



Report

Essex Police Authority

of meeting held on 5 November 2012
(For information)

1. Chief Constable's Report

A full copy of the Chief Constable's Quarterly Report for the period 2^{1st} July to 30th September 2012 is contained in our meeting's agenda and further copies are available on our website at www.essex.police.uk/authority.

2. Notable Activities

Olympic Torch Relay

The Torch Relay entered Essex for two days early in July 2012. The Relay travelled through to Hylands Park in Chelmsford on the first day and from Chelmsford to Harlow on the second. No crimes directly linked to the Torch Relay were reported in Essex and there were no incidents of protest or disorder.

2012 Olympics/Paralympics

The Essex Police Olympic and Paralympic operations took place from 13th July to 14th September, 2012 inclusive. There were no Olympic specific crimes recorded or arrests made.

Hadleigh Venue

Hadleigh hosted the Olympic Mountain Bike event. Whilst the venue experienced some theft of plant equipment in the construction phase of the Olympics (outside the designated Olympic period), there were no Olympic crimes recorded or arrests made during the policing operations.

V-Festival

This year's V-Festival took place between the Olympics and Paralympics on 18th and 19th August. The event was attended by some 180,000 people over the two days.

The Essex Police media team worked with the festival promoters to promote crime reduction and personal safety, making use of social media to improve the spread of these messages. There were no serious incidents on site and recorded offences fell by 40% overall. Theft offences reduced by 40%, drugs possession by 45% and drugs supply by 46%.

3. Roads Policing

Operation Wagtail

During this quarter there has been a significant increase in the number of young drivers converging on locations across the county, most notably Lakeside and Basildon.

In response to reports from local residents officers from the Casualty Reduction Unit supported by the Neighbourhood Policing Team from LPA West launched Operation Wagtail. This was a structured plan of engagement and enforcement action to minimise the risk to life and property from the actions of the young drivers.

The operation is ongoing, but from its inception on 7th July to 30th September, 2012, the results were as follows:

- 507 vehicles stopped by police
- 4 arrests (Operation Millennium¹ theft of motor vehicle / drunk and disorderly / obstruction of the highway, public order and assault on police / drugs offence)
- 9 vehicles seized for no insurance
- 48 drivers reported for excess speed
- 25 Section 59 Police Reform Act (2002) warnings placed upon a driver/vehicle²
- 230 Registered keepers written to by Essex Police in relation to their manner of driving observed by police officers
- 4 Drivers reported for 'racing on the highway'

Operation Sheltered Path

This operation seeks to impact upon driver behaviour and to disrupt those persons and vehicles that use the road to commit crime.

The A13 and A12 remain two specific routes with comparatively high numbers of killed and seriously injured (KSI) casualties. Additionally, intelligence has identified a high incidence of theft of fuel from parked LGV on both routes on Tuesday nights.

On Tuesday 10th July directed patrols were deployed on the A12 and A13. With the support of a dedicated member of staff to monitor ANPR cameras the operation was able to monitor vehicles known to use these strategic routes to enter Essex to commit crime.

Officers engaged with large goods vehicle (LGV) drivers parked at the roadside offering crime advice and providing reassurance.

¹ Operation Millennium deals with theft of motor vehicles where a burglary is committed to first steal car keys and subsequently the car itself.

² Section 59 of the Police Reform Act 2002 refers to vehicles being used in a manner which causes alarm, distress or annoyance. An example might be performing screeching 'handbrake turns' in a housing estate. A police officer will have powers to stop and/or seize a vehicle where he has reasonable grounds for believing the vehicle has been used on any occasion in such a manner. The powers cannot be exercised unless the driver is BOTH using the vehicle anti-socially and driving without due care and consideration for other road users or driving on land not forming part of a road.

These operations have continued during the last quarter in Basildon, Grays, Harlow and Junction 7 of the M11 and have consistently produced positive results. As an illustration, a single day in Harlow on 13th September resulted in 132 cars being stopped, two arrests, 25 mobile phone offences, 39 seat belt offences, 17 instances of no MOT, two drugs searches were carried out and eight vehicles were seized.

