

News from Leighton Rural Area



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What You Asked Us To Do

- Reduction and detection of burglary offences
- Tackle speeding vehicles in Great Billington - A4146
- Tackle anti-social behaviour in Eaton Bray and Chalton
- Tackle nuisance motorcycles in Sundon Quarry

These are the issues that have been identified through consultations with members of your local neighbourhood. There are a number of ways in which you can tell us the issues you face in your area, in person, by phone, e-mail or why not pop along to one of our surgeries or come along to the next Let's talk Together Meeting. This will be held on Tuesday 22nd March at Toddington Fire Station 7:00pm – 9:00pm.

What We Have Been Doing

Below are the issues that were identified for the last period April to June and how we tackled them.

Burglaries: Patrols have been increased to hotspot areas both during the day and at night. This is to deter burglars, offer reassurance to residents, stop check anyone acting suspiciously and gather intelligence. Several arrests have been made recently. We have also been offering crime prevention advice. Most crime can be prevented and you can reduce your chances of becoming a victim of burglary by locking your doors and windows and leaving a light on when you go out. If you would like any further crime prevention advice please contact us.

Speeding: We are working in partnership with various agencies and Billington Parish Council to secure traffic calming measures along the A4146. To further assist with securing traffic calming measures there will be an increased number of random speed checks by special constables, the local SNT and the Traffic Management's speed van. We also had a dedicated operation, Op Blessington, a road safety enforcement day, to address speeding vehicles and other vehicle crime in Great Billington. We plan to hold more of these days in the future.



Anti-Social Behaviour: We have increased patrols in this area and we are in the process of collecting details of those responsible in order that we can deal with them accordingly. We will conduct house to house enquiries in the area in an effort to collect as much information from local residents as possible. We have also enlisted the help of the Parish Council and Envirocrime officers from Central Bedfordshire Council to combat this issue. In addition we are in the process of working with local volunteers to set up a youth group providing extra-curricular activities to young people from Totternhoe and Eaton Bray.

We are also carrying out regular patrols within the Chalton area, speaking to any youths we find in the area. Any youths found to have alcohol on them will have this confiscated and letters sent home or home visits will be undertaken.

Nuisance Motorcycles: Work continues to deter this activity, although it is more of an issue in the summer months. We have already issued Section 59 warnings and seized bikes and hope to run more Operation Meteors to tackle this issue using police off road motorcyclists in the coming months.

Good News

A burglar from Heath and Reach who burgled homes in Queens Street, Stanbridge Road and Woodman Close has appeared at Luton Magistrates Court. Dean McAdam has been sentenced to 27 months in prison after pleading guilty.

Four men who have committed a series of burglaries between August 2009 and January 2010 have been sentenced to a total of 17 years in prison. All were arrested following 36 burglaries across Bedfordshire, including Leighton Buzzard and Caddington. The group stole high value electrical items and cars to order.

Two men were arrested in Barton-le-Clay with the help of local residents. We received several calls from local residents alerting us to three men in hooded tops, trying doors and hopping from garden to garden in the area. A number of officers, a dog handler and the helicopter tracked the offenders down and found them hiding in a shed in a residents back garden where they were arrested.

A person was arrested and charged for burglary dwelling at 36, Lancotbury Close in January.

A Dunstable man has been jailed for 12 months for an attack outside a pub in Toddington. After a fight broke out the victim was left with a fractured skull.

A man from Eggington has been given 150 hours community service and fined £2500 for the cultivation of cannabis.

Three Luton men who cannibalised stolen cars worth over £200,000 at workshops in Chalgrave and Billington Road have been sentenced for a total of 9½ years in prison.

5 people were arrested recently on Totternhoe Knolls and stolen motorcycles recovered.

Crime Prevention Advice



We are urging local residents to review the security of their garages and outbuildings following an upturn in break-ins. This follows four burglaries which all involved the theft of motorcycles.

Ensure your motorcycle is secured at all times with a steering lock and a quality disc lock or U-lock.”

Owners can also deter theft of their motorcycle by:

- Fitting an alarm and electronic immobiliser and consider a tracking device depending on your machines value.
- Ensure your motorcycle is secure at all times. Always chain your motorcycle to something fixed and keep the lock raised high so it cannot be broken by someone hitting it against the ground. Always use a lock even when being stored in a shed or garage.
- Security mark as many parts of the motorcycle with your postcode or registration number. This will also increase your chances of getting it back if it is stolen.
- If you have an off-road bike, you can get DVLA to register it on their database. They will need your name and address, and the frame and engine numbers. This will make it easier for police to return your bike to you if it is stolen.
- If you are buying a second hand motorcycle or even parts, be very wary of anyone offering you a bargain. Make sure the registration documents match up with the motorcycles Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) and check the history. This is a small charge, but well worth it. If you purchase a stolen bike, you will be unlikely to get your money back.

