



This updated version of the Safer Watford Crime Plan is intended to provide an overview of crime levels within Watford against similar time periods to the previous year, in this case 1st April to 12th October 2015.

The crime types listed are those that impact on the wider community and affect how safe people feel. The summaries provide an overview of the current situation. The summary is similar to the information that is provided to 'One Watford' and the 'JAG' groups held with Watford Borough Council. Also included are details on the local Safer Neighbourhood priorities.

Crime Update

Across Watford **all recorded crime** has risen by 4.6% against the same time-frame in the previous year by approximately 168 offences (4.9%). Whilst there is an increase, the crime rates are rising at a slower rate than in other parts of the county.

Burglary (Dwelling) has reduced against the same time frames last year by 24 offences and Watford has one of the best reduction rates of burglary in the county.

The Watford Safer Streets campaign has been running since September 2013. Since 1st April 2015, 3,520 addresses have been visited, 1,183 residents spoken to and over 750 people agreed to join Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) or the On-Line Watch Link (OWL). 73 local residents have indicated that they would be interested in becoming Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators and our Police Community Support Officers will continue to work with them to develop existing and new schemes. We have also identified over 138 elderly or vulnerable people who we will refer to our support services, ensuring they are well protected.

A countywide initiative will also be run in Autumn as part of Operation Guardian, this will see our staff carrying out face-to-face engagement work, highlighting the risks of increased burglary as days become shorter, and offering crime prevention advice.



Theft from Motor Vehicle has increased across the CSP with an increase in 93 offences against the same time-frames last year. Despite several arrests and prosecutions, motor vehicle crime is still a threat for the CSP and there are pro-active initiatives that remain on-going to catch and disrupt offenders, with media and community engagement advice in respect of crime prevention.

Violent Crime Against the Person has continued to increase across Watford by 203 offences. There are 32 different offence types captured within this category. These include Public Order offences (Disorderly Behaviour / Swearing) and all assaults ranging from Common Assault without injury (lower end of the scale) to the most serious levels of assault GBH (higher end of the scale).

By far the largest increase is within the 'Common Assault without injury' category with 118 offences, over 50% of the total increase. A typical example could be someone being pushed or being verbally threatened without being assaulted. In the more serious assault types (GBH) there is a reduction in offences.

The Night Time Economy (NTE), the largest in Hertfordshire, attracts people from not only Watford but across Hertfordshire, the surrounding counties and London. The NTE does impact on the crime statistics as, inevitably, such a concentration of people in one area does result in some offences occurring. However, the NTE is not exclusively responsible for the increase in assaults but it is a contributory factor. We continue to work with Watford Borough Council and the Licenced Premises in Watford via Pub Watch to make the town safer.

Criminal Damage has reduced against the same time-frames last year by 3 offences; this is intrinsically linked to Anti-Social Behaviour which has also reduced. Complaints of Anti-Social Behaviour have reduced overall by 127 reports (7.2%) - *please see update in Local Policing Priorities section for on-going work.*



Local Policing Priorities

The Local Policing Priorities are areas of work that our local communities in Watford would like us to work on. This year they have been determined through consultation with local residents, via an on-line survey on OWL, local community engagement meetings held by the Police Community Support Officers and via consultation with ward councillors through a briefing session held at Watford Police Station that all the ward councillors were invited to attend.

The three priorities are:

- 1- Dealing with, and managing, Anti-Social Behaviour, Criminal Damage and Drug Dealing.
- 2- Dealing with Road Safety Concerns, including Speeding and Cycling
- 3- Protecting vulnerable people, including the elderly, and keeping people safe.

Dealing with, and managing, Anti-Social Behaviour, Criminal Damage and Drug Dealing – October Update

ASB & Criminal Damage

Operation Catapan (Watford Response to ASB and Criminal Damage) ran throughout the School Summer Holidays on most days between 2pm and 11pm. During those times we had dedicated staff patrolling our ASB hotspots in Watford. This is across the entire district.

With Halloween and Fireworks nights approaching, Operation Catapan will form part of our response to those nights and the school half-term breaks. In the approach to Halloween and Fireworks nights, we will be working with local shops to discourage the sale of fireworks, eggs and flour etc, to groups of youths.



Drug Dealing & Partnership Working

Working with Watford Community Housing Trust we removed a tenant who was involved in ASB and suspected drug dealing from Pine Tree House in North Watford, this has reduced the number of calls from that location.

In the Town Centre/West Watford area, we executed a drugs warrant at Willmington Court and arrested several people in relation to supplying drugs. Working with Watford Community Housing Trusts, we have secured the eviction of the tenants concerned and offenders have been prosecuted.

Towards the end of September 2015, we executed 19 warrants across Watford; the warrants were the culmination of an 8 month investigation focused on the supply of drugs and handling stolen property in Queen's Road and the surrounding areas. 13 people have been arrested with others currently being sought. Whilst it is too early to assess the full impact of the warrants within the local community, the action taken has been viewed positively at a local community meeting and we continue to work locally with the ward councillors and residents in the Queen's Road area.

Dealing with Road Safety Concerns including Speeding and Cycling – October update

In July and August we completed several speeding enforcement checks with colleagues from the Road Policing Unit on the A405 in North Watford. 16 people were stopped for speeding and will be prosecuted. Unfortunately, a number of those stopped were local residents.

The Community Drive Safe volunteers continue to complete speeding surveys on the Park ward and write to people who are identified as speeding. PCSO Scott has had some initial discussions with residents on the Tudor ward with a view to setting up a Drive Safe scheme within the ward.

The Town Centre Team have been tackling careless and inconsiderate cyclists and advising people when they have observed poor cycling in the town centre.



HERTFORDSHIRE
CONSTABULARY



A number of local youths have also been issued with Acceptable Behaviour Agreements in an effort to stop their anti-social behaviour in the town. Their poor behaviour and use of pedal cycles were contributory factors for issuing the Acceptable Behaviour Agreements.

Protecting Vulnerable people, including the elderly and keeping people safe – October update

Since 1st April 2015, 3,520 addresses have been visited, 1,183 residents spoken to and over 750 people agreeing to join Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) or the On-Line Watch Link (OWL). 73 local residents have indicated that they would be interested in becoming Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators and our Police Community Support Officers will continue to work with them to develop existing and new schemes. We have also identified over 138 elderly or vulnerable people who we will refer to our support services, ensuring that we help better protect them.

The following wards have been visited, Park ward (April), Stanborough ward (May), Hollywell ward (July), Callowland ward (Aug) and Leggatt's ward (Sept).

PCSO's Tokarczyk and Thomas completed personal safety talks within the Oxhey and Central wards in August 2015 giving safety and crime prevention advice. PCSO's Price and Lovegrove visited elderly residential homes within the Nascot ward and Holly Tree House delivering similar advice.

Our teams continue to work with partners on 'Think Safe', a scheme that helps and supports vulnerable adults with learning difficulties in the community to better equip them for everyday life. A recent visit to Watford Police Station and regular contact with the group has improved the relationship our staff has with the members and their trust in the police.

Inspector Nick Lillitou
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Watford Police Station