Serious Collision Investigation Update

The Serious Collision Investigation Unit has investigated 20 fatal or serious injury collisions since July 2012. During this time, the unit has attended the scene of 50 collisions. They have also deployed with their 3D laser scanners to four serious crime scenes.

In August 2012, Simon Aylott was sentenced at Chelmsford Crown Court for causing the death of his wife by careless driving. This followed a lengthy investigation into the collision which occurred in March 2011 on the A12 at Witham. The defendant was driving his family home when he collided with a lorry. He was sentenced to nine months in prison, suspended for two years, a two-year driving ban, a supervision order and costs.

The unit has recently commenced an investigation into the tragic deaths of Bradley Cooper and Ashley Parker. The couple were riding a motorcycle on the Lower Burnham Road, North Fambridge when it was in collision with a tractor and trailer. One person was arrested at the scene. This investigation is ongoing.

4. Notable Investigations

Murder - Harlow

On 15th July 2012 at 21.25 a disturbance was reported by a resident of Copshall Close, Harlow. A 45-year-old male neighbour was subsequently arrested and charged with murder. He is currently remanded in Custody pending a trial at Chelmsford Crown Court in February 2013.

V-Festival – Chelmsford

At this year's Chelmsford V-Festival over the weekend of 18th – 19th August, 20 people were arrested for supplying Class A drugs. 10 people have now been charged and are awaiting sentencing.

Murder – Chelmsford

At a party in Chelmsford following the V-Festival on 18th August a 39-year-old man sustained injuries from which he died at the scene. A 25-year-old man, Sam Martin from Westcliff has been charged with murder and remanded in custody. He will go on trial on 21/01/2013. A 34-year-old man, Clint Spearpoint from Rayleigh has been charged with murder and remains on court bail.

Drug Supply – South Essex

Following an investigation into the large scale supply of Class A controlled drugs in the Brentwood and Romford areas, seven men aged between 30 and 55 were found guilty at Chelmsford Crown Court of a number of drugs and firearms offences.

Sentencing is due to take place on 30th November, 2012.

Money Laundering – Waltham Abbey

On 7th September, 2012 Toby Jones, from Epping was arrested in Waltham Abbey as a result of a large scale drugs operation and was found to be in possession of a quantity of bank notes hidden in his vehicle. A further search of his home address in Epping resulted in a total of £376,000 being seized. He was charged with money laundering and remanded in custody. Toby Jones is to be indicted at a Plea and Case Management Hearing on 17/12/2012, at Chelmsford Crown Court. He is to be added to a conspiracy to supply class A drugs along with 3 other defendants who will appear together in Court on 17/12/2012.

5. Notable Court Results

Manslaughter and Robbery - Southend

During a robbery in Southend in November 2011 a 45-year-old man died. On 13th July, 2012 two men were found guilty – one, aged 40, was found guilty of robbery and manslaughter while the other, aged 24, was found guilty of robbery. At Southwark Crown Court on Monday 10th September, 2012, they were sentenced to seven years and five years respectively.

Forfeiture Order – Basildon

Following the conviction in July and imprisonment for six years of a 37-year-old man for drug trafficking, a forfeiture order for £184,952 was obtained on 30th August, 2012.

Confiscation Order

At Basildon Crown Court in February, 2012, three men, aged between 28 and 52, were convicted of theft of frozen produce from a warehouse. On 20th September, 2012 three confiscation orders were obtained for £53,710, £3,000 and £45,000.

Murder – Southend

On 14th August, 2012, at Chelmsford Crown Court a 44-year-old man was sentenced to 27 years' imprisonment for the murder of his ex partner who died on Sunday, 24th July 2011 at her home in Southend.

*Cllr Anthony Jackson
Chairman of the Authority and the
person appointed by the Police Authority to
answer questions at meetings of the County Council
relating to the discharge of the Authority's functions.*