

## Uttlesford Public Meeting

7<sup>th</sup> March 2013

### Overview of police and crime issues

The Uttlesford District forms part of the North Local Policing Area, with Uttlesford and Braintree districts forming the shared District Policing Area. The major towns are Saffron Walden and Great Dunmow and the district includes the large villages of Thaxted, Stansted Mountfitchet and many other rural villages. The district is a very diverse area to police. It has two major roads running through it, the A120 and M11. Stansted Airport is situated within the Uttlesford District and has its own dedicated policing.

Uttlesford District Neighbourhood Policing Team maintains an excellent relationship with its Community Safety Partners, including the District Council, and work closely together to tackle community safety issues.

Uttlesford District supports a substantial and growing number of active Community Speed Watch groups to help tackle speeding in local towns and villages. It also supports a number of Essex Watch schemes, including Neighbourhood Watch and Farm Watch, and is proud to be associated with Mrs Valerie Trundle, Essex's Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator of the year.

Uttlesford District has shown a small increase in crime of 0.04% (1 more offence) when comparing reports between 1<sup>st</sup> February 2012 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013, against the same period in 2011/12. Anti-social behaviour (ASB) has reduced by 12% (183 fewer offences) over the same period.

#### 1) Police Visibility/Response Times

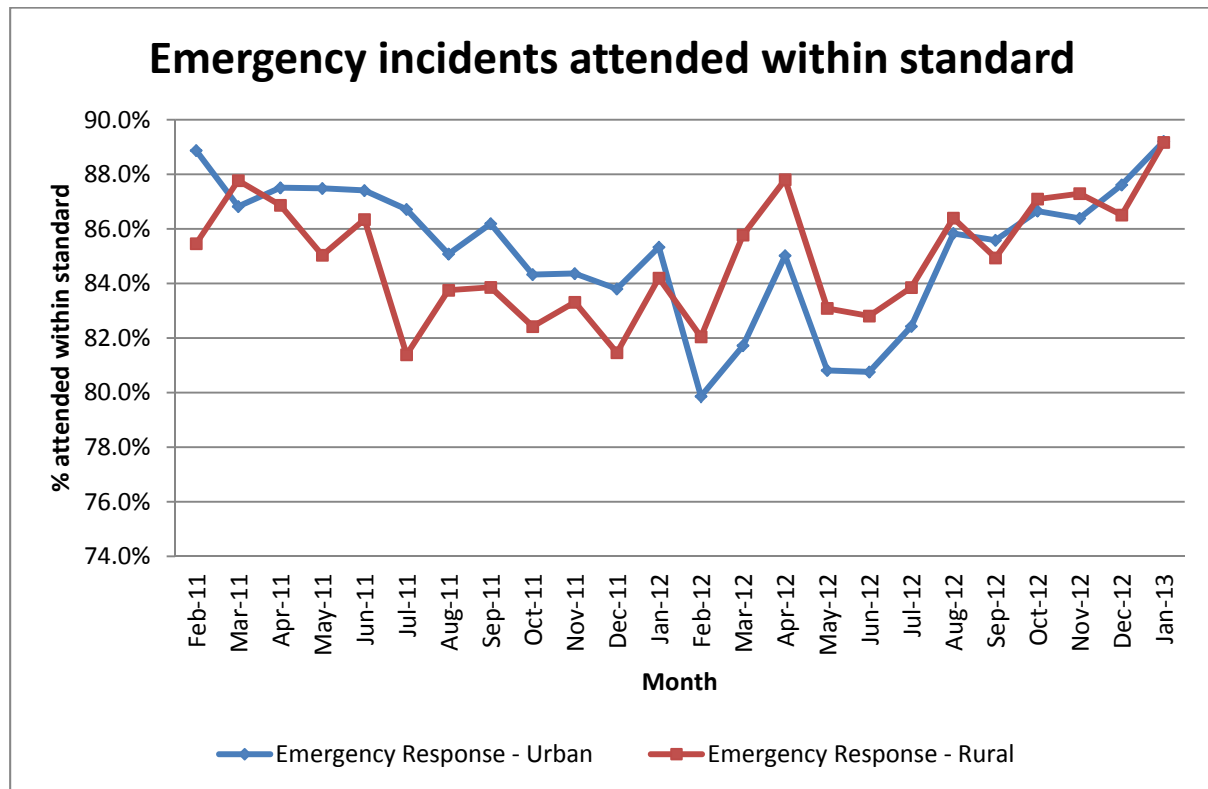
There are two police stations within the Uttlesford District, located at Great Dunmow and Saffron Walden. Both of the police stations are open from 1200hrs to 1800hrs, Monday to Saturday.

