

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet
Date: 28 October 2021
Subject: Community and Regulatory Services Portfolio Report
Portfolio Holder: Councillor Aniket Patel

Recommending:

That the report of the Community and Regulatory Services Portfolio Holder be noted.

Community Resilience:

We currently have two vacancies in the team at present, recruitment of permanent and agency staff is proving difficult with no successful candidate being appointed.

EFDC Policing Team

Activity:

Waltham Abbey – enforcement of current closure orders, disruption of criminal activity, developing and acting upon any relevant intelligence. The partnership meetings between Police, ASB and Housing continue and are highly valuable, there has been significant impact on the problems there as a combination of the work done by EFDC, the funded-team and Operation Raptor (drugs & gang team)

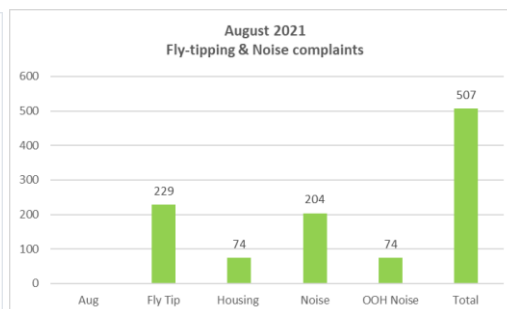
North Weald – medium to long term ASB problem solving at Blenheim Square, targeted patrols continue, and the ASB appears to have subsided. The team issued a CPW against a tenant who was allowing youths inside their property and there have been no reported breaches to date.

Debden Broadway - medium to long term ASB problem solving, targeted patrols being carried out, no ongoing issues reported.

Environmental Enforcement:

Ex Job Ltd have been assisting with the current shortfalls in the OOHs noise team. Our next shortfall will be 24th Nov – 1st Dec. Recruitment is ongoing to fill the current rota.

The noise policy and procedure has been reviewed and the new policy introduced in September. A prosecution is being sought for breach of a noise abatement notice as well as a licence review for a premises in the Loughton area.



Numbers of cases reported have decreased slightly, however stage 1 complaints have increased. The combination of the summer period always being our busy period, staffing resources and unreasonable expectations have spotlighted this current trend.

Anti-Social Behaviour:

Two resident meetings have taken place with officers regarding anti-social behaviour in North Weald, advice was given and leaflets on how to report ASB handed out

The team have carried out joint visits with Essex Police to North Weald to identify hotspots and Police tasking made based on identified hotspots

Activity

- Epping Gangs meeting to discuss properties at risk of being cuckooed, gang nominals in the district.
- Possible cuckooing case investigated at Loughton Way, Buckhurst Hill. Enquiries and visits undertaken, and it was confirmed not to be the case.
- A Closure Order Extension has been obtained for a property in Waltham Abbey.
- A Closure Order is being prepared for an address in Loughton.
- 2 Community Protection Notices have been served for cannabis odour.
- Joint working with Neighbourhoods regarding ASB and criminal activity occurring at Barfields, Loughton.
- 5 incidents of graffiti jobs responded to.
- Continued work to reduce ASB at Blenheim Square, North Weald.

Safeguarding

A Domestic Homicide Review is to be carried out over the tragic death in Loughton last month. We have completed our Section 11 Audit on behalf of Essex Southend & Thurrock Children's Board

There were 40 new safeguarding cases received and 18 that rolled over, current 'live' cases include 2 children only; 24 adults only; 14 both adult and children. There were 33 opportunities for children to be harmed and 39 opportunities for adults to be harmed

Referrals.

- 8 to Social Care
- 2 to Police
- 1 to the Mental Health Team
- 6 Internal referrals
- 8 External referrals

The Private Sector Housing Team Manager has once again done some excellent work with a leaseholder who has issues with hoarding and self-neglect. He has no apparent toilet/hot water facilities and lives in a square meter cleared patch in his living room with his two dogs. The manager and colleague have gained his trust and are slowly working with him enable essential repairs to be carried out and the garden rubbish removed, more progress than anyone has achieved since 2018 (including social care).

CCTV:

A mobile CCTV camera was deployed near to the Marriot hotel in WA after numerous acts of criminal damage to vehicles. Since the camera was introduced the incidents have all but ceased.

CCTV requests have increased since July by 47%, insurance requests continue to be low, although it is expected that requests will rise as more people return to work. Fees for CCTV

requests will rise to £125 per request, a rise of £5 that will come into effect in the new financial year.

Significant savings on completed projects have been made across the CCTV budget for the past financial year.

There are 6 Rapid Deployment Cameras in operation

- Hillyfields Loughton to identify suspects fly tipping in the area.
- Rear car parking area at Epping Civic Offices.
- Blenheim Square, North Weald Bassett to address ASB issues at location.
- Honey Lane, Waltham Abbey to identify suspects who trespass and release livestock from enclosure.
- Vicarage Lane West, North Weald to help combat problem motorcyclists.
- Lodge Close Car Park Lambourne End Chigwell to combat Fly Tipping issues at the location.

The Team have actively worked with the Police to identify suspects on the following.

- Various windows smashed in Queens Road Buckhurst Hill.
- Shop keeper assaulted Broadway Debden.
- 2 males fighting outside shopping parade Coopersale.
- Suspect vehicles involved in criminal activity Oakwood Hill.
- Juvenile stabbed North Weald Bassett.
- Catalytic Convertor removed from vehicle Bakers Lane car park Epping.
- Range Rover stolen Loughton.
- Expensive watch taken Loughton.

The Team have also assisted with a Car Park Credit Card scam targeting older persons at Epping & Debden Broadway EFDC car parks.