

# Your local update

**18**  
ISSUE

Colchester, Tiptree, Mersea, Wivenhoe and rural Colchester



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## Hello!

Welcome to our monthly newsletter, which will keep you up to date on what we're doing to keep communities safe in Colchester. It will focus on:

- The work of the Community Policing Team and Local Policing Team
- Crime trends
- Crime prevention
- How you can contact us

The Community Policing Team includes the Town Centre Proactive Team. Their work includes responding to issues and carrying out proactive work, including public engagement, crime prevention, crime disruption, and safeguarding vulnerable people. The teams include specialist Missing Persons and Children' and Young Person officers, who work with partners in education and social care to protect vulnerable people from harm.

The Local Policing Team's main role is to respond to calls for assistance from members of the public, but they also carry out proactive patrols.

Our Colchester community and local policing officers are supported by detectives working in the Criminal Investigation Department, Domestic Abuse Investigation Team, and Crime and Public Protection Command. They investigate the more serious crimes that occur in north Essex, safeguard victims and bring offenders to justice.

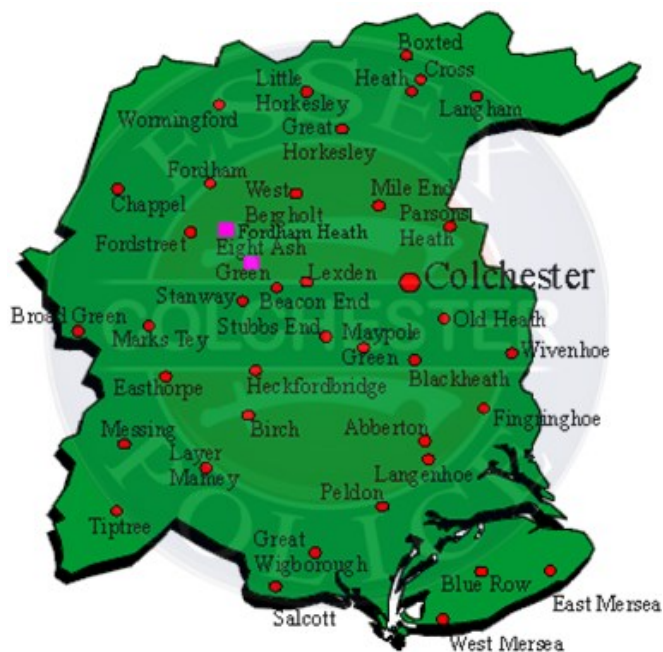
Colchester has a very clear focus on:

**Violence** – disrupting those who commit serious organised crime and to dismantle the supply of controlled drugs in the district. We will target those who carry knives and commit violence, ensuring Colchester remains a safe place for all.

**Vulnerability** – we will ensure we engage with our communities to understand their needs and deliver policing to safeguard those who are vulnerable in our community.

**Victims** – we will provide victims with a first-class service.

**Visibility** – we will be visible in our communities to provide reassurance and reduce the fear of crime.



This is a map of the area covered by the Colchester's policing team. As you can see we cover areas previously mentioned like the town centre, but also more rural areas such as Boxted and Fingringhoe and also areas such as Tiptree, Wivenhoe and Mersea Island. Along with all of the villages in between.

We continue to ensure all of our communities are kept safe by undertaking patrols of each area and working with our partners in all areas to ensure the Colchester district remains a safe place for people to live, work and visit.





**Chief Inspector Rob  
Huddleston**



Essex Police – Colchester



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**@EPColchester**



<http://www.essex.police.uk>

“Welcome to our latest update, and