

## Epping Forest Public Meeting

24<sup>th</sup> October 2013

### Briefing information

Epping Forest and Loughton Police Stations are open to the public daily from 12:00hrs to 18:00. They are the main operating base for policing the district with a 24 hour Neighbourhood Crime Team and officers dedicated to policing the town centre communities. Response and Patrol Officers are based at Chigwell.

### Crime Data for Epping Forest

Comparing reports for 1st September 2012 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013 with those from 1st September 2011 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2012 the areas of note are as follows:

- 'All crime' has reduced by 3.5% (267 fewer offences)
- House burglary has reduced by 18.1% (166 fewer offences)
- Theft and Taking of Motor Vehicles has increased by 14.5% (47 more offences)
- Serious Violent Crime has increased by 47.7% (21 more offences)
- Burglary Other (such as burglary of sheds, outbuildings and commercial premises) has decreased by 10.5% (50 fewer offences)
- Criminal damage has decreased by 13.7% (140 fewer offences)

#### 1) Bogus Callers

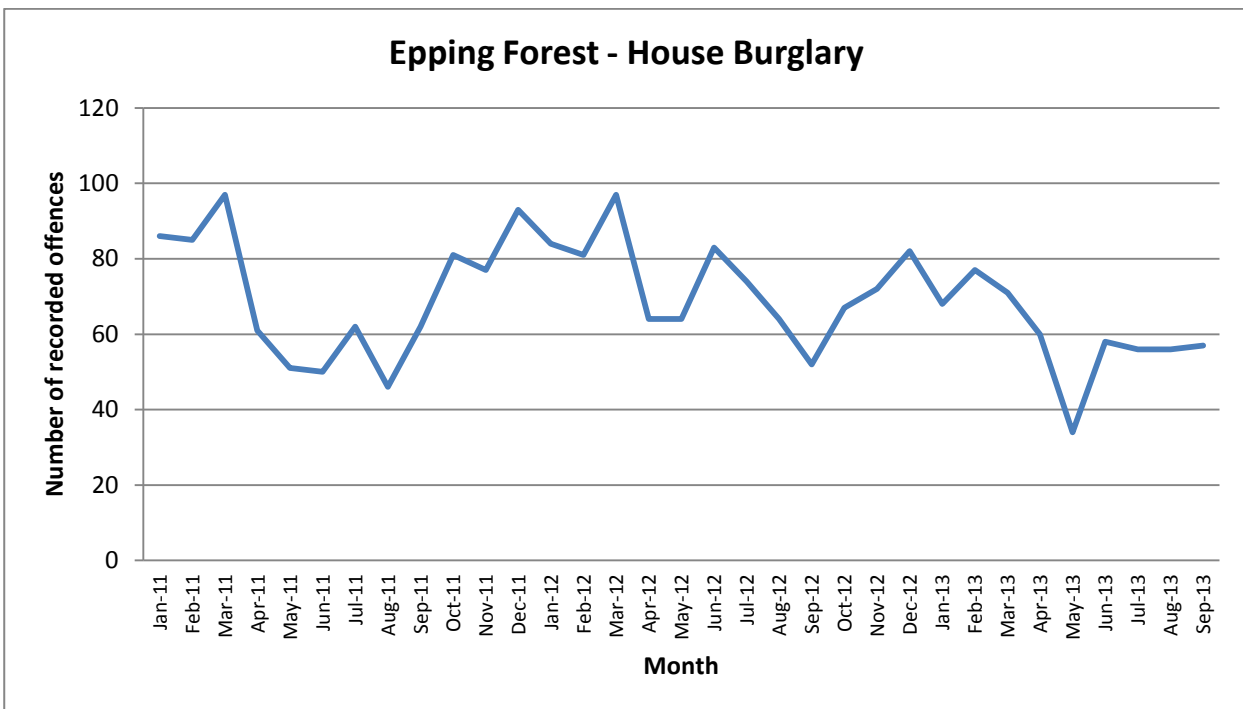
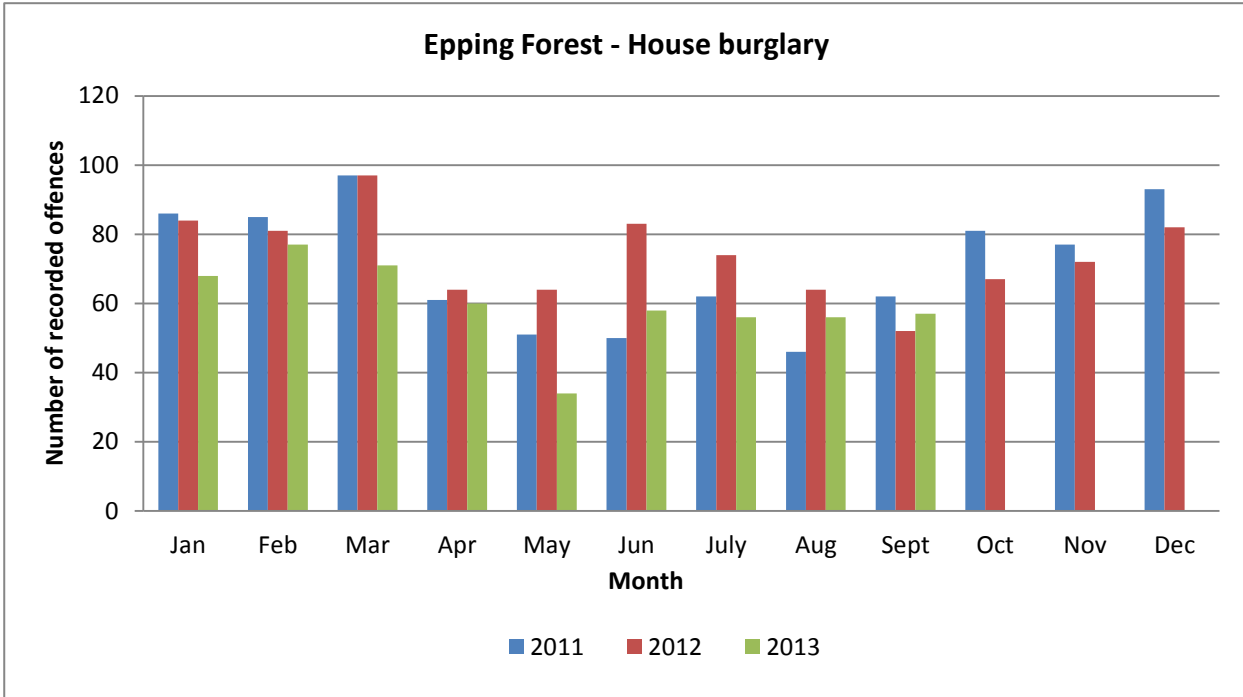
Courier fraud has been operating across the country for over two years and has claimed thousands of victims, most of whom are elderly. Recent cases have been reported in the Epping District. A policing operation has been set up to address this type of crime. The scam has many variants, mainly involving the fraudster calling the victim (normally an elderly person) and pretending to be a police officer. They try to convince the victim there has been a crime committed with the victim's debit card and ask for the PIN number to clarify. They tell the victim to ring 999 for verification and to ask for a named officer. However, unknown to the victim, the fraudsters keep the telephone line open and fool the victim into thinking they have contacted the police. They then arrange for a courier to collect the victim's card.

