

## **Tendring Public Meeting**

**18 December 2014**

### **District Profile**

Tendring is part of the North Local Policing Area (LPA) covering an area of 130 square miles. Towns in the district include Clacton-on-Sea, Holland-on Sea, Frinton, Walton-on-the-Naze, Brightlingsea and Harwich.

The district's largest town, Clacton-on-Sea, and surrounding villages have good rail connections to London and there is access to the A133/A120/A12/A14 road networks.

Harwich International Port is situated within the district and has approximately 260 shipping movements per month. It is a port of call for a number of international cruise companies.

Notable industry around oil and petrochemical refinement are evident in local establishments such as Carless Oil refinery at Parkeston and Exchem Logistics at Little Oakley. Joint agency planning for emergencies, and good local links and protocols with Essex Police are in place at these locations.

Following significant national media interest in the area of late, it has gained attention from charitable organisations such as the Rank Foundation and awareness of local issues across the country. Clive Knowles from British Ironworks is assisting local charity Only Cowards Carry and local police teams with delivering some robust knife amnesty bins to be rolled out in Tendring and potentially across Essex.

### **Population**

The population of Tendring is 148,000 and the largest town is Clacton-on-Sea, with a population of 53,000. The district has the largest proportion of those aged over 65 in Essex, with one in three people in Tendring being 65 or over.

### **Policing Structure and Resources**

#### **Neighbourhood Policing**

Tendring, along with the other Essex Police districts, went through significant change in September 2014 with the creation of Local Policing Teams (LPTs) and Local Police and Partnership Hubs (LPP Hubs). The LPTs across Tendring were balanced to reflect and counter the increase in crime (particularly in Harwich) and 25 officers are now stationed at rural locations.

We have continued to develop the LPP Hub. The launch attracted a number of new partners and this has been managed by Leanne Thornton from Tendring District Council.

Current priorities include ASB and work centres around managing threat, harm and risk where it is apparent across the agencies.

Neighbourhood officers are mixed across Clacton, Walton, Brightlingsea and Mistley. The district has been fortunate in attracting additional funding for PCSOs. Frinton Town Council fund six PCSOs, Alresford and Great Bentley fund one each, and Tendring District Council fund one PCSO in the town centre and have offered to fund two more.

The Neighbourhood Policing Team has accommodation within one fire station in the district at Brightlingsea which is used as a shared operating base with the Essex County Fire and Rescue Service.

### Youth Officers

There are currently two dedicated youth officers within the district. Their role is to reduce youth related crime and anti-social behaviour. They are closely involved with local schools and support processes to divert young people out of the criminal justice system. One youth officer is predominantly based at Clacton County High School and the second youth officer is based at Clacton Coastal Academy.

### CID

Tendring District is covered by Criminal Investigation Department (CID) officers that are stationed at Clacton Police Station. They investigate the more serious crimes such as GBH, fraud, robbery and dwelling burglary. There are three teams who work a 'six days on and three days off' shift pattern. The CID team is led by a Detective Inspector. Clacton has recently secured an additional two Detective Constables to support the team, this is linked to the unprecedented demand on the department associated with violent crime and local criminals who, detectives believe, are using increasing levels of violence against each other, often to recoup criminal debts or involve others in their criminal enterprises.

### Specialist Departments

Specialist police departments that cover the entire county are also available to Tendring District to support delivery in areas such as firearms, special operations and specialist investigations.

### Special Constabulary

A group of volunteers work alongside the officers within Clacton and Harwich. There are 22 Special Constables working in Tendring and the district has the ability to call on the services of other Special Constables across the North LPA.

### **Crime data for Tendring**

At the meeting on December 18, 2014, there will be a detailed discussion about the crime trends and facts which lie underneath the statistics.

Comparing reports for 1<sup>st</sup> November 2013 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2014 with 1<sup>st</sup> November 2012 to 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2013, areas of note include:

- All Crime has increased by 4.6% (408 more offences);
- House burglary has decreased by 18.7% (118 less offences);
- Theft from Vehicles has decreased by 13.6% (70 less offences);
- Robbery has decreased by 21.7% (26 less offences);
- Anti-Social Behaviour has decreased by 6.5% (331 less incidents);
- Other Violence Against the Person has increased by 25.0% (545 more offences);
- Serious Violent Crime has increased by 34.8% (24 more offences);
- Assault with Less Serious Injury has increased by 23.2% (197 more offences).

