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| <b>Committee</b>     | Full Council Agenda item: 10          |
| <b>Month</b>         | September 2023                        |
| <b>Report Title</b>  | Update from meeting with Essex Police |
| <b>Report Author</b> | Lisa Courtney, Town Clerk             |
| <b>Attachments</b>   | None                                  |

## Summary

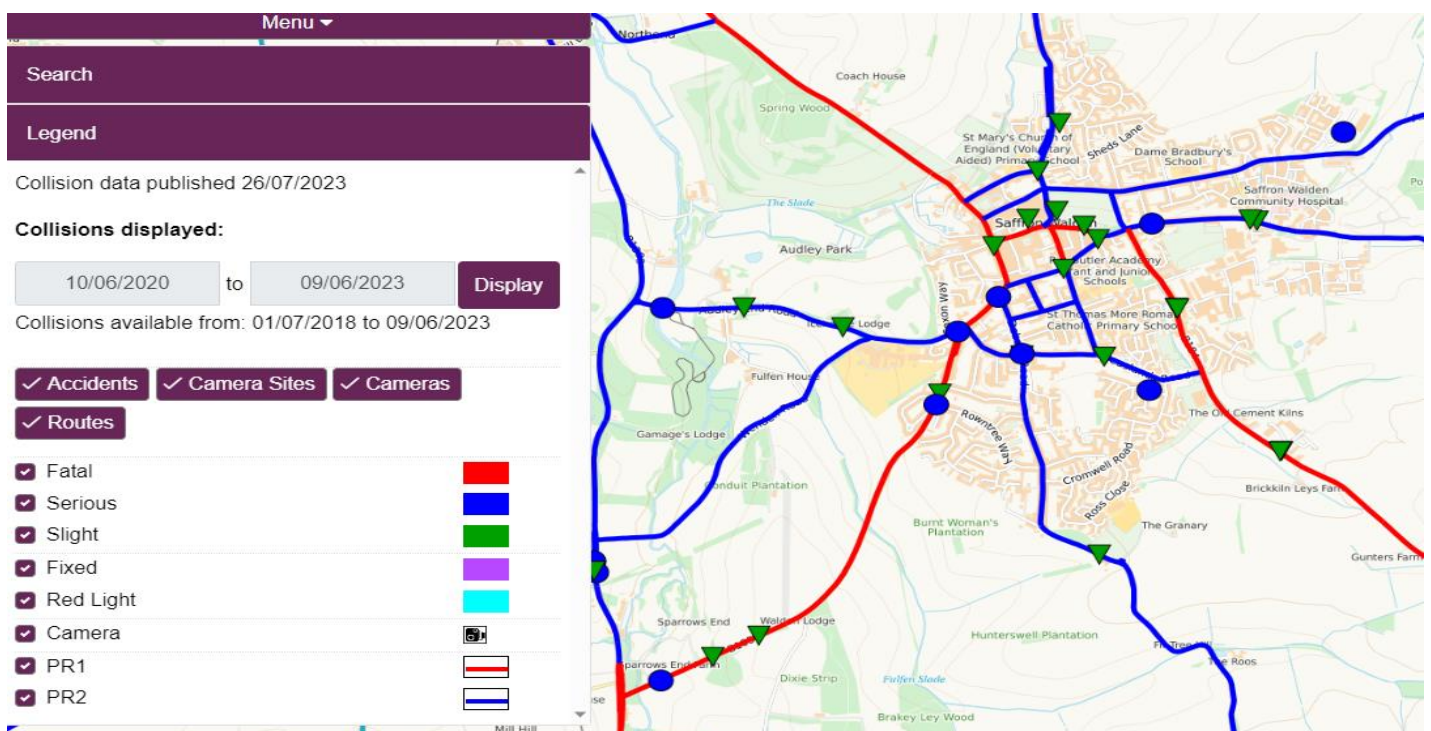
On 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023, representatives from SWTC and UDC met with the Ch/Inspector of Essex Police, Martin Richards. The purpose of the meeting to strengthen relationships between the parties and for the police to better understand the pressures or concerns of the Council and local community. A series of questions were posed and discussed, and Essex Police have responded as follows with the original questions from SWTC shown in black text and responses from Essex Police in blue.

