

Tendring Public Meeting

4th July 2013

Briefing information

There are two Police Stations within the Tendring District situated at Clacton and Harwich. Both are open to the public every day. Clacton Police Station is open from 08:00hrs to 24:00 and Harwich Police Station from 12:00 to 18:00.

Crime Data for Tendring

Comparing reports for 1st June 2012 to 31st May 2013 with those from 1st June 2011 to 31st May 2012 the areas of note are as follows:

- 'All crime' has reduced by 1.3% (115 fewer offences)
- Criminal damage has reduced by 18.7% (319 fewer offences)
- Theft and taking of motor vehicles has reduced by 14.7% (26 fewer offences)
- Robbery has increased by 37.5% (27 more offences)
- Shoplifting has increased by 15.6% (124 more offences)
- Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents have reduced by 6.7% (374 fewer incidents)

1) Crime in Tendring

There have been a number of high profile incidents involving knives within Tendring District in the last 12 months which have sadly resulted in several life threatening injuries.

Recorded Offences Involving Knives and Sharp Instruments				
	Tendring		Clacton	
	June 2011 - May 2012	June 2012 - May 2013	June 2011 - May 2012	June 2012 - May 2013
Possession of offensive weapons	23	17	19	13
Possession of bladed article	32	49	21	36
Other offences involving knives				
Burglary - Burglary Dwelling	1	1	1	1
Public Order	9	2	8	2
Robbery	18	16	7	16
Violence against the person - Homicide	1	0	1	0
Violence against the person - Violence with injury	18	11	12	7
Violence against the person - Violence without injury	5	7	3	6

Essex Police has taken strong proactive action, including an increased use of Stop and Search powers, to make it very clear that it is not acceptable to carry knives on our streets and there will be serious consequences for those individuals who do. This has led to an increase in the number of times that a bladed article, such as a knife, was seized by officers in Tendring district from 32 to 49. This enforcement action is crucial and will continue. The number of serious offences involving knives, such as violence against the person where an injury is caused, has decreased significantly from 18 to 11. However, such crimes are still taking place, as are robberies where the victim has been threatened with a knife.

Essex Police is committed to continuing to tackle knife crime robustly and proactively, and we are very grateful for the ongoing support of the community in tackling this challenge.

Operation Seagull was launched in August 2012 to tackle knife crime and violent disorder in Clacton by implementing three strands of tactics - enforcement, engagement and education.

Enforcement

Section 60 of the Criminal Justice Public Order Act 1994 is a power that allows police officers to stop and search people in a defined area where intelligence has been received to suggest that significant and imminent violence is likely.

S60 powers have been invoked in Clacton town centre seven times from August 2012 – April 2013, resulting in 20 people being arrested and over 300 people being stopped and searched.

- 30 theft/drug/burglary warrants have been executed in the Clacton area within the last twelve months with a number of arrests being made and drugs being seized.
- A joint operation took place with British Transport Police at Clacton train station using the knife arch – no offences were reported.
- Directed patrol strategies have been conducted in key areas on a regular basis by local police, an Operational Support Group, the Dog Section and streets and seafront officers.
- Stop and Search powers are being used in Clacton under S1 PACE 1984 Act.

	Total Stop Searches	Offensive Weapon Stop Searches
June 2011 to May 2012	274	28
June 2012 to May 2013	550	99

Engagement

- Crimestoppers campaign – a media campaign offering a reward for intelligence on knives.
- Publicity through BBC Essex TV, Colchester Gazette, Clacton Gazette and BBC Essex Radio.
- Two Twitter accounts have been created by Tendring police officers to update the public in live-time and links also created to Facebook via Tendring Community Safety page.
- Mrs Ann Oakes-Odger from Knifecrime.org is working with youths at Inclusion Ventures at Jaywick on knife crime, upon a police referral.

- There have been 'Nights of Action' with other partners in Clacton town centre on 28th July 2012 and Dovercourt/Harwich town centre on 5th October 2012, to tackle disorder.

Education

- Police Youth Officers deliver a two-hour knife awareness session annually to year ten pupils at Clacton County High School, and Clacton Coast Academies and this is being extended to Colne High School in Brightlingsea, Harwich High School and Freshstart in Clacton.
- Police officers and staff delivered urgent assembly messages in September to numerous schools and sixth form colleges after the tragic death of Jay Whiston in Colchester.
- A knife awareness session was delivered to the Jaywick Forum to raise awareness with adults and offered to other partnership groups such as Neighbourhood Watch and the Pier Forum.
- A knife crime poster campaign has taken place in retail outlets and licensed premises through TENbac (Tendring business against crime) and licensing officers.
- An intense ten-week 'Borderline' programme has been delivered to thirty disaffected teenagers to equip them to make positive lifestyle choices.
This programme has been extremely successful at reducing offending behaviour and is an initiative from Tendring District Community Safety which is fully supported by Essex Police and won a High Sheriff's award in 2012.
- Crucial Crew sessions were delivered over a two-week period in November 2012 to over 1300 children from 35 schools within Tendring. This event covered a variety of topics including knife crime, crime and consequences, road safety and first aid.
- Police Youth Officers have worked with pupils from Clacton County High School to create a knife crime production. This event had such an emotive and empowering message that it is being considered as best practice for other schools.