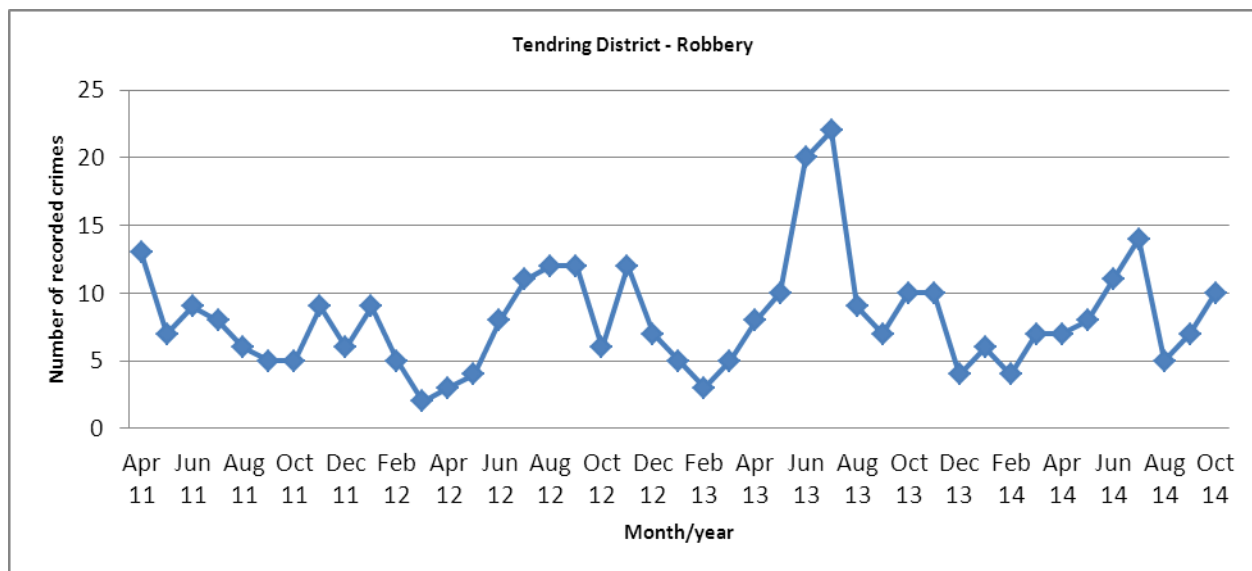
### Overview of all crime

There has been an increase in crime in the Tendring district of 4.6%, equating to 408 more offences.

At the meeting on December 18, the District Commander will explain some of the trends that lie behind this increase and the operational policing work to target specific offences.

### Knife Crime and Robbery

The graphs below showing specific crime trends provide data for the Tendring district back to April 2011.



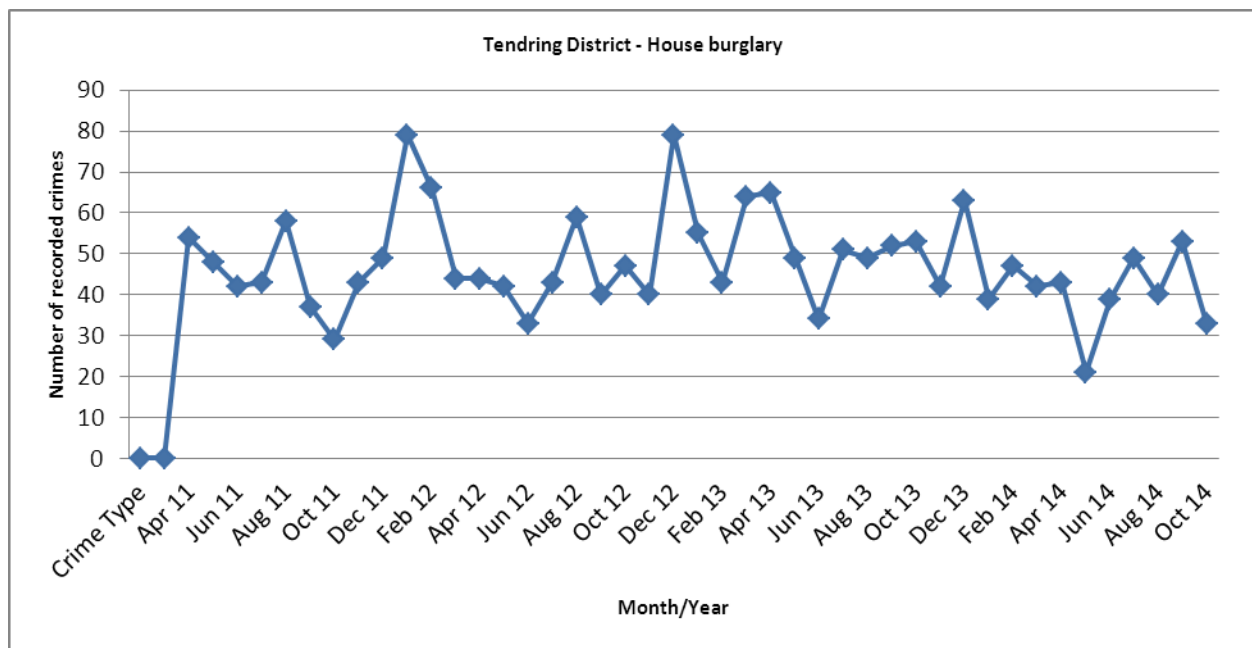
Comparing reports for 1<sup>st</sup> November 2013 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2014 with 1<sup>st</sup> November 2012 to 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2013, robbery has decreased by 21.7% or 26 fewer offences.

