

## **East Devon Community Safety Officer's Report January 2012**

### **The Honiton Local Action Group met on 8<sup>th</sup> December**

The meeting was attended by 8 persons representing 6 different agencies.

Total crime for this LAG area over the past 12 months up to the end of November has decreased by 4.1% from 651 offences to 624.

#### **Violent Crime**

- Violent crime has decreased over the last 12 months by 17.5% from 154 to 127 reported offences.
- There are no specific initiatives, except the distribution of packs and leaflets in the area in the lead up to the Domestic Abuse Awareness Week in November.

#### **Acquisitive Crime**

- Over the last 12 months burglary dwellings have increased by 77% from 13 to 23 offences, burglary other has increased 35.7% from 56 to 76 offences while thefts from vehicles have increased 11.9% from 42 to 47 offences.
- There are measures in hand by Police to tackle these increases such as Operation Newmarket which replaced operation Mascot. This encompasses several different elements such as high visibility policing using resources including the Special Constabulary, the use of 'Stop A Thief' alarms and cross border collaboration with other forces.

#### **Anti Social Behaviour**

- Reports to the Police of anti social behaviour over the last 12 months have decreased 25.7% from 490 to 364 logs. Criminal damage offences have decreased 22.7% from 154 to 119 offences.
- There have recently been several breaches of ASBOs by two individuals, one of whom has breached on 6 occasions. These issues had been dealt with promptly and both were due in court the following week. *It has since been established that the female who had breached 6 times has appeared in court and was given a 6 month prison sentence suspended for 2 years.*
- There have been reports of asb on the St Pauls/St Leonards estates which is mainly being caused by one individual who is new to the area – this is being dealt with by Police.
- The autumn and winter Carnivals were successful with no major Policing issues. Thanks were expressed to the Special Constables for their attendance and support.
- A proposal for an additional youth worker at the Youth Centre was to go before the Town Council the following Monday. This would enable the service to be offered to a younger age group (from age 11). The proposal also included making a fund available for those young people who genuinely could not afford entrance fees.
- Dan Barton from Devon Youth Service updated the Group on the number of sessions being held at the Youth Centres in Honiton, Axminster and Colyton – 16 sessions in total. There is now a Senior Youth Worker in each of the Centres.

### **Public Confidence**

- Lyn Brown, Community Action, thanked the Group for inviting her to attend the meeting. The National Citizenship Service (NCS) Project is a Government funded initiative set up to encourage Year 11 students (16 year olds) to engage with their communities. The project, which will take place over the summer period, is designed to create a sense of belonging, worth and aspiration, as well as offering the opportunity to develop transferable skills and bring benefit the community. There are two start dates for the Project – 9 July and 13 August. Two groups of 15 students would be identified from Honiton – the intention is to identify hard to reach young people who find it difficult to engage and wouldn't normally have or take up personal development opportunities.
- A 'food bank' is now operating from the Community Church due to a food crisis amongst individuals and families and the need to establish some kind of emergency provision.
- Vikki Duffy from Honiton Children's Centre forwarded a report to the group stating that spaces were available for the 10 week Solihull Parenting Programme that was running in Honiton on a Wednesday evening during the Spring term. If Group members are aware of any families that could benefit they were asked to get in contact with Centre.
- Gary Wills from the Community College said that he would like to arrange a Christmas dinner the following year for 'needy' elderly people in the community. Teachers and sixth formers could serve the food supplied by caterers, with possible financial assistance from the community. He will discuss this idea at a future LAG meeting.
- PCSO Sue Rowe advised that two 'Have your Say' meetings are held each month and are used to highlight community issues.

### **Road Safety**

- Concerns had been raised about speeding on King's Road, however speed checks had been undertaken. Results of the surveys and speed trolley checks would be reported at the next meeting.

### **Axe Valley Local Action Group met on 8<sup>th</sup> December**

8 persons representing 6 different agencies attended the meeting.

Total crime over the last 12 months in the Axminster area up to the end of November has decreased by 13.3% from 475 reported offences to 412. In the Seaton area it has decreased 3% from 330 reported offences to 320.

### **Violent Crime**

- In Axminster over the last 12 months violent crime has remained stable with 66 offences recorded for the last 2 years while in Seaton it has increased from 68 to 70 offences.
- There are again no issues with this crime type in either area and therefore nothing was discussed.

### **Acquisitive Crime**

- In the Axminster area over the last 12 months burglary dwellings have decreased 53.6% from 28 to 13 offences, burglary other has decreased 18.3% from 82 to 67 offences while thefts from vehicles have increased 45.5% from 22 to 32 offences. In the Seaton area burglary dwellings have decreased 20% from 16 to 12 offences, burglary other offences have decreased 6.7% from 30 to 28 offences while thefts from vehicles have increased 31.6% from 19 to 25 offences.

