

In the Loop

Hertfordshire Constabulary Stakeholder Newsletter

Eastern Area

Welcome to the fifth edition of In the Loop for the Eastern Area - a quarterly series of updates on police activity in the Area which covers Broxbourne, East Herts, North Herts and Stevenage.

This edition includes an introduction from Eastern Area Commander Gary Kitching as well as details of the Constabulary's work within the community and successes with other forces. We will also be looking at what's been happening in your boroughs and districts over the last few months.

WE ARE WELL PLACED FOR THE FUTURE



The past year represents a period of tremendous success for Eastern Area. Total crime, violent crime and all priority crime types were down year on year. We delivered the highest sanction detection rates in the County - again for all crime and all priority crime types burglary dwelling, robbery and vehicle

The bottom line is that we ensured bad people were brought to justice. In relation to anti-social behaviour and the disorder linked to the night time economy, working with partners, we really made a difference and delivered safer communities. The outcome of all of this work are public satisfaction levels which are amongst the highest in the country. These results were bought on the back of professionalism, focus and hard work by both police teams and our partners.

We are now very well positioned for the future. In terms of staff numbers and skills profile we have never been better placed. Our neighbourhood policing capability is fast reaching maturity with local teams coming up to strength and a network of bases in schools and other community locations coming on line. Every week now witnesses the launch of successful partnership initiatives to tackle community priorities. On the subject of our estate, progress has been made in recent months which will bring real benefits in the future. We are now on line to open stations in the centres of Hertford and Ware. Hoddesdon opens soon with significantly increased cell capacity and the Stevenage rebuild is on schedule for completion in 2008.



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Of all the developments I believe that the most important has been the increasing professional capacity and capability of the individuals and teams that make up the Area. The outstanding performance of the Area rests squarely on the shoulders of its people and its partners. The coming year's priorities remain essentially the same as last year but with an increasing emphasis on tackling ant-social behaviour in line with widely voiced community concern.

The bottom line is that we must bring bad people to justice and deliver safer communities.

I am very proud to have led such a professional, committed and successful team!

Chocks Away!

Gary

Chief Superintendent Gary Kitching
Eastern Area Commander

NEW FACES AND ROLES FOR THE EASTERN AREA COMMAND TEAM

SINCE the last edition of In the Loop there have been some new faces and roles in the Eastern Area Command team. They are:

Chief Inspector Richard Harbon was successful in an application to join Operational Support at HQ as a Temporary Superintendent. He will be working with the Criminal Justice Unit. As result of Richard's move the following changes will take place on Eastern Area:

Chief Inspector Jon Speed will take over the lead for East Herts.

Inspector Geoff Camp has been appointed Temporary Chief Inspector by DCC Parr and will take over the lead for N Herts.



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SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS

Working together for a safer Hertfordshire



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WORKING TOGETHER FOR SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS

GIVING the public **access** to the services we provide, letting them have an **influence** in the level of service we provide, being actively involved with you – our partners – to **take action** to address these issues and providing **answers** to the public is the basis of our commitment to delivering Safer Neighbourhoods.

Hertfordshire has launched Safer Neighbourhoods - a partnership between police, residents and local agencies to tackle the issues that really matter to communities - a year ahead of the Government's requirement for all UK police forces to introduce Neighbourhood Policing.

The fundamental aim is to help make people *feel* safer in a county which already has low crime rates, as well as to reduce crime and disorder in every neighbourhood in Hertfordshire.

Chief Inspector Dean Patient, who has been leading the Safer Neighbourhoods project, said: "We have more police officers and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) than ever before working directly in and with local communities. That's over 400 police employees, as well as hundreds of Special Constables and Community Volunteers, dedicated to neighbourhoods and committed to making them safer."

Every district or borough in Hertfordshire is divided into 'wards' which each has a Safer Neighbourhood Team – groups of Neighbourhood Constables and PCSOs who work with local people to find out what the concerns are within their neighbourhood, prioritise these issues, then work with other local agencies to tackle and resolve them.

Alongside Neighbourhood Teams are the officers on Intervention and other support teams providing a 24-hour emergency response, detectives and Scenes of Crime Officers (SOCOs) helping bring criminals to justice, specialist officers in roles dealing with matters from young people to crime prevention and many others working together to create a safer Hertfordshire.



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A NEW POLICE surgery has been launched at a church community hall in Broxbourne, making it one of the first surgeries associated with a church in the area.

