

# ***Report to the Council***

**Committee: Cabinet**

**Date: 28 June 2011**

**Subject: Safer and Greener Portfolio**

**Item: 6(h)**

**Portfolio Holder: Councillor Penny Smith**

---

## **Recommending:**

**That the report of the Safer and Greener Portfolio Holder be noted**

---

### **Community Safety**

The annual outturn figures for overall crime in the District show a very small increase (less than 1%) on 2009/10. This is however a little disappointing given that a reduction of 2% had been sought. Within this increase there are however a number of significant improvements such as Anti-social behaviour reported to the Police where a reduction of 957 incidents (19%) has been achieved.

Crucial Crew was held from June 13 through to June 24 at Gilwell Park and over 1,275 children have attended from across the District including state, private and home schooled pupils. A wide range of agencies worked together to deliver the event including British Transport Police, Sainsburys, The Ambulance Service and for the first time, ignite, who run activities for young people in Loughton. This year we were very pleased that the new High Sheriff, Lady Ruggles-Brise, was able to attend. The High Sheriff's fund has contributed towards the Crucial Crew Handbooks distributed to all pupils attending the event.

The Safer Communities Team and Essex Police CCTV Van demonstrated equipment at the American Eagle Fun Day & Flying at North Weald Airfield on Sunday 5 June giving the members of public the opportunity to see how our redeployable cameras and ANPR equipment operate in the District. We currently have four redeployable cameras installed across the District and on one camera alone we have identified a number of incidences of fly tipping in progress, the details of which have been passed to the Neighbourhoods Team for further investigation. In April this year, in Crown Court, a defendant was imprisoned for four years for robbery. Part of the evidence used was CCTV provided by the Council.

Finally a CCTV clip provided by the Safer Communities Team showing cash point crooks in action has been viewed more than 328,000 times on the Essex Police website, accounting for around 20% of all page views on the Essex Police website.

### **Parking**

The North Essex Parking Partnership has now been formally established and I shall be attending the inaugural meeting, in Chelmsford on the 28 June.

Epping Parking Review has regrettably fallen behind schedule, due in some part to changes in Cabinet responsibilities at the County and the restructure of the County

highways service. I understand that the new County Cabinet Member with responsibility for highways, Councillor Mrs Chapman, is urgently considering the outcome of the formal consultation exercise. Unfortunately, the delay with the Epping review will mean a similar delay in the Buckhurst Hill and Broadway reviews which are scheduled to follow on. If further information on progress is available before the meeting I will provide that orally on the night.

### **Local Highways Panel**

The future of Local Highways Panel is currently under consideration and therefore the next meeting has been cancelled.

### **Sustainability etc**

On Green matters, NI 185(KPI 58)- Council CO2 emissions it is being suggested that to improve on this indicator, the first step will be for the Council to collate all possible data on energy and fuel use within its buildings, through the Environmental Co-ordinator, with help from the Facilities Management Team. On NI 187(KPI 59) - Fuel Poverty, the Environmental Co-ordinator is working on new definitions, targets, and improvement plans. These items will be discussed at the September meeting of the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Panel, and they can then come to the Safer Cleaner Greener Panel at their October meeting.

Countrycare reaches 25 - in April 2011, Countrycare reached its twenty-fifth year. In addition to raising approximately £300,000 of external grant funding since 2000, Countrycare have been playing a key role in managing the countryside in the district and educating the population regarding nature conservation. The District Council now has nine Local Nature Reserves and 222 Local Wildlife Sites. Countrycare also works with Parish and Town Councils to manage many other smaller sites. Volunteers, schools, youth groups and community groups are involved in project days to manage these sites, improving access and biodiversity with woodland and grassland management. Countrycare's longevity and success has been in no small part down to the fantastic community support it has enjoyed. Whether through the help of volunteers on project days or support from the Parish and Town Councils and community groups across the district, it would have not been possible to achieve so much without this input. A series of events are being held over the summer to celebrate the service's 25 years and information is available on the Council's and Countrycare's website.

Loughton Tree Strategy - The draft stage of the Loughton Tree Strategy is now completed. It is a comprehensive review of Loughton's trees, as part of the wider natural environment, and in their social and historic context. The strategy includes key objectives for action. It differs from previous tree strategies in being designed first and foremost as a document to be viewed on our website as a pdf, which means that it can be full colour, with far more photographs. The next stage will be to share the draft with partners, in particular the Town Council and local tree wardens, and to submit the document to members for approval.