## Questions and Answers

1. Speeding: Debden Road (bottom end) identified as specific area of concern

### SERP (Safer Essex Roads Partnership)

I have reviewed the data on the SERP website which is where all data is recorded in relation to road traffic incidents. There have been no serious collisions since 2020 and then only one serious and one slight at the end of the road.



We can do speed checks at lower end of the road and will allocate this out.

For information, we cannot do speed checks on national speed limit roads due to safety issues but we can do speed checks in 40mph and under. There has to be a safe place to conduct the checks and sufficient length of straight road to use the handheld devices.

2. Pavement Parking: Generally, it would be helpful to understand what the police can and cannot do. Where does enforcement sit?

Essex Police will deal with illegal parking which is when a vehicle is parked;

- On zig zag lines
- Dangerously
- In a way that would prevent emergency vehicles from accessing

To pursue the offence of leaving a motor vehicle in a position causing danger to other road users, we must have sufficient evidence to show that another road user could be put in danger by the positioning of the vehicle. For example, if a vehicle is blocking a pavement so that pedestrians are having to walk in the road, a vehicle is parked on a blind bend forcing other road users into on-coming traffic with no or limited visibility.

The Local Council should deal with vehicles parked;

- over a dropped kerb
- on a pedestrian crossing (including the area marked by the zig-zag lines)
- in spaces reserved for Blue Badge holders, residents, or motorbikes (unless entitled to do so)
- in marked taxi bays, cycle lanes or red lines
- near a school entrance, bus or tram stop
- anywhere that would prevent access for Emergency Services

3. Drug dealing / County lines: areas of concern:  
Steps on Thaxted Road (connecting Linton Close with Thaxted Road)  
Skate park  
Battle ditches

PC McNamara patrols these locations on a regular basis, and he does not have any evidence of drug dealing by county lines but has dealt with some offences of possession of cannabis. He continues to patrol these areas on a regular basis.

We currently do not have any county lines in Uttlesford but we do work with the force wide disruption team, intelligence and partner forces on reducing the supply of controlled substances into the district.

4. Youth Interaction: Police encouraged to attend youth clubs

PC McNamara attends the youth club on a weds evening. He also patrols all the areas highlighted in the agenda on a regular basis and engages with young people.

Pc Braden, the CYP officer for Uttlesford engages with young people in care homes and in schools on a regular basis.

Local PCSO's also engage with younger children through primary schools.

5. Anti-social Behaviour: areas of concern:  
Freshwell Street by pond  
Coach Park Swan Meadow

PC McNamara patrols these areas and will deal with any ASB that he identifies. During the visit we attended Swan Meadow Car Park and I have put forwards suggestions to the CSP to improve the area and reduce the fear of crime. I will work with the CSP to put in a bid for funding for this area to implement these changes. This will include better signage for the CCTV, cutting back of hedges over street lighting, cleaning of existing signage and street furniture to remove the 'broken window' effect. We will also look at a wider piece of work around implementing surveys to establish views of residents regarding safety at night.

6. Recruitment of Police Specials

SWTC would welcome the opportunity to support and part-fund costs towards the appointment of Police Specials

This was progressed separately and a meeting has been set up with Mr Les Hawkins MCMI Specials Supported Policing Coordinator, for Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October please at 11:00 at the Town Hall.

Cllrs are requested to consider attendance at this meeting.

7. Dogs:

Dog fouling – who is responsible?

Dangerous and out of control dogs, specific concern raised by a Cllr:

While dogs can bring many benefits, the problems around dogs include dog fouling, dangerous and out-of-control dogs, the breeding of dangerous dogs, dog attacks on children and visitors, the necessary banning or putting down of dangerous dogs, and illegal coursing with dogs, as well as the abuse of dogs. These are clearly matters of concern; and some of them have been reported on locally.

