

East Devon's Community Safety Officer's Report

January 2010

Exmouth Local Action Group met on both 9th December 2009 and 13th January 2010

Total crime in the sector has decreased over the last 12 months compared to the previous 12 months by 1.2%. This is a fall in crimes reported, from 2659 to 2627.

Violent Crime

- Violent crime has decreased by nearly 5% over the last 12 months. 619 reported crimes to 589.
- New Years Eve, which is often a time when violence occurs, was relatively quiet and not a lot busier than a Saturday evening in Exmouth. The town was well policed. Under aged drinkers were deterred and a lot of alcohol was seized from them at specific locations.
- Ken Grose from the Youth Offending Team reported that they are now able to provide a course for young people who are referred to them and who have been identified as victims of domestic violence and abuse. Apart from providing the necessary support this will also assist in 'breaking the chain' regarding such behaviour.

Acquisitive Crime

- Over the last 12 months burglary dwellings have shown a decrease of nearly 19% from 132 to 107 reported crimes. However, recently there has been a spate of offences around the town. In the main jewellery has been stolen and Police believe it is because such items can be exchanged for cash via the post as per television adverts.
- Other burglary and theft from motor vehicle offences have shown a slight increase. There are no specific initiatives in respect of this.

Anti Social Behaviour

- Good work involving the Police and Devon Youth Service outreach continues in Littleham where reports of anti social behaviour have reduced. The Section 30 Dispersal Order is still having an impact. An application for a Full ASBO in respect of one young person was successful just before Christmas. Police are considering making a similar application for one of his associates.
- Polly Mercer the EDDC Youth Development worker has had permission to use Clayton House in Littleham for activities for young people aged 16 and above. Some of this will involve links other agencies, including Connexions, re finding work and courses etc. I will be providing funding for Polly to purchase 4 laptop computers for this project.
- The portable toilets provided at two locations in Exmouth on New Years Eve, were once again well used. They were first hired two years ago following complaints from

shopkeepers that revellers were urinating in shop doorways. Since then there have been no further complaints.

Public Confidence

- The Police are doing a great deal of work in order to improve this with monthly newsletters etc. This is the same across East and Mid Devon.

The Sidmouth and Ottery St Mary Local Action Group met on 14th December

Total crime in both areas has decreased over the last 12 months. In Ottery St Mary from 696 to 638 crimes which represents a fall of 8% and in Sidmouth from 709 to 518 which is a decrease of 27%.

Violent Crime

- There are no fresh initiatives regarding this as violent crime continues to fall in both areas. In Sidmouth from 123 offences to 82 which is a 33% decrease and in Ottery St Mary from 88 to 83 offences.

Acquisitive Crime

- In both areas this type of crime is down significantly with the exception of burglary other offences in Sidmouth which have increased from 44 to 58 offences over the 12 month period.

Anti Social Behaviour

- Rowdy, nuisance and inconsiderate behaviour figures have increased recently. Monday nights in Broadclyst has continued to cause concern. They have been some weeks without a Youth Club and this may be the reason for the behaviour. There is an expectation that this behaviour will reduce when the Youth Club resumes as normal. Some young people from the area are shortly to receive warning letters from the Police as part of the 'escalation process'

Public Confidence

- As above at Exmouth re the Neighbourhood Team newsletters etc.

Other Community Safety Issues

- A school nurse representative reported that there is concern about the mental health of some young people due to their use of cannabis.

Honiton Local Action Group met on 14th January

Total crime in the area has decreased over the last 12 months by 11% from 906 crimes to 807.

Violent Crime

- Has decreased over the last 12 months from 152 to 147 crimes. It is not a major issue in this area and there are no current initiatives.

Acquisitive Crime

- Over the last 12 months the following crime types have shown reductions: Burglary Dwelling from 29 to 22 crimes (-24%), Other Burglary from 122 to 59 (-51%), Theft from Vehicle from 79 to 52 offences (-34%)
- An ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) operation was recently carried out at 4 locations around the town. 1 vehicle and cash seized re drug offences. The operation was planned to disrupt criminal activity.

