**District Briefing – Brentwood Policing District**

**District Profile**

Brentwood borough is part of the Epping Forest and Brentwood District Policing Area (DPA) which falls under the West Local Policing Area (LPA). Within Brentwood there are four ‘beats’:

• Brentwood Town Centre;

• Brentwood North;

• Brentwood South;

• Hutton and Shenfield.

Each of these is split into wards.

Within the borough there are a number of towns and villages, the largest of which are Shenfield and Ingatestone.

Brentwood borough covers approximately 60 square miles and has a population of approximately 74,000 people. The population comprises 93.4% White, 2.9% Asian (predominantly of Mauritian descent), 1.4% Black and 1.3% Mixed Race.

A large proportion of residents commute into London because of Brentwood’s close proximity to the city and good transport links. There are railway stations located at Brentwood and Shenfield, which is a key station in the region and the terminus for Crossrail.

Brentwood contains large sections of some of the county’s busiest roads, including parts of the M25, A12 and A127. The excellent transport links make the borough easily accessible to travelling criminals.

The borough is generally affluent and includes a variety of retail services, commensurate with the size of the population. Brentwood town centre has a high concentration of retail premises with approximately 40 stores.

There is an active night-time economy with a variety of pubs and clubs in and around Brentwood town centre.

Thorndon Country Park and Weald Country Park are located within the borough and both parks consist of extensive areas of woodland. Weald Country Park covers around 500 acres and is the largest of Essex County Council’s parks.

**Policing Structure and Resources**

The Community Policing Team (CPT) delivers community policing within the district and comprises one Inspector, covering Epping Forest and Brentwood district, and one Sergeant, five Constables and two Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) who support Brentwood district only. There is also a rural community officer PC Mark Sheridan-Brown who is shared with Epping Forest. There are currently nine Special Constables at Brentwood with five of them allocated to the CPT. We have had a number of Brentwood specials join the regulars which has temporarily reduced our numbers here.

Local Policing Teams (LPTs) incorporate, Six Sergeants and a team of thirty Constables that work from the new offices at Brentwood council offices. These officers are specifically allocated to Brentwood.

The Criminal Investigations Department ‘Proactive’ (CIDP) works under a local Detective Inspector. There is one Detective Sergeant in CIDP and five Detective Constables. The department is based at Brentwood and is responsible for targeting prolific offenders and the prevention and detection of crime across Brentwood district.

The Criminal Investigations Department ‘Reactive’ (CIDR) works under a local Detective Inspector to provide cover for the district from 8am to 10pm. The department is responsible for the investigation of the more serious crimes such as dwelling burglary and robbery.

CID Reactive consists of:

• One Detective Inspector;

• Four Detective Sergeants;

• Twenty Detective Constables.

One Detective Sergeant and five Detective Constables are based at Brentwood. The remaining three Detective Sergeants and 15 Detective Constables are based at Loughton. The Detective Inspector works between the two areas.

Operation Juno teams are responsible for the investigation of all domestic abuse crimes within the West LPA and are based at Harlow and at Grays Police Station.

**Community Concerns and Media**

**Pony and Cart Racing on the A127**

There have been reports of traffic being stopped on the A127 at weekends so that illegal racing of horse and carts can be carried out. The latest one was on Saturday 3rd February when the road was closed due to the illegal racing and because of the numbers of spectators in the carriageway.

As a result of this illegal racing three vehicles were seized and a number of prosecutions for road traffic offences are pending. Plans are also in place to try to prevent further occurrences.

**Nathan the Goat – Animal Cruelty Update**

HopeField Animal sanctuary had trespassers on their property last year who cruelly pulled an animal on to an electric fence. This act was videoed by the youths carrying it out and uploaded to social media where it was picked up by the press. The CPT carried out an investigation based on all the information provided by the public. Four suspects were identified and interviewed and the offender was dealt with for Animal cruelty.

**Unauthorised Encampments** – Unauthorised Encampments continue to be reported and affect the borough at different locations. Although the offence of Trespass is a civil one the police have some discretionary emergency powers in certain circumstance to remove travellers. The local Council, the CPT and the Essex County Traveller unit monitor unauthorised encampments and with closer working have improved their response. Council figures for the summer period in 2017 when compared to 2016 showed that there was

* A reduction in the number of encampments
* A reduction in the average length of stays on council & Parish council land from 8 days to 3 days
* An increase in the use of section 61 powers by police from 3 to 9

**High Street Brentwood**

There was an increase in the report of crime and ASB on the High St in Brentwood. The Community Safety Partnership worked with the CPT and local schools to

* identify the youths involved
* send letters to the parents of children involved on the periphery
* visit those involved in more serious ASB
* Arrest those committing offences.