- Burglaries are down in both areas while thefts from vehicles have increased but not alarmingly so.
- Padlock alarms continue to be popular in the rural Axminster area and are being promoted by PCSO's.
- 'Farm Watch' is being implemented where every farm in the area will be visited and if they are agreeable will be put on the scheme.
- In the Seaton area 'Allotment Watch' is also being introduced along with 'Caravan Watch'. The LAG was asked to fund signs and stickers for this once the costs are known. Work with caravan sites commenced in the Seaton area during 2011.

#### **Anti Social Behaviour**

- Over the last 12 months in the Axminster area reports to the Police of rowdy, nuisance behaviour have reduced 13.5% from 193 to 167 logs. Criminal damage has decreased 30.6% from 111 to 77 offences. In the Seaton area reports of rowdy, nuisance behaviour have decreased by 12.4% from 217 to 190 logs. Criminal damage has decreased 18% from 83 to 68 offences.
- The opening of Tesco's has given rise to problems with boy racers using the car park and entrance road, with complaints received from residents of Harbour Road. It is a local issue that Police are trying to solve in conjunction with Tesco's. Section 59 notices could be pursued as Tesco have a very good CCTV system in place. There is still an issue re similar activity in the Underfleet car park at Seaton.
- Problems were reported to EDDC by a resident in Axminster regarding the Combe Lane Fair in September. On Friday and Saturday night there was anti social behaviour including urinating. PCSO Trott reported that he had also been in contact with the lady resident and had tried to reassure her that the area was well policed during the period that the fair is in Axminster. The Fair closed at 10.30pm on Friday and 11.00pm on Saturday night but there was then the problem of moving those attending on afterwards.
- Devon Youth Service reported that both nights in Axminster Youth Club are busy with 35+ attending each night. Some evening sessions have to be closed due to staff shortages.
- A new Youth group organised by EDDC Youth Development Workers will begin at Millwey Community Centre, Axminster, in January. Initially 2 sessions, 7-11 and 12-16 will take place on Tuesday evenings. The LAG was thanked for their help in supporting this by funding computers.

#### **Public Confidence**

- Total Crime is down in both areas and Police regularly report this to the local press.
- See also positive reports above under anti social behaviour re youth work which also impacts on public confidence.

#### **Road Safety**

- No specific road safety issues discussed.

#### **The Exmouth Local Action Group met on 7<sup>th</sup> December**

7 people each representing a different agency attended.

Total crime in the Exmouth area over the last 12 months up until the end of November has decreased by 1% from 2204 offences to 2180.

### **Violent Crime**

- Violent crime over the last 12 months has increased 15.7% from 540 to 625 offences.
- The noisy march at Exmouth during Novembers Domestic Abuse Awareness Week, went well with about 30 people in attendance. It was also widely published in the press. EDDC have put posters with helpline number on, in their public toilets across the district.
- The 'Nightshift' project is going well and they have 50 volunteers at present. After the recent Christmas Cracker event the team dealt with several people, mainly drunk and had 5 volunteers but could have done with 10. It was a very busy night for them but their presence on the streets prevents violence and anti social behaviour.
- The issues around night time disturbances in Exmouth from people attending courses at CTC Lympstone is being dealt with. Inspector Tony Comerford is meeting the Commanding Officer from the camp to discuss.

### **Acquisitive Crime**

- Domestic burglary has decreased 4.8% from 84 to 80 offences, other burglaries have decreased by 21.2% from 113 offences to 89 and thefts from vehicles have decreased 5.5% from 145 to 137 offences.
- Again there are no issues with any of these crime types as they are all showing reductions.

### **Anti Social Behaviour**

- Reports to the Police of Rowdy Nuisance Behaviour have decreased slightly from 1482 logs to 1478. Criminal Damage has also decreased 21.9% from 558 offences to 436.
- EDDC reported an issue with a man trying to sleep in disabled toilets in the Magnolia Centre car park. Police have recently served an asb warning letter on him following his asb in the town. There is also a concern regarding the amount of mess that the person is leaving in the toilet and the nature of the mess. I offered to arrange a multi agency meeting to discuss this person.
- Devon Youth Service reported that they had completed 3 week sessions on anti-social behaviour – how it develops etc and working with a targeted group. More sessions were requested and it is hoped to provide them in the New Year.
- The Youth Offending Team reported that a successful bid for funding was made and as a result an Attendance Centre facility in Exeter is due to start in January. The person overseeing this will be working with young people from 10 years of age to 18. It will be open Monday to Friday and every other Saturday between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

### **Public Confidence**

- Another "We love Exmouth" project will take place just before Easter 2012 whereby help and assistance such as completing small repairs to houses, mending fences and cutting grass will be offered to a number of households in a targeted area. This has proved very successful in the last few years.