Anti Social Behaviour

- Reports of anti social behaviour are once again down in this area. A case conference has been arranged to discuss and plan future action re a neighbour dispute in one specific area of the town. All the properties in the road are owned by a housing association.
- A Sect 59 notice subject of the Police Reform Act is to be served on a young person from one of the rural parishes re his driving which causes harassment, alarm and distress to others. This means that if he continues to reoffend in the same manner his vehicle can be seized and impounded.
- One person has recently been dealt with for drug offences and the landlord of his privately owned property is seriously considering eviction. This follows contact with the owner by Police.

Public Confidence

- The current crime figures which show that all main crime types in the Honiton area are decreasing will be passed to the local press by Sergeant Martin Burrows.
- There are still issues with the CCTV system in the town. Honiton Town Council is dealing but there continues to be much frustration with the company who installed the cameras.
- Recently, 4 drug warrants were executed in the town area. As a result 4 people were arrested re heroin offences. One has been cautioned and 3 are on bail for supply offences.

Other Community Safety Issues

- The DVLA is being notified by Police of persons who are vehicle owners and who are caught for drug offences. The DVLA can impose certain conditions etc.

The Axe Valley Local Action Group met on 14th January

Total crime over the last year has decreased in both areas. In Seaton by 7.6% from 541 to 500 crimes and in Axminster from 273 to 272 crimes.

Violent Crime

- No specific issues to tackle this which again is not a cause for concern.

Acquisitive Crime

- The Stop a Thief alarms continue to be used by the Police in the area to good effect.

Anti Social Behaviour

- Re the Commando Challenge, a bid for money by Police from the Safer Devon Partnership Anti Social Behaviour Fund was submitted and the £400 requested has been paid. 14 youths had applied for the Challenge and some of these had offended but the Police are trying to steer them away from crime and anti social behaviour.
- There have been several reported fly tipping incidents involving fridges, across the Axe Valley area and West Dorset .A large fridge had been dumped in the Trinity Hill woods and also one in the Seaton area. Enquiries are in hand by EDDC to identify the offenders for the fly tipping.

Public Confidence

- A PACT meeting is being held between 4pm and 7pm on 28th January 2010, at the Axminster Guildhall. The meeting has been well publicised and it is hoped that most agencies will be available to attend. The meeting is not Police led but instead they have invited all the relevant agencies to come along and aid open discussion to make the sessions more informal and useful for residents. Councillor John Jefferies had agreed to chair the meeting. I will also attend and have a stand.
- Sergeant Trudgeon reported that crimes over the last 5 years in Axminster had decreased by 200.

Other Community Safety Issues

- It was reported that EDDC had identified a number of areas of work which could be affected by budget cuts. One of the current services at risk is the out of hours one. This will therefore impact on Police work in respect of noise complaints. There are currently 100 to 150 call outs per month.

Both the Drug and Alcohol Group and the Domestic Violence Forum meetings which should have taken place before Christmas 2009 had to be cancelled due to the

number of apologies received. The DAAG next meets in February while the DV Forum meets again in March.

Other Work

- Funding has been obtained from the Anti Social Behaviour fund of the Safer Devon Partnership to put on a play called Last Orders in 4 schools in East Devon in the summer. The play performed by the Solomon Theatre Group is both hard hitting and impactful and costs £1000 per production. Arrangements in hand to see if Solomon will also agree to an additional performance during the evening for young people who attend Devon Youth Service activities.
- Julia and I are continuing to work on planning the Annual Partnership Meeting being held at Broadclyst 21st April and on the Partnership leaflet which should be available by mid 2010.
- I recently attended a meeting of East and Mid Devon Prolific and Priority Offender Scheme. The meeting was well attended with several agencies represented. Of the 18 persons currently on the scheme 13 are in prison while 5 are in the community and receiving no supervision.

Gerry Moore

Community Safety and ASB Officer East Devon

21st January 2010