The Clacton Gazette launched a 'Lives Not Knives' campaign on 27th September 2012. Work is on-going with the local media to keep the community alerted of any incidents as well as the continuing decrease of crimes within this area.

Some residents of Clacton have raised concerns that a high density of houses of multiple occupancy within the Clacton Pier Ward area, are attracting a group of residents who have recently been released from prison. These residents can be vulnerable to becoming victims of crime themselves; however, there is evidence to suggest that a section of these people are committing crime within the immediate area. This has led to other residents having a perception of increased crime within the community and generally not feeling safe, especially at night. This is also having a detrimental impact upon the local economy and the council's plans to rejuvenate Clacton as a safe place to live, work and visit.

A partnership approach has been taken with a number of agencies and involves engagement with a number of these establishments to identify who is living there and to ensure that they are not committing crime.

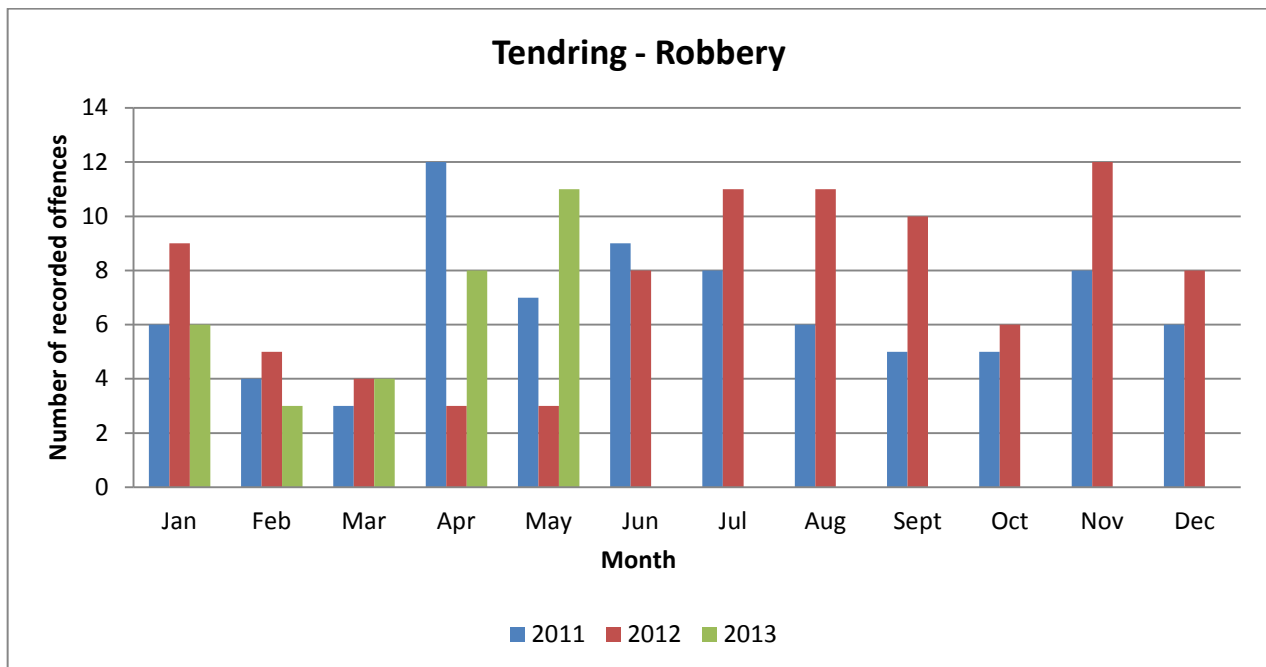
The Tendring Community Safety Initiative was set up in March 2013 as a pilot scheme to work with an agreed street every four months and to take a simple three-pronged approach involving: consultation, action and results/review, to enable the partners to identify issues and to take a cohesive approach. Work has been on-going in Pallister Road, Clacton, and the results of this pilot will be released shortly to evaluate success.

Clacton is covered by a Designated Public Place Order which empowers officers and PCSOs to seize alcohol and dispose of it and enables police officers to disperse people they believe will engage in alcohol-related crime from the town for a period of up to 48 hours (return within that period will lead to their arrest). This has been an effective tool for dispersing problematic drinkers by day and preventing identified individuals causing problems through the night by early intervention and dispersal.

Clacton also has a Dispersal Order within the town centre, which is a preventative tool that allows uniformed officers to identify groups of two or more persons that are likely to cause anti-social behaviour. Persons within these groups are given a warning to leave a prescribed area for duration of up to 24 hours, as appropriate.