The surgery, which is being held at St Augustine's Church in Broxbourne is being run fortnightly by Police Community Support Officer Lauren Minors and PC Ant Mc Cormack.

Having the surgery at St Augustine's Hall has also been welcomed by the vicar at the church the Rev Ian Tomkins. Rev Tomkins said: "I think this is a marvellous idea. Many

people say the police are not accessible but through surgeries like this it is possible for communities to see officers and chat with them.

"I am more than happy to accommodate this surgery in the church grounds because as a community we need to support each other. I would encourage anyone to come along and introduce themselves to our local officers, who are always happy to help."

Inspector Jim Skinner from the Cheshunt and Broxbourne Safer Neighbourhoods Team, said: "This is a wonderful initiative for several reasons. There has never been a surgery in this location before so officers are making themselves more accessible to all of the communities that we serve.

"It is also important that we hold these surgeries so members of the public can approach us and express their concerns or ask questions about the policing in the area.

"We are delighted the surgery at St Augustine's is proving to be a success and hope that we can continue to engage the public at these events."

STEVENAGE OFFICERS ARE TOP OF THE LEAGUE



OFFICERS from Stevenage Safer Neighbourhoods Team are at the top of the league for improving relationships with local youths in the town.

Police officers from the Safer Neighbourhoods Team played a series of three matches against youths from Shephall, Chells and The Oval last week. Chief Inspector for Stevenage, Steve Amoss, said: "This was a great opportunity for us to build on already existing

relationships with the communities of Stevenage and these matches are one of many that have been planned for the future."

"By participating in sport with local youngsters it improves our community relationships with local youths and builds more bridges with the communities that we serve."

The matches were organised by partnership working with Stevenage Borough Council and the Youth Service.



David Loader Community Safety Manager for Stevenage Borough Council said: “It’s really good to get together in this relaxed way and build understanding and trust between young people and community safety partners.”

NEW LOCATION FOR HERTFORD POLICE STATION IS IDENTIFIED

Hertfordshire Police Authority has made the first step towards a new police station for Hertford by signing the conditional exchange of contracts to acquire Solatron House in Hale Road.

A planning application for change of use of the premises will now be submitted to East Herts Council, with the hope of obtaining planning approval before the end of July.

Chair of Hertfordshire Police Authority, Ian Laidlaw-Dickson, said: “If all goes to plan, Solatron House could be operational by January next year and provide people with a much improved access to police services and a more visible police presence in the town. We are continuing our search for a site for the new Ware police station and are currently looking at a number of options.”

The Police Authority agreed in October last year to market and sell the current site of the Hertford and Ware Police Station and replace it with two new stations. The disposal of the Hertford site, with its redundant probationer accommodation and training blocks, is part of a wider package of investment across the county aimed at improving public access and police visibility.

“The current Hertford and Ware Station will remain open until replacement facilities are fully operational,” said Ian.

LAUNCH OF VOLUNTEERS SCHEME FOR EASTERN AREA

HERTFORDSHIRE’S Chief Constable launched an innovative new scheme to encourage members of the public to give their time to help their local community at a launch in Hitchin on April 26.

Chief Constable Frank Whiteley was on hand to launch the Police Community Volunteer Scheme at a special event held in Hitchin.

The scheme has been introduced to help police provide an even better service to Hertfordshire communities and allow officers and staff to focus on tasks for which their training and skills are essential. In future volunteers will be an integral part of policing in our local communities while also allowing members of the community to participate in the policing of their own neighbourhoods.

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Police Community Volunteers carry out non-critical tasks across all three policing areas, including providing support to Neighbourhood Policing Teams and Community Safety Teams. As the scheme develops it will provide further opportunities for volunteers in other policing units. Members of the Police Community Volunteer Scheme will provide an invaluable addition to many of the services offered by the Constabulary.

At the launch Chief Constable Frank Whiteley said: “This is an exciting time for Hertfordshire Constabulary, and members of the public who sign up to this scheme. can gain a lot from it – from learning more about the work of the Constabulary to learning new skills.

“The opportunities are endless and being a volunteer for the police means that you will be part of a team dedicated to making people feel safer in the communities we serve.”

If you are interested in finding out more, or know someone who would like to be a Police Community Volunteer, please call our dedicated volunteering helpline on 0800 3583990.