The two main ring leaders were arrested and were subsequently prosecuted for offences of theft, damage and assault. Whilst awaiting prosecution the youths were given bail conditions not to go to the High Street.

The cases are now finalised and a Criminal Behaviour Order has also been obtained after conviction which prevents the main offenders associating with each or gathering in a group of more than 4 people.

As a further preventative and enforcement measure a public space protection order is being applied for by Brentwood District Council, after consultation with the Police.

**Motorcycle enabled crimes**

There were increasing reports of motorcycles being driven anti socially and also involved in crime. The local CPT identified a suspect for crime and carried out a search warrant at his home address to look for evidence. This youth offender was subsequently arrested for being involved in crime and his bike seized.

Crime prevention advice was given to local schools and commuters regarding the use of mobile phones because people using mobile phones were approached from behind by a moped rider and then the phone was stolen as they drove past. These offences have now stopped.

At Halloween there was a motorcycle “ride out” from Romford to Southend which impacted on Brentwood where a number of windscreens were smashed. There was a preplanned police operation in conjunction with the Met Police. As a result Essex officers deployed a number of stingers on the offending motorcycles which resulted in a total of 15 arrests and ongoing enquiries.

**Nuisance Motorcycles**

In relation to nuisance/recreational motorcycles there were reports of antisocial behaviour at William Hunters Way, Wash Rd (Scout Hut) and Bishops Hall car park. The local councillors, the CSP and the police held a meeting to explore the options for reducing the instances. As a result of the actions from this meeting

* Bishops Hall car park has a new gate and is locked overnight
* The Scout Hut at Wash Rd has been fitted with new CCTV and an alarm system
* Section 59 notices continue to be issued at William Hunters Way after use of the council CCTV system.
* The prosecution of an offender for verbally abusing a member of the CSP who was doing a site visit.
* Four bikes were seized.

**The Seasonal Increase in Burglaries over the winter months.**

The CPT and CSP have been involved in targeting and preventing the seasonal increase in burglaries that occurs across the whole country over the Winter months. The force wide operation was Operation Mercury and highlighted the clocks going back and darker nights.

The CPT and CID have performed extra patrols (both visible and uniform) between November and today. They have deployed Automatic number plate readers (ANPR) resulting in number of arrests linked to burglary and other offences.

The Casualty reduction bureau has also assisted by deploying road safety checks/speed checks in areas of high burglaries so as well as road safety they are also using their technology to look for Burglars and travelling criminals using ANPR.

A number of other units within Essex police also provided assistance

* Serious Crime Directorate was sought for advice.
* The Operational Support Group assisted in arresting suspects.
* The Special constabulary assisted in all aspects and particularly in preventative patrols.
* Active Citizens were also used to distribute crime prevention leaflets and advice
* The dog section attended and exercised their dogs in burglary hot spot areas.
* Cross border work with BTP and the MPS was carried out which resulted in the identification of a suspect who was subsequently arrested.

**Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Data**

**Brentwood Crime Comparison**

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The table below sets out the crime figures for Brentwood, comparing reports for 1st January 2017 to 31st December 2017 with 1st January 2016 to 31st December 2016 for the Brentwood district and the Force.

**Areas of note for Brentwood district:**

* All Crime has increased by 16.9% (700 more offences). – Slightly higher than the force average but in line with national increases and changes to crime recording.
* Stalking and Harassment has increased by 72.9% (121 more offences). – The majority are linked to domestic abuse and the increase has resulted from a greater awareness and more accurate crime recording practises. The CSP has promoted Domestic abuse awareness and increased reporting.
* Theft from a Vehicle has increased by 29.3% (88 more offences). – The targeting of vans particularly in hotel car parks has increased. Operation Northstar has been deployed within the district and crime prevention advice continues to be given regarding not leaving items on display.
* Theft of Pedal Cycles has increased by 103.9% (53 more offences). There was a big increase last year in the area of the train stations targeting commuter’s bikes. Work was carried out analysing CCTV and a number of suspects were identified. Some good work by an off duty officer going home resulted in the arrest of an offender by Shenfield train station and the offences have dropped off since that arrest.
* Dwelling Burglary (pre-Apr 17definition) has decreased by 5.6% (21 fewer offences). See note on Burglaries above
* ASB Incidents have decreased by 3.1% (55 fewer incidents). – see work on High street above



**Other districts – All Crime offences and per 1000 population:**