### **Road Safety**

- No issues discussed.

## **The Sidmouth and Ottery St Mary Local Action Group met on 12<sup>th</sup> December**

6 persons representing 5 different agencies attended the meeting.

In the Ottery St Mary area over the last year up to the end of November, total crime has decreased by 11.2% from 580 to 515 offences while in the Sidmouth area it has increased 4.8% from 497 to 521 offences.

### **Violent Crime**

- In Ottery St Mary over the last 12 months, violent crime has decreased 8.8% from 80 offences to 73 while in Sidmouth it has increased 31.3% from 83 offences to 109. Much of this involves very minor assaults.
- No initiatives were discussed.

### **Acquisitive Crime**

- In Ottery St Mary over the last 12 months domestic burglary has decreased from 30 offences to 28, other burglary has decreased 28.4% from 74 offences to 53 offences and thefts from vehicles have decreased 59.6% from 57 offences to 23. In Sidmouth domestic burglary has increased from 23 offences to 26 offences, other burglary has increased from 30 offences to 40 offences (+33.3%) and thefts from vehicles have increased from 22 offences to 31 offences (+40.9%)
- There has been an alarming increase in domestic burglaries in unoccupied houses resulting in thefts of jewellery and cash, which are being investigated. Reducing burglaries is now the main focus for the Police Neighbourhood Team in Sidmouth.

### **Anti Social Behaviour**

- In Ottery St Mary over the last year, reports to the Police of rowdy, nuisance behaviour have decreased 15.6% from 237 to 200 logs, while reports of criminal damage have decreased 22.3% from 112 offences to 87 offences. In Sidmouth reports to the Police of rowdy, nuisance behaviour have increased from 290 to 318 offences (+9.7%) while criminal damage has decreased 12.2% from 139 to 122 offences.
- The scheme to build the skateboard park in Ottery St Mary has encountered problems due to contractual difficulties, though efforts are underway to continue the project.
- EDDC reported that there has only been one abandoned vehicle across the patch recently. However, there have been instances of fly tipping of asbestos reported, namely two at Muttersmoor which is on Clinton Devon Estate land and two near the Bowd. There is no suggestion as to the identity of the offenders.
- The fires in and around the Byes and Margaret's Meadow are being investigated and additional Police patrols have been deployed. The culprits are believed to be known.
- Sgt. Andy Turner reported that he was continuing to investigate those responsible for littering and causing damage to fences in Sedemuda Road, Sidmouth. Additional patrols are also being used.

### **Public Confidence**

- Re P.A.C.T./Have your say, this type of public consultation does take place and will be reported on at future meetings.
- The annual Tar Barrels event passed off with very few problems and EDDC's Street Scene Service cleared the town of rubbish very quickly and professionally.

### **Road Safety**

- Sgt. Simon Tennant reported that the possibility of legally allowing cars to park on pavements at Ridgeway Gardens, Ottery St Mary was being examined to help prevent traffic congestion and obstructions. Although it had not yet affected fire appliances there is the potential for the problem to escalate and therefore prevent emergency access.
- Bob Crisp from D&SFRS reported that they had experienced emergency access problems at Alexandria Road, Sidmouth, where cars parked on opposite sides of the road. Comment was made that it is thought many residents deliberately parked opposite one another to provide natural traffic calming. Sgt. Andy Turner agreed to speak to Sidmouth PCSOs and contact residents where necessary to ensure that parked cars in Alexandria Road did not cause obstructions for emergency vehicles.
- Sgt. Andy Turner reported that over the past few months a number of complaints regarding parking outside of the Primary Schools in Sidmouth had been received. He has devised an action plan with the schools and Police to tackle this.

### **The East and Mid Domestic Abuse Forum met on 14th December**

- Much of the discussion at the meeting was about the Domestic Abuse Awareness Week in November and planning for the same in 2012.
- Police stats show a 4% increase in total domestic abuse crimes and incidents for East & Mid Devon over the last year. The number of domestic abuse incidents between 1 April 2011 and 30 November 2011 was 1446. There was a slight peak in October.

### **Other Anti Social Behaviour Work**

- I recently drew up an Acceptable Behaviour Contract for a teenage male at Honiton. At least 3 more ABC's are planned for the next month.

**Gerry Moore, Community Safety Officer East Devon,  
9th January 2012**