Anyone with information about these burglaries can contact Bedfordshire Police on 01234 841212, or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

Operation Vision



Officers from your local Safer Neighbourhood Teams, Central Bedfordshire Tactical Tasking Team, Specials, Cadets and Volunteers were joined by the Chief Constable, Alf Hitchcock when Operation Vision came to Leighton Buzzard.

Operation Vision is a campaign to increase public safety, satisfaction and confidence in Bedfordshire Police. It focuses on speaking to residents to identify local issues, provide reassurance and crime prevention advice and tackle crime and anti-social behaviour.

The Chief Constable (right) joined teams on house-to-house visits in the Meadow Way Estate area. Staff Officers and Volunteers knocked on the doors of 1254 homes and talked with 331 residents. A crime prevention leaflet was left at every household giving burglary and vehicle crime advice and asking the public about their concerns and local priorities.

In addition a number of warrants were executed for drugs, assisted by Chief Constable Alf Hitchcock. This resulted in cannabis and cash being seized and the arrest of a 28 year old Leighton man for possession with intent to supply and a further man charged for the cultivation of cannabis.

Over 200 residents signed up to be a recipient of 'Ringmaster' messages, the scheme provides members with up to date information about crimes,



incidents, police initiatives and other news affecting their areas via pre-recorded voice message to a phone line, or as an email. Membership is free, although applicants need to be over 16 and live or work in Bedfordshire. If you would like more information or would like to join Ringmaster visit www.safer-beds.org or telephone 01234 275288.

At police headquarters, volunteers and police staff contacted hundreds of residents with updates following priorities raised during the last two Op Vision days and received positive feedback from the public.

Officers from the Forces Special Constabulary launched high visible anti-social behaviour patrols in the evening in areas of Leighton Buzzard where it has been reported as a problem.

News Update

Crime and anti-social behaviour in the Totternhoe/Eaton Bray neighbourhood area has been reduced significantly from what it was 12 months ago due to the hard work and visible patrols by the SNT.

There has been a multi-agency approach to improving relations with residents of traveller's sites in the area. Some excellent work has been carried out which has seen improvements for the surrounding communities.

Totternhoe has a Vision Plan which we have been involved with and are supporting this venture. This is an excellent example of multi-agency working and by achieving input from the residents to improve, restore and maintain the area for the future. Our input is predominantly around tackling nuisance motorcycles, their affect on the environment and those living in the local area and how we can reduce this. We are trying to secure Operation Meteor for another season to further support this venture. We also plan to approach local farmers with a view to providing an area for motorcycles to go legally.



Speed Enforcement

Last year many hours were spent tackling speeding in the area which have seen the following results:

Location	Tickets Issued	Advice Given
Billington	13	62
Charlton	75	590
Eaton Bray	113	
Heath and Reach	71	
Hockliffe	155	21
Tilsworth	19	12
Toddington	47	38

This is in addition to additional speed enforcement that has been carried out by the Safer Neighbourhood Team. Charlton has made use of the Speed Indicator Device (SID) hence the high number of advice that has been issued.

Let's Talk Together

You can speak to your Safer Neighbourhood Team about your Neighbourhood Priorities at any time, but to really have your voice heard, come along to the next Let's Talk Together Community Meeting on Tuesday 22nd March at Toddington Fire Station 7:00pm – 9:00pm. It is a great opportunity for you to meet and talk to a range of organisations.

This is where your Safer Neighbourhood Team and their partners meet with people from your neighbourhood, listen to everyone's views and make the decision about the new set of Neighbourhood Priorities to be tackled. The meetings will be held every three months.

The Let's Talk Together Meetings are an enhancement of the previous Community Safety Forums that were held in Central Bedfordshire. They will bring together a wider number of partners and communities than has previously seen.



Where can I talk informally to an Officer?

Event	Date	Start Time	End Time	Location
Let's Talk Together Meeting	Tuesday 22 nd March	19:00	21:00	Toddington Fire Station
Police Surgery	Monday 28 th March	9:30	11:30	Toddington Village Hall - lounge area
Police Surgery	Tuesday 19 th April	10:00	12:00	Barton Library
Totternhoe Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday 19 th April	19:30	21:00	Memorial Hall
Chalgrave Parish Council	Tuesday 19 th April	19:30	21:00	Memorial Hall, Tebworth

Contact Us

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Open Monday – Saturday
9 :00 – 13 :00 and 14 :00 - 17 :00