The trends experienced in 2013 following a number of knife point robberies have not been evident in 2014. In Colchester robberies involving a knife have remained fairly static, with 19 offences between November 2013 and October 2014, compared with 17 for the same period the previous year. However in Tendring, robberies involving a knife have dropped, with 15 offences between November 2013 and October 2014, compared with 36 offences the year before. This type of crime was targeted by an initiative geared towards increasing enforcement, intelligence and preventative measures with partners.

Police continue to work with Caroline Shearer, who runs the local anti-knife crime charity Only Cowards Carry. She set up the charity following the fatal stabbing of her son Jay Whiston in Colchester in 2012 following a party. Only Cowards Carry have a shop in Clacton and their recent work includes increasing the capacity to deliver preventative training, promoting the message of staying safe through media campaigns and delivering a number of knife amnesty bins in Clacton and across Essex with the help of volunteer companies.

### House Burglary

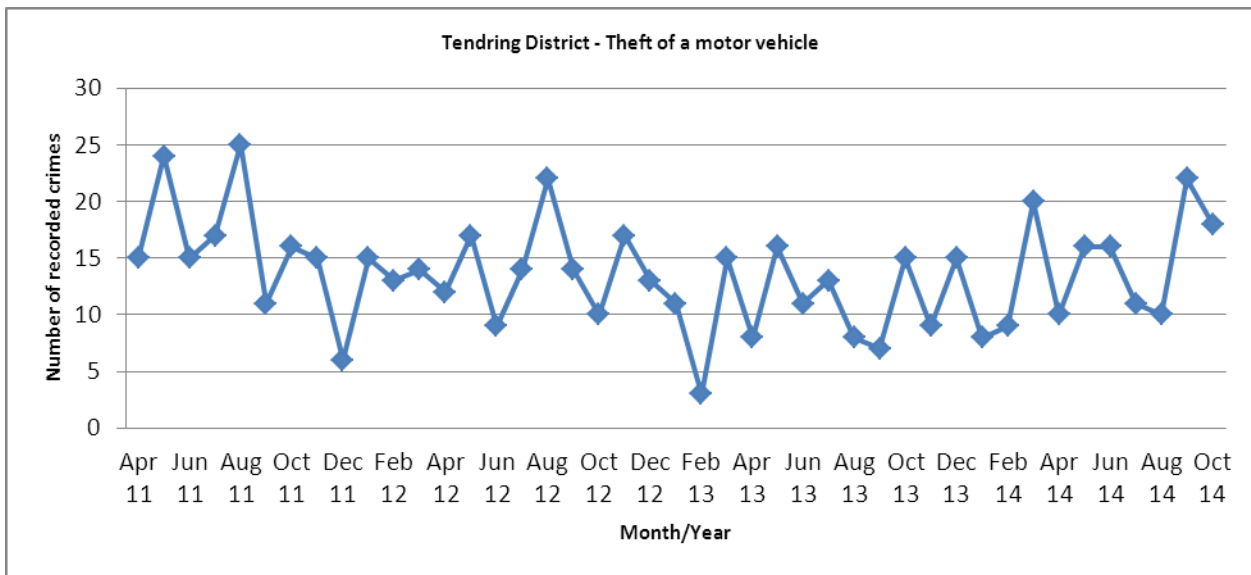
Between 1<sup>st</sup> November 2013 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2014 the number of house burglaries decreased by 18.7% or 118 fewer offences compared with the same period the previous year.



CID has seen a considerable number of successes. There has been robust work to swiftly identify intelligence on potential suspects and target them. Under Essex Police’s forwided predictive policing operation to tackle burglary, officers visit burglary victims and patrols are undertaken to complete risk assessments on properties in the surrounding area. The risk assessments aim to identify vulnerable properties, people and vehicles and officers provide crime prevention advice to owners of such properties. There have been trends in burglaries which have seen people arriving in the district from London, Harlow and Tilbury, to commit crime. There has also been a trend for people using guest houses and hotels to find a temporary base. The district has experienced 11 incidents of serious violence linked with dwelling burglaries. We have seen a number of street level gang members breaking into houses to steal cannabis plants or cash gained from this activity; however arrests have been made and convictions secured.

### Theft of motor vehicles

The number of offences of theft of motor vehicles has increased by 17.3%, equating to 24 more offences, between 1<sup>st</sup> November 2013 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2014, compared with the same period the previous year.

