



Dear *Parish Council*

As you know, Essex Police has been engaged on a programme of major transformation. I am writing to you to provide an update on some of those areas.

The changes we are making will mean

- A renewed but realistic commitment to local policing which acts first on the highest risk and harm incidents but works in partnership to solve neighbourhood problems.
- New ways to contact Essex Police making reporting crime and lost and found property more effective and convenient.
- A modern and efficient police estate working with us to help people rather than against us by spending too much on ageing, unsustainable buildings.

A renewed but realistic commitment to local policing

Ten new Community Policing Teams, one per policing district in the county, launch across Essex in early April. The teams will be led by an Inspector and will work closely with partners to deal with all aspects of neighbourhood policing, from tackling night-time economy related crime to responding to a burglar targeting communities, to providing crime prevention advice and working to tackle anti-social behaviour.

Our PCSOs will be part of these teams, which will work with all the other aspects of our local policing offer, the 999 response teams, specialist investigators for domestic abuse and CID.

I will provide further detail on the makeup of the teams within your district and how they will engage with the public and partners prior to launch in April.

New ways to contact Essex Police

Essex Police needs to respond better to the changed landscape of public contact. With far fewer people wanting to visit police stations, and with the rapid advances of technology meaning growing numbers of residents are used to engaging and transacting with shops and public services online, we need to make sure that contact with the police remains effective and convenient.

Enabling residents to find information and do more online – to ‘self-serve’ – is an important part of delivering a value for money service. It should help to reduce demand, encourage residents to find their own solutions to problems, lessen the extent of manual intervention by staff in key processes, and therefore cut costs.

In April new online tools will enable residents to do more online. They will be able to report crimes online as well as by telephone or in person, report lost or found property and access information about a range of services for victims of crime and crime prevention advice.

Again, we'll provide more details in the spring on these exciting developments.

A modern and efficient police estate

As you know, in December we confirmed that less well-used fifteen police station front counters were to close by April. A smaller, sustainable police estate will help us deliver our local policing model and means investment can go into police officers rather than into buildings not fit for modern policing or public needs with spiralling maintenance costs.

Great Dunmow, Halstead and Witham police station front counters will close to the public on 2 March.

In Saffron Walden the police station has had to be closed temporarily three times in the past year due to problems with wasps, rats, and a chemical leak in October which has kept the police station closed since. Saffron Walden residents currently use Great Dunmow police station, but the old police station will not reopen to the public.

It is our intention to co-locate the police station, permanently, into buildings on land at the Uttlesford District Council headquarters, keeping a public-facing police station in the town. I will provide more detail on when we will announce this as soon as possible.

I trust this information is helpful to you and by extension your constituents. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Craig Carrington

District Commander

Braintree and Uttlesford



**ESSEX
POLICE**

Protecting and serving Essex