

High Street Ward Panel

15/06/2021



Ward Survey results

- We recently sent out a ward survey for our residents to complete. The results from the survey were compiled and disseminated to the team. This resulted in an increased focus on the areas that our residents and ward members wanted us pay attention to.
- The areas that our ward members wanted us to focus on were Drugs, Robbery and ASB.

What we've been doing for Robberies

- We had a spate of phone robberies in various locations in the borough. On average there was a robbery occurring every day in Waltham Forest, with several on the High Street Ward. We liaised with other safer neighbourhood teams and formulated a plan to tackle the issue. A mixture of uniform and plain clothes patrols took place in hotspot areas.
- The patrols resulted in a large decrease in robbery crimes in Waltham Forest, with no robberies reported in 3 weeks since the operation took place. Regular stop and searches were done with several drugs and items related to theft seized.
- Several of the victims of the robberies were lone females. Crime prevention advice was given with several females stating that they were unaware of the recent robberies and that they would pay more attention when walking around, particularly in relation to walking with their phones in their hands.

What we've been doing for ASB

- ASB on the High Street was focused on, particularly street drinkers and people loitering around the library. A troublesome individual was issued a Community Protection Notice which led to a large decrease in the amount of ASB calls he was generating.
- The uplift in officers has meant that there have been increased regular patrols with arrests for drunk and disorderly taking place. The council ASB team will be liaised with to apply for Community Behavioural Orders, in order for them to be banned from the High Street completely.
- An operation to target e-scooters took place recently. Several people using e-scooters were stopped by police and checks completed, resulting in several being seized and taken away. These operations will continue regularly.

What we've been doing for Drugs

- Feedback was taken from residents in regards to drug hotspots and areas where dealing was taking place. Good work from officers has led to two known drug dealers being moved off the ward and the borough entirely.
- Warrants for houses where drug dealing is believed to be taking place are being progressed.
- Intel led stop and searches have been taking place regularly with drugs and weapons being seized.
- Joint work with the Waltham Forest Violence Suppression Unit has been taking place, with increased plain clothes patrols.

Crime figures

- Due to Covid 19 problem crime in the High St is at an all-time low even after lockdown crime figures are still low we average about 5 crimes a day compared with 10-12 for the same period 2019.
- We are showing to date more theft person (pick pockets) with 2-3 a day & theft from motor vehicle 1 a day. Burglary is very low where on other wards they are on the rise.
- Distraction thefts from ATM's are on the rise. All the banks have been liaised with to increase their security and to inform customers to be aware of their surroundings when using the ATM's.
- Main offence on the ward is shoplifting which isn't a surprise due to all the shops on the High Street.

Update on the team

- High Street team have had an uplift recently of new officers allowing us to increase patrols and respond to calls. Team uplift has grown the team to 8 PC's.
- This has allowed us to focus on specific jobs to directly target issues on the High Street.
- This has resulted in the team getting significantly more arrests, stop and searches, information reports etc.
- Despite several hurdles in the way, excellent work by one of the new members of the team has resulted in a charge for sexual assault. This was a long and protracted investigation with the entire team working together to secure the charge.

Other

- Can we set the ward problems, priority issues x3.