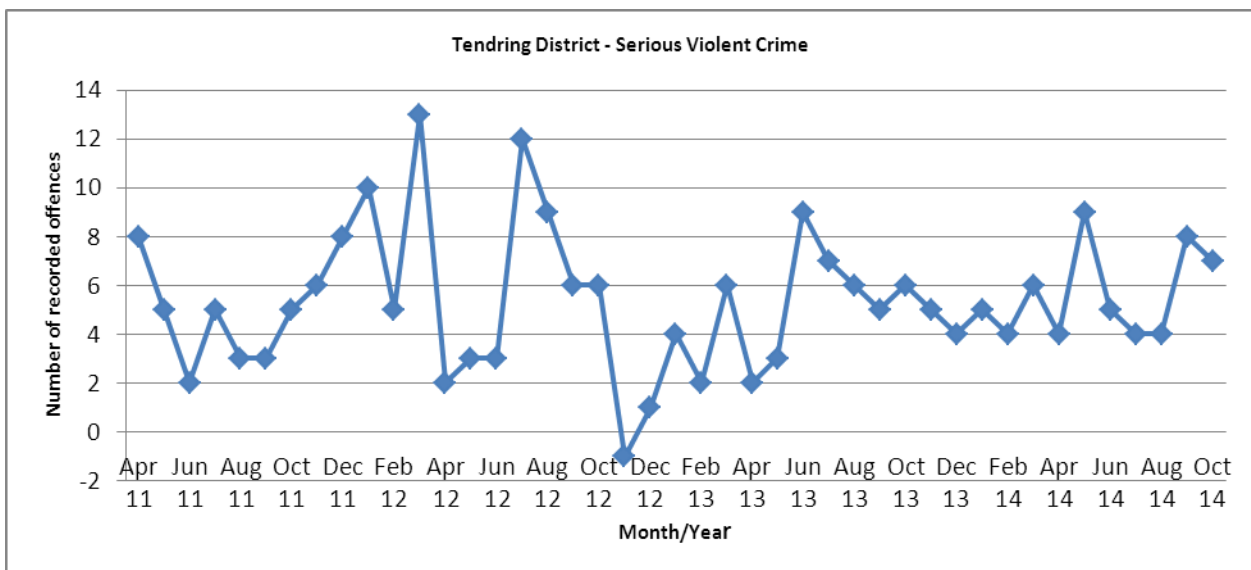


However the police have secured a number of valuable positive outcomes in relation to these offences. In the early part of 2014, there was a series of this type of offence in the Harwich area. Targeted activity took place around some key individuals, arrests were made and handlers of stolen property were also identified. A shop owner was found to be a strong link in the chain and convicted and imprisoned. In addition, a team of detectives and uniformed officers looked at the financial gain achieved by this individual and a proceeds of crime recovery order was made. This was highlighted in the local media to demonstrate that offenders will be tracked down and brought to justice and criminal activity will not be tolerated. Intelligence gathering work continues around this type of crime.

**Violent Crime and Assaults (All Types)**

According to Essex Police, this type of crime is the biggest challenge for the Tendring district and accounts for the majority of the increase in crime during the reporting period.

Between November 1<sup>st</sup> 2013 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2014, Serious Violent Crime increased by 34.8% - equating to (24 more offences) – whilst offences of Other Violence Against the Person increased by 25.0% or 545 more offences.



It is notable that Tendring compares closely to Colchester in relation to the numbers of offences of violence with injury and violence without injury. However, the districts differ because Tendring doesn't experience the same levels of assaults or drunken activity that are associated with the night-time economy as Colchester.

The emergence of gang related activity has been an impact factor in this increase in violent crime. This could be linked to supply chains of class 'A' drugs associated with criminal groups moving from London boroughs out into what they perceive are more lucrative markets.

The district will have support from the Home Office in January 2015 following a planned peer review from the Ending Gang and Youth Violence Team.

There is an ongoing operation with officers conducting stop checks for weapons. There is also a separate operation – due to continue until Christmas – targeting a group of key criminals who appear to be driving violent crime.

### **PCSOs, Police visibility and the new local community meeting structure**

The Tendring district benefits from 25 officers, who are now stationed at rural locations. Neighbourhood officers are mixed across Clacton, Walton, Brightlingsea and Mistley.

The district has received additional funding for PCSOs with: Frinton Town Council funding six PCSOs; Alresford and Great Bentley funding one each; and Tendring District Council funding one PCSO in the town centre and further offering to fund two more.

Since October this year, Essex Police has changed the way its meets with the public. Under the changes police are hosting local community meetings, guaranteeing the presence of a neighbourhood Sergeant whilst PCSOs are hosting weekly 'street meets'. The force has pledged that; the street meets will take place weekly; that every district will hold five or six local community meetings (every eight weeks); and that every local community meeting will be chaired by an officer of sergeant rank or above.

**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.