

POLICE REPORT

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 To apprise Members of the current situation as far as the police action on crime and disorder is concerned.

2 MOBILE CCTV CAMERAS

2.1 Rochford

- 2.1.1 The garage premises in Rochford had been suffering regular damage and also thefts from vehicles on the forecourt. A camera was fitted on 22 December 2001 but after three weeks of inactivity was removed.
- 2.1.2 Occupant of a private dwelling in Rochford had been suffering harassment and damage to his vehicle by an identified group of youths, some of whom were on bail conditions and subject to curfews. A camera was installed on 15 February and is still in situ.

2.2 Hockley

- 2.2.1 Occupant of a private dwelling in Hockley was suffering harassment and damage to the property by her former partner, who was also wanted by the police for questioning in respect of other matters. A camera was installed on 8 February and is still on site.

2.3 New equipment

- 2.3.1 A firm order has now been placed for eight new “high tec” cameras with ancillary equipment, which will allow for remote monitoring by means of a laptop computer. The cost of this equipment, approx. £14,500, has been met from the Home Office “Communities Against Drugs” grant to the Rochford and Castle Point Crime Reduction Partnerships, each of whom have, in turn, allocated funding for this initiative.

3 SIGNIFICANT CRIMES

- 3.1 There have been two armed robberies in recent weeks that are still ‘sub judice’ (going through the legal system):
- 3.1.1 On 8 February, two men in possession of firearms entered “Flights”, Aviation Way and a female member of staff was forced to open the safe. The men made good their escape with an undisclosed quantity of cash. Two men were subsequently arrested, questioned and are currently on police bail pending further investigation.

- 3.1.2 On 10 February, staff at the Great Wakering Football Club were about to close the premises when two men, armed with handguns, hammers and knives, entered the premises, struck two staff members about the head with hammers, threatened the 12-year old daughter of one of the staff with a handgun and forced the staff to open the safe. They made off with monies from the safe and also from the wallet of one of the staff members. Both of the men who were attacked sustained injury, one more serious than the other. The matter is still under investigation.

4 AUTOMATIC NUMBER PLATE RECOGNITION SYSTEM

- 4.1 Essex Police has acquired the above equipment which can be either portable or permanently fitted to police vehicles. It identifies the index number of moving motor vehicles and, in seconds, can indicate to the operator whether the vehicle is stolen or subject to police interest e.g. vulnerable missing person, vehicle observed at the scene of a crime, making off from a petrol filling station without payment etc. Although a county resource at present, our local Road Policing Unit have access to it and intend to use it within the Rayleigh Police Division.

5 FORWARD PLANNING

- 5.1 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary have commenced a programme whereby they will, in due course, visit all forces in England and Wales to conduct thematic inspections of Basic Command Units (normally referred to in Essex as police divisions). In order to fully prepare for this comprehensive inspection and ensure that processes exist to collect the necessary data and information, the Rayleigh Divisional Management Team recently held an all day conference. A detailed programme of work has resulted and, by the time the inspection takes place, (which is not likely to occur before 2003) the division should be well positioned to meet the demands of the inspection and acquit itself well.

6 OPERATION RELENTLESS

- 6.1 This was a two-pronged force wide operation spread over one week between 25 February and 1 March and all divisions took part. During the first two days, proactive arrest operations took place in respect of active criminals suspected of burglaries and vehicle crime in our division. Six arrests were made and two more suspects surrendered voluntarily for questioning. A number of offences are now under more detailed investigation.

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- 6.2 Phase 2 was one of High Visibility Policing throughout the division and over the few days, all available police officers, including those in non-operational posts, took to the streets in uniform. (Our own Chief Superintendent walked the beat in Canvey Island, accompanied by a Superintendent from Headquarters).
- 6.3 Crime prevention leaflets were also handed out, including a new one on security of mobile phones and, in this respect, students were specifically targeted as they left school. Property marking kits were also made available at police stations for persons wishing to make their personal property more identifiable.

7 CRIME STATISTICS

- 7.1 These are attached as appendices.

8 RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**
That this report be noted. (CEx)

Essex Police

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