

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 27 March 2012

Subject: Safer, Greener and Highways Portfolio

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Penny Smith

Recommending:

That the report of the Safer, Greener and Highways Portfolio Holder be noted

Community Safety

The new policing arrangements for Essex came into being on 1 March. The Safer, Cleaner, Greener Scrutiny Panel received a very detailed presentation from Essex Police on these new arrangements and we now know who our key senior police officers will be. To remind Members we are now part of the West Essex Local Policing Area, and the Commander is Superintendent Luke Collison. There are three local police districts within the West Essex grouping, Harlow, Epping Forest & Brentwood and Thurrock. The new District Commander for Epping Forest and Brentwood is Chief Inspector Ed Wells. The Epping Forest District complement of officers includes one Inspector, six Sergeants and twelve Neighbourhood Constables. There will also be a complement of Police Community Support Officers. All these officers will be dedicated to community policing, with all other police services delivered from a number of county wide locations. More details can be found in the Council Bulletin (week ending 9 March) and on the Essex Police website. We have a lot of new police personnel in our area but I and the Community Safety Team look forward to building new relationships and maintaining past successes in crime reduction in the District.

The Restore Community Centre in Loughton Broadway was officially opened on 9 March. The Safer Communities Team has been working closely with the Restore Community and we were successful in applying for a Community Action Project Grant from Essex County Council of £2,950 to support the project. The Centre is a wonderful addition to the Broadway and I am sure will be a great multi agency success with Health, Police and Council officers to name a few using the Centre as a means to work with and support the local community.

We are now promoting joint Community Safety and PCSO surgeries across the District to provide the community with a comfortable and accessible environment to discuss local issues. Full details of surgeries, including at the Restore Community Centre, can be found on the Essex Police Website or via the Safer Communities Team

Parking matters

In my last report I mentioned that the implementation of the Epping parking review had now commenced. Unfortunately, as is often the case with such reviews, the implementation has caused a number of concerns to some local residents who feel that they had not been aware of the proposals for their area, despite the widespread consultation exercises and the subsequent advertising of the traffic regulation orders. I am talking to local ward members and district and county officers to see whether in some cases amendments can be made or indeed are appropriate. In the light of this situation, I shall, as indicated by me at the last Council meeting in response to a Member question, be discussing proposals for Buckhurst Hill again with ward members to try to avoid similar difficulties.