estate off of Meridian Way, an individual has been issued a Community Protection Warning setting conditions to comply with or face further action.

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. Essex Police has a Dog Watch scheme encouraging dog owners and walkers to be extra eyes and ears within the community. For information and/or to join, please email: [essex.watch.liason.officers@essex.police.uk](mailto:essex.watch.liason.officers@essex.police.uk). Please keep reporting to help us respond.

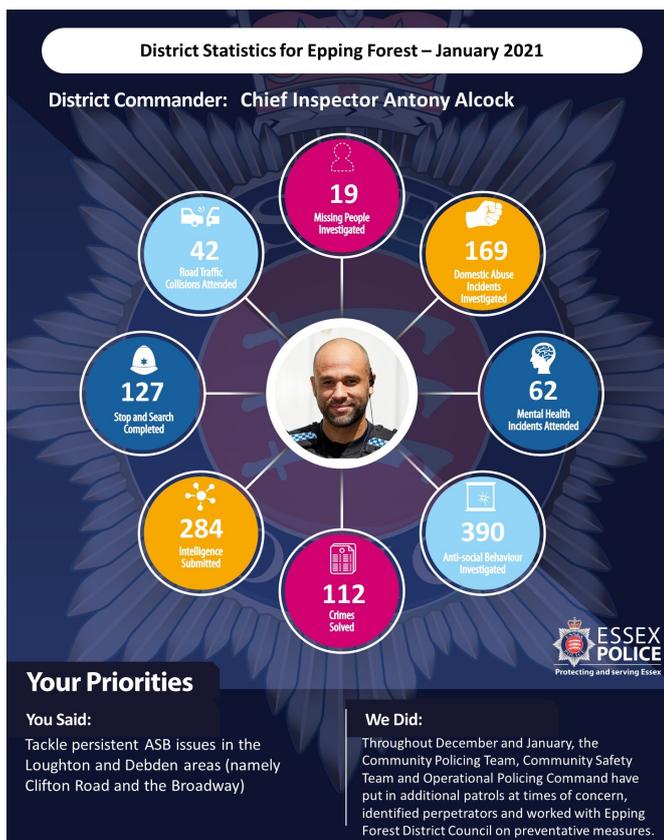
Essex Police continues to respond to acquisitive and transient criminality, such as theft of motor vehicle offences. Lines of investigative enquiry are explored with all reports in an attempt to identify a suspect. This includes using Automatic Number Plate Recognition technology to identify directions 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)

A 49-year-old man from London was charged in late January with 3 counts of residential burglary and 1 count of attempted residential burglary. The alleged offences are believed to have taken place on 4 December in Waltham Abbey, investigated by Loughton CID. He remains remanded in custody with court proceedings ongoing.



Above: Community Policing Team Sergeant Rob Fitt secures the Closure Order paperwork to Knoll House





For more crime prevention advice, visit [www.essex.police.uk/crimeprevention](http://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. 16 residential burglaries were recorded in Waltham Abbey from 01/11/20 to 01/02/21, compared to 27 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; keep all keys in a safe place away from doors/windows (and use security pouches for fobs for keyless vehicles to act as a signal blocker); and keep valuables off display.

## 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/](http://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/](http://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/](http://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 Waltham Abbey scheduled for the 13th October at 3pm. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to get in touch: [eppingcommunitypolicingteam@essex.police.uk](mailto: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](http://www.essex.police.uk/iag).