There are a number of officers and PCSOs based at Great Dunmow Police Station from the Neighbourhood Policing Team. A significant number of Special Constables also work at the police station alongside their regular colleagues.

Saffron Walden Police Station contains the same policing elements as Great Dunmow but, in addition, also houses the Neighbourhood Crime Team that provides a 24/7 patrol and investigation function, as well as the Youth Team and a Crime Reduction Officer. The number of staff at this location that work 24/7 has been increased in January 2013 to further strengthen the police presence in Uttlesford.

The response and patrol function that provides emergency response cover to the district is based at Braintree Police Station. These officers are briefed and deployed from the police station to their patrol areas.

Essex Police operates a system of deploying the nearest available unit to both emergency and priority incidents. As a consequence, local officers are often in closer proximity to incidents than the response and patrol units.



The definitions of emergency and priority incidents and the response standards are as shown below:

An **emergency response** is provided where an incident is taking place and there is a risk of:

1. Danger to life;
2. Serious injury to a person;
3. The use or immediate threat of use, of violence;
4. Serious loss or damage to property;
5. An offender has been disturbed at the scene, or is detained and poses a risk of harm;
6. There are strong objective reasons for believing that an emergency response is required.

Response standard - Essex Police aims to attend emergency incidents within 15 minutes for urban locations and within 20 minutes for rural locations.

A **priority response** will be provided where it is assessed that there is a degree of importance or urgency associated with the incident, but where an emergency response is not required.

A priority response would typically be required where:

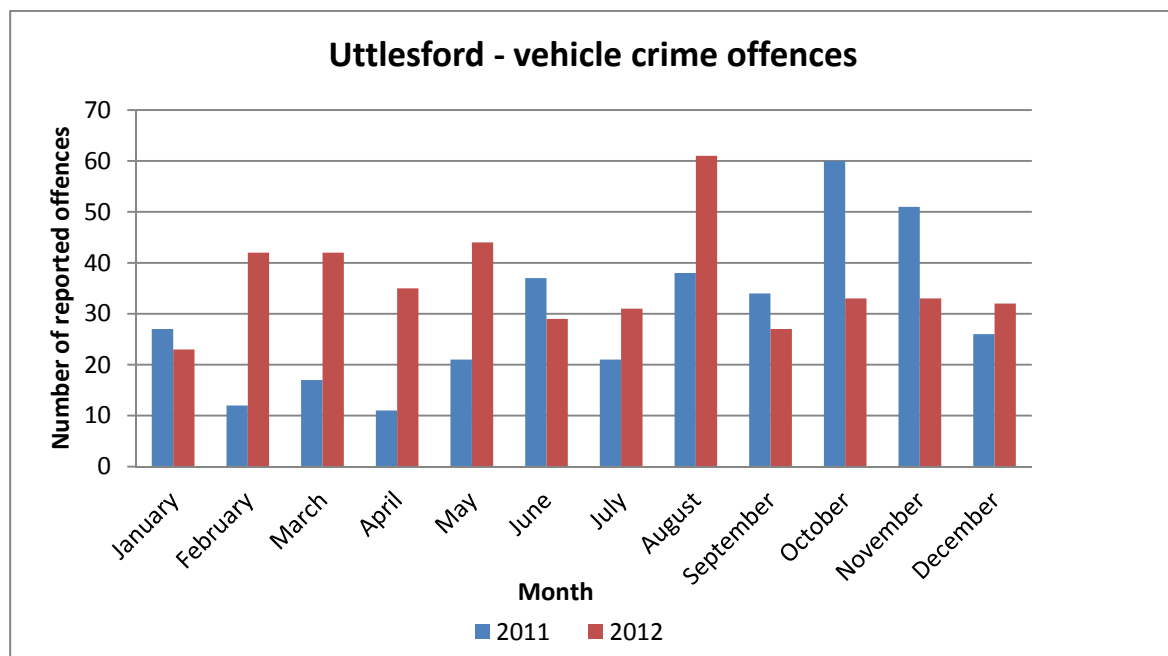
1. There is concern for a person's safety;
2. An offender is detained and poses no immediate risk;
3. A witness or other evidence is likely to be lost;
4. A hate or domestic incident has occurred.

