

## **POLICING LOUGHTON notes for AGM talk**

- **Precept increase** - this will result in 38 extra officers to cover Thurrock, Harlow, Brentwood and EF. Exact numbers and pattern of deployment to be announced. *Extra* 3 officers to work in EF only will be paid for by EFDC, to be tasked by EFDC and directed to local "hotspots". Essex Police are to add one officer, making the total four there for local deployment

My colleague, Cllr Chris Roberts, will be asking DI Basford how he plans to use the extra police – we want to make sure that they don't replace the extra police we'll be paying for out of our Council tax

- **Whole community police team and CID for EF** are based at Loughton. ....Waltham Abbey, Epping, Ongar stations have been closed

I know many residents were concerned when the public desk at Loughton station closed. However, it wasn't used much and staff were needed elsewhere.

- **All road police for West Essex** now operate out of the unit on the Chigwell - Loughton border by the M11 police bridge, a big increase in the number of vehicles and officers has resulted.

- There has been an increase in the availability of **armed response teams** based in the area, so one is always available.
- Increase in **covert duties officers** also.
- **Operational support teams** available from Boreham HQ - one has been working locally because of an increased number of burglaries in Chigwell.

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- **PLEASE report ANY incident** -- enables CI Basford to call on more of these central resources.

**Policing is information led.** Your reports go onto the computer and are put together with other reports. The police then decide where to focus their scarce resources.

Often they're in **plain-clothes** so you won't know they are there. That was true recently in The Broadway, where they made an arrest.

If you report some-one on the street **dealing drugs**, you're unlikely to see a patrol car come screaming round the corner with the siren going. There's no point, because the dealer will have dumped the drugs before the police are out of the car. What they need are car registration numbers. **Operation Raptor** is catching dealers by stopping their cars and nabbing them with the drugs on them.

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- **Motorcycle units** – these are available from central at Boreham, and are used a lot here.
  - Ditto, **dog section** (there is a dog unit in EF most of the time).
  - **Helicopters**, out of Lippitts Hill and Boreham, soon to be centralized at North Weald aerodrome.

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- **Please follow the Police on social media** and contact via email and
  - **report things online** – it's easier than phoning 101
  - **Feedback.** Over the years we've told the police that they need to do more to let people know what happens after you report something - CI Basford knows police have to keep in touch more, especially to victims. As always, the problem is getting the money to employ the staff.

- **Crime Prevention - concern re burglary.** This is to be stepped up and Crime Prevention officers are always ready to advise householders. Big meeting at Chigwell earlier this month.
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- **Great success with licensed premises;** Nu-Bar and Luxe closed down-- so no of incidents substantially reduced. Keen to work with residents.
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- **New dedicated rural crime officer** based n EF district
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- **A named community officer** to be designated for each parish - named, to act as a point of contact (restores pre-2012 situation)

- **Parking.** DCI Basford thinks this is now a priority; community clearly want this. He'll be liaising with NEPP. Together they will deal with the most problematic streets.

**I can vouch for this – when he joined the District, we contacted DI Basford about specific problems, expecting the usual excuses, and instead – we got action!**

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- **88% of 999 calls responded to in less than 15 min** (less than he'd like, mainly dragged down for M11/M25 incidents - takes time to get through any congestion)

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**Dialling 101** - what is the point of phoning 101 when you hang on forever and by the time you get through, the criminals have moved on and all the call centre does is say 'thank you' and your call has been noted.

**Sue Taylor** (EFNW) recently met our local sergeant and the District Commander

Calls to the 101 call centre, even when a case has been closed by the 101 operative, are reported to them on their phones. If they think that action is required, they will take it, case closed or not.

**Even if the 101 call centre staff say there are no police resources** available or a case is closed, it is up to the local commander to decide whether or not to act.

He will always prioritise calls where there is threat or harm and where lives are endangered over calls that report crime but the criminal is nowhere to be seen.

**The police also have CCTV on their phone too.** This means they no longer have to wait days for the video to be sent to them and they can act immediately if the criminals are still there.

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- **Speed guns** - they have now got new ones that can be used in the hours of darkness.
- **Speeding** - if you know there are particular roads with endemic problems, let Mr Basford know. **In some areas, residents have got together and been trained to operate a speed gun themselves.**

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- **Special constables** - there are 12 now in EF, with a further 6 coming.

A number who are very keen and most are local.

- **Bonfire Night/Halloween** -- was able to deploy 30 officers

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- They are trying to find new sites for **mass pull over areas**. Mobile phone use is a major concern. 122 culprits found in one day in a single exercise at Waltham Abbey last month.

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- **Gipsy encampments** - use of section 61 powers have reduced average 10 day "stay" of illegal encampments to 1.2 days. A s.61 order issued in say Thurrock is now valid if the travellers move on to Epping Forest or Uttlesford.

This is a special unit, one which also liaises with farmers and against hare-coursing.

## **Neighbourhood Watch**

**We work closely with Epping Forest Neighbourhood Watch.**

**Very simple – key you eyes open for your neighbours.**

**They do the same for you.**

**And there's network that will keep you informed about what's happening locally.**

**To find out more, just Google Epping Forest Neighbourhood Watch.**