A good deal of information concerning this type of fraud is available on the Internet and via social media. However, the prime target for these criminals may not have ready access to this information.

Essex Police has a dedicated team set up to investigate these offences and is working closely with the Metropolitan Police and Hertfordshire Police to build an intelligence picture to locate and arrest the suspects. There have already been some arrests in relation to these offences in London.

## 2) House Burglary

The district continues to suffer a high number of house burglaries compared with other parts of Essex, but there has been a significant decrease of 18.1% in the number of these crimes year on year, meaning there have been 166 fewer victims of house burglary in Epping Forest district.



Operation Albatross, which has revised Essex Police's approach to tackling house burglaries, has continued and led to the new force-wide predictive policing model, Operation Insight, which was launched on 1st October 2013. Operation Insight consists of a new system of analysis and more specific deployment of resources into 'hot spots' likely to suffer burglaries, reducing the chance of them occurring. This provides a more efficient use of police resources and maximises the opportunity to prevent crime. Maps are produced weekly to highlight areas for more intensive patrolling based on their vulnerability to offences.

Operation Insight also includes 'Cocooning' which was successful in the pilot of Operation Albatross in Brentwood. This involves crime prevention work carried out by the neighbourhood policing team specifically targeting premises in the immediate vicinity of a burglary as they are statistically more likely to be the subject of a burglary themselves. Residents are visited and given crime prevention advice to ensure security measures are in place to reduce the risk of them becoming victims.

### **3) Night Time Economy**

There is a specific focus on addressing busy night-time related offences in Loughton and Epping, with on-going work around licensed premises and the options open to the police and the district council, such as early morning restriction orders and late night levies.

The police also play an active part in providing information to support or oppose applications and have successfully opposed extended hours drinking applications at Licensing Committee hearings.

#### **Your feedback is most welcome.**

Should you wish to contact the PCC about this meeting or any other matter please email:

[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.