Response standard - Priority incidents are attended within 60 minutes.

## 2) Vehicle Crime

Over the past year, theft from motor vehicle increased by 80 offences in Uttlesford. Approximately half of these additional crimes were thefts of catalytic converters ('CAT' thefts) from vans and other light commercial vehicles. A number of locations were subjected to repeat offences of motor vehicle crime with CAT converters being the most common item targeted.

A significant policing operation commenced in September 2012, which led to the arrest and conviction of two people for organised CAT theft. Since the conviction, the number of offences of this type has fallen significantly.



During the past year, the majority of thefts from vehicles in Uttlesford occurred overnight, many as a result of owners leaving their vehicles insecure with valuable items stored inside. A number of police and media operations have focused on raising public awareness of this issue as well as targeting offenders.

Local police have recently used a policing tactic which involves the targeting of known offenders 24 hours per day, which has been successful in reducing offending. A significant amount of work has also been carried out with Uttlesford District Council to secure the eviction of persons suspected of crime.

### **3) Rural Crime**

Essex Police defines 93% of Uttlesford District as 'rural'; so the vast majority of crime occurs in a rural setting. This demographic brings with it the challenges of dealing with types of crime that are not frequently experienced in other areas of the force.

For example, hare coursing is a concern that is often reported to police in rural Uttlesford. Not only is hare coursing an offence in itself, it is often accompanied by damage to property and crops. The people who carry out this activity are often involved in other types of acquisitive crime.

The current rural crime trends in Uttlesford include the theft of portable equipment, fuel and small vehicles such as quad bikes from outbuildings, theft of gas canisters from bird scarers, battery theft from farms and tack theft from equestrian establishments.

Uttlesford has a very effective Farm Watch system (currently 112 farms are participating). Good communication exists between participants and the police, including regular bulletins and instant SMS text messages to alert farmers to incidents such as hare coursing and vulnerable missing persons.

As a result, the police receive good intelligence from farmers, especially concerning suspect vehicles, and through the network we are often able to track suspects' movements around farms and warn the farmers.

The force holds regular farmers' Neighbourhood Action Panel (NAP) meetings; the next meeting is scheduled for 19<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

Your feedback is most welcome. Should you wish to contact the PCC about this meeting or any other matter please e-mail: [pcc@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:pcc@essex.pnn.police.uk) or write to:

Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex  
3 Hoffmanns Way  
Chelmsford, CM1 1GU

News alerts will usually be tweeted via the Essex PCC Twitter account: <https://twitter.com/essexpcc>

You can learn more about the PCC's work at: [www.essex.pcc.police.uk](http://www.essex.pcc.police.uk)

The neighbourhood policing teams will always act on intelligence received from the community. If you have information regarding any criminal activity please either call your local team or contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Crimestoppers is an anonymous line where you can report any criminal activity.