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Date: 1st July 2010



Cheshire West and Chester Council

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Dear Councillors,

Upton, Hoole & Newton Community Forum – 5th July 2010

Please find below a report prepared by DC John Hickman and PC Paul Taylor, the Beat Managers responsible for the Upton, Newton and Hoole areas.

PC Paul Taylor has now been appointed to the role of Beat Manager for the Upton area. DC Hickman retains responsibility for the wards of Newton and Hoole.

Yours faithfully

Julia Bryant

Sgt. 3479 Julia BRYANT
Chester Outer (East) NPT



Upton, Newton & Hoole Community Forum, Monday July 5th 2010

Report for May and June 2010

Hoole

Overall reported crime levels within Hoole remain below guide levels and incidents of antisocial behaviour remain low.

Anti social behaviour & crime

Despite the challenges created by the warmer weather, high profile sporting events and the school leaving time for Year 11 and Year 13, reports of antisocial behaviour in the Hoole area remain below guide levels. Reported incidents for the financial year to date are 25% below guide levels.

Particular attention has been given to the Faulkner Street area and the area of the Narrows Park. At a recent meeting about the Narrows Park PSCO Bartlett was praised for his regular patrolling of the area and the decrease in problems at the park was also noted. In response to the World Cup, additional patrols were provided on the days that England played, providing a high visibility presence and visiting potential hot spots for disorder.

Total crime in for this area remains below guide levels for the financial year to date, with the reported crime 12% below guide levels in June.

Violent crime is showing reported incidents 20% below guide levels, with significant reductions across all types of violent crime.

Burglary in a dwelling levels are falling and we are now able to report a reduction to 18% below guide levels.

Vehicle crime remains low with only 5 crimes reported in the year to date and no incidents reported at all in June.

Pedal cycle theft has shown a much welcome reduction and reported incidents in June are now at guide levels.

Shoplifting in the Hoole area was a significant problem in May but the arrest and charge of one individual has resulted in levels falling back below that forecast, with only 5 offences reported in June.

Specific Issues

At the last Community Forum a local resident raised concerns regarding speeding vehicles in the Hoole Lane area. The Road Policing Unit have been asked to give the area additional attention. This has resulted in a number of arrests and prosecutions for road traffic offences including speeding and use of mobile phones. The area will continue to be subject of traffic enforcement.

Chester Outer Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) have conducted an operation (Op. IMP), to target burglary and copper thefts. Additional officers have supported local officers in conducting high profile patrols and plain clothes work, concentrating on the cycle path and other routes into Hoole and Newton. This has been supplemented by warrants at the addresses of the suspects. Arrests have been made and stolen property recovered.

Thefts of copper and other high value metals continues to be a problem across the Chester area. Scrap prices have continued to increase during the credit crunch leading to an increase of thefts for trading in scrap. Churches and disused building have continued to be targeted. The police have responded by visiting scrap yards, gaining intelligence, executing warrants and arresting suspects. A male is currently in custody for entering unoccupied properties on Hoole Lane and stealing copper pipe. It is anticipated that he will be charged with a number of offences.

We have worked with other agencies to make Hoole a better, cleaner and safer place to live. A property in the Hoole area has been a concern for local residents, with the occupants responsible for anti social behaviour. After meetings with the owner of the house, the problem tenants have been evicted.

Newton

Crime levels in the Newton area remain below guide levels, with total crime levels in June showing levels at half of the guide amounts. Reported anti social behaviour levels remain below guide levels and year to date figures 16% below guide levels.

Anti social behaviour & crime

Newton, in common with all areas, has experienced external influences that could have led to an increase in antisocial behaviour. Additional patrols have been provided and it is pleasing that these factors have not resulted in a significant increase in anti social behaviour.

Total crime in for this area remains below guide levels with the financial year to date showing a 32% fall. The figures for June show a further significant fall in reported crime which was only half of expected levels.

Violent crime is showing reported incidents 18% below guide levels, with significant reductions across all types of violent crime.

Burglary in a dwelling levels are continuing to fall.

Vehicle crime is in line with forecast levels, but thefts from vehicles left insecure and with valuables left on show continues to be a problem.

Pedal cycle theft has fallen across the area with only 3 incidents reported.

Specific Issues

In recent months there have been a number of burglary in a dwelling offences to take the keys to high value cars. Police actions have resulted in the arrest of two individuals from the

Merseyside area. They have admitted and been charged with offences in this area and are awaiting sentence. It is anticipated that they will receive long custodial sentences.

The theft of metal from gardens sheds and unoccupied properties is an issue and the police are taking positive action as outlined in the Hoole report.

Upton

Overall reported crime levels for the Upton area are below the anticipated levels. There has been a small increase in incidents of anti social behaviour (ASB).

Anti-social behaviour & crime

There has been a small increase in violent crime with 11 recorded offences against a forecast of 9. Many of these are linked to the Countess of Chester Hospital.

There has been 75% reduction in Burglary Dwellings.

There has been a slight increase in Burglary other offences with 3 recorded offences against a target of 2.

Vehicle crime has seen a reduction in recorded offences whilst theft from motor vehicles remains at the level forecast.

Reported thefts of pedal cycles remains static whilst theft is above the target level set.

Offences of theft have shown an increase due to a spate of thefts of mobile phones, cash and other small electronic devices from pupils at a local school. Police are presently following a line of enquiry and have detained one youth. There are further lines of enquiry being pursued.

We have executed two warrants under the Misuse of Drugs Act. Small quantities of cannabis and cannabis plants were recovered. One adult male was charged, whilst a second male has been police bailed.

There were 39 reported incidents of anti social behaviour against a projected target of 35. There was a slight increase in alcohol related anti social behaviour.

The majority of ASB has been identified at the Countess of Chester. Three adult males have been identified as the main cause of problems. Working in conjunction with the COCH Security, we have taken positive steps to minimise ASB and stop it completely with two of the males. We continue to monitor the situation and are taking positive steps with the third male.

There have been continuing reports of persons interfering with the road work signs located on Weston Grove. PCSO Browell has liaised with Dee Valley Water who have placed the signs there and he has also highlighted the continuing problem in the local press.

A youth was stopped and identified by police riding a motor cycle on the playing fields on Wealstone Lane at the start of the month. PCSO Browell has given this location extra attention since this incident and there have been no similar reports.

There have been reports of cars parking illegally on Bache Avenue. PCSO's have patrolled the area and a number of fixed penalty tickets issued.

The Months Ahead.

The summer months are always a challenge for the Police service with lighter evenings and school holidays. We watch closely for emerging crime trends and antisocial behaviour hot spots, enabling resources to be appropriately targeted and ensuring early interventions to tackle problems. The fight against drug dealing is to continue, with the intention of reducing crime and antisocial behaviour across all areas.

The Chester Outer Neighbourhood Policing team is continuing to improve the number of reported crime incidents that have a positive outcome. These are at an all time high. We are also reducing the length of time that it takes to deal with crimes.

It is the intention to look for new and innovative ways to increase public visibility and obtain feedback from the community so we can address the issues important to them.

DC 2606 John Hickman
PC 3564 Paul Taylor