So, would the Police please provide, with reference to local case studies, information about: monitoring and education aimed at deterring such anti-social and illegal activities around dogs as mentioned above; the effectiveness of legislation on this subject; and the success of fines and prosecutions? What should members of the public do if they are concerned about specific incidents involving dogs and their owners?

From 01st August 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023 there have been the following recorded crimes relating to dangerous dogs in Saffron Walden.

3 x offences of a dog dangerously out of control causing no injury. In 2 cases no suspect was identified, the third offence a Community Resolution was issued to owner with conditions.

1 x offence of Possession, without exemption, of a Pit Bull Terrier, Japanese Tosa or other designated fighting dog – this is still under investigation, but the dog is in police custody.

There were no offences recorded involving injury, there were no offences recorded involving illegal breeding.

Dog Fouling – This is not a police issue. This should be dealt with by the local authority and can be reported on the Uttlesford District Council website. I have taken screenshots below of what is provided by UDC.

<https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/environmental-health>

### **Food safety**

Information on food safety courses, food hygiene ratings for food businesses in our district and how to start a food business and meet the requirements for food safety in catering.

[Starting a food business](#)

[Registering a food business](#)

[Food hygiene ratings](#)

[Allergens and food intolerance](#)

### **Animal safety and welfare**

Information on keeping domestic and exotic animals, responsible dog ownership, report fouling and how we enforce local byelaws

[Animal warden service](#)

[Stray dogs](#)

[Animal licensing](#)

[Report animal fouling](#)

### **Nuisances**

Information and advice on dealing with various types of nuisance and pollution.

[Bonfires](#)

[Noise](#)

[Light pollution](#)

[Enforcement of nuisances](#)

### **Pest control and animal nuisance**

How to find a pest control service, what pests can be treated and what you can do to deal with pests yourself

### **Air quality and pollution**

Find air quality data, about air pollution controls and read our bonfire guidelines

### **Abandoned vehicles**

If you see an abandoned vehicle on a public road, you can report it to us

### **Water, drainage and sewage**

Get the water quality test results, find who is responsible for local sewers, register a septic tank and health information

### **Protecting our environment**

Information on health and safety in the home, at work and at public events, how to deal with hazardous substances, reporting nuisances such as noise pollution and smoke and how to identify and report harmful and invasive plants

### **Environmental enforcement**

Find out about the issues that we deal with and how to contact us when there is a problem

UDC have an Animal Warden Service where residents can report concerns regarding responsible dog ownership. This is not a police matter unless a criminal offence has been committed.

## Dog and animal safety

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### **The council provides an animal safety service to promote responsible dog ownership and to enforce local byelaws.**

Dog owners need to be aware of the laws regarding dogs, and take responsibility for their dog's actions. We would like to remind owners that under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 it is a criminal offence to allow a dog to be 'dangerously out of control' in a public place or a place where it is not permitted to be. 'Dangerously out of control' is defined as a dog that injures someone or when a person has reasonable apprehension of being bitten. Therefore, should a dog behave aggressively, chase or even jump up, it could be considered dangerously out of control.

If the 'dog is out of control' but not considered threatening or dangerous, the matter can be pursued under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

In both cases, members of the public are advised to contact the Police and/or the council so that the complaint can be investigated. However, please note that the council may be unable to act on an isolated incident.

Further information about the laws around dogs can be found on the [Kennel Club website](#) and on our [Responsible Dog Ownership](#) page.

### **Dog control orders**

Dog control orders are now in place and penalty notices can be issued if owners fail to clean up after their dogs. Stray dogs will be collected if they are caught and contained.

Dog owners should be aware that their dog MUST be microchipped and wear a collar and tag when out in a public place.

The council also inspects any premise that requires a license under animal related legislation such as dog breeding, boarding, riding establishments, and pet shops.

This is to ensure the welfare of the animals and the safety of the public in such places.

We do not have the power of access to deal with animal welfare issues in private dwellings, and if you have any concerns about any animal you should contact the [RSPCA](#).