A number of operations are in place throughout Tendring to target violence. There are increased patrols during the busy evenings at key locations and licensed premises. Licensing staff work closely with Tendring District Council to target premises that are selling alcohol irresponsibly or ignoring criminal activity taking place on their premises. This has resulted in fines, robust action plans and a number of establishments having their licence revoked.

Approximately 30% of violent offences are related to domestic violence incidents which occur within private houses. A significant proportion of these incidents are linked to tourists visiting the area using caravan/holiday accommodation. Essex Police always takes positive action in relation to incidents of this type and, together with partners, supports the victim to break from the cycle of violence.



There has been a recent increase in robberies in Tendring which fall broadly into two 'themes'; street robbery of mobile phones or money and organised crime which targets post offices, banks and jewellery stores.

In relation to street robberies, it is common that younger people are targeted in public as they usually have high value phones on display that are attractive to criminals. Work is on-going via Twitter, school assemblies and Facebook to engage with young people and provide practical advice on keeping their property safe to reduce the chances of them becoming victims.

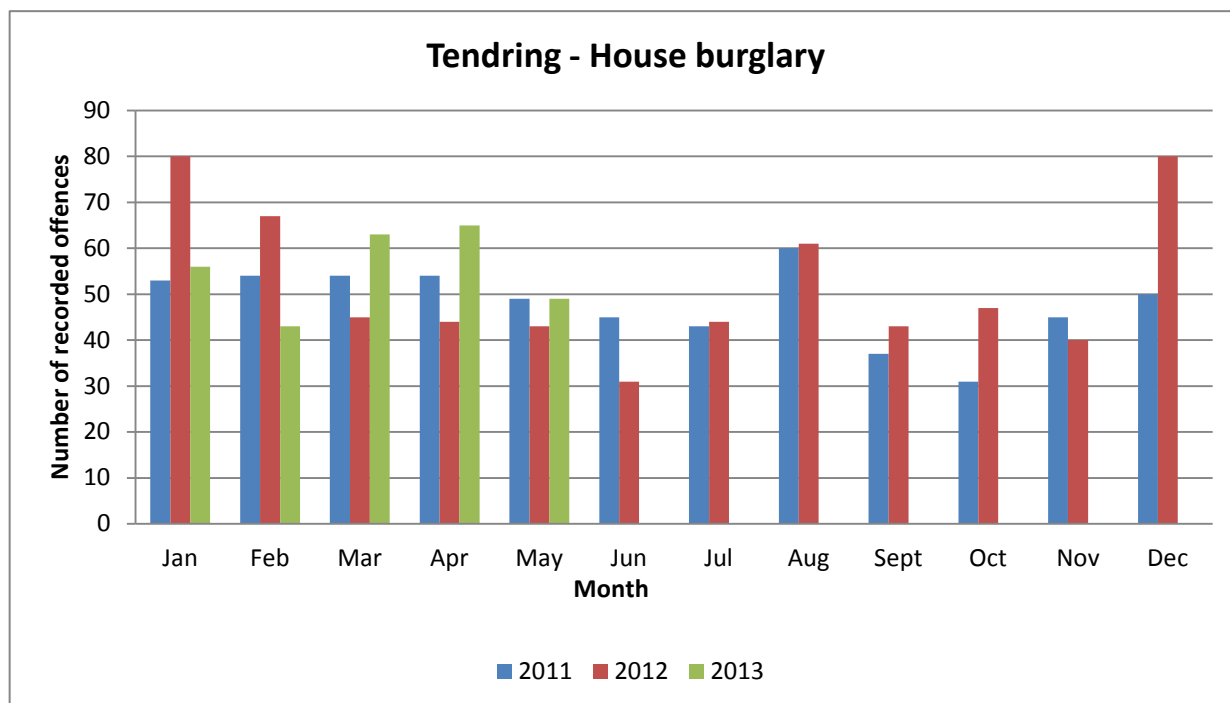
The Serious Crime Directorate is conducting a review on organised crime groups that are targeting Tendring. A seminar was held in January 2013 at Clacton Police Station with a number of bank managers and post office staff to share best practice for crime reduction tactics for serious offences. The crime reduction tactical advisor has now visited a number of premises and worked with their organisations' security departments to boost security.

The fast work and in-depth investigation by the Criminal Investigation Department in Clacton has led to a high arrest and charge rate, resulting in the capture of offenders linked to five out of six serious robberies. These criminals are now serving significant sentences in prison.

2) House Burglary

Comparing reports for 1st June 2012 to 31st May 2013 with those from 1st June 2011 to 31st May 2012 House burglary in the Tendring district has increased by 6.4% (37 more offences)

Burglary other than in a house (i.e. shed, outbuildings etc.) has increased by 3.1% (22 more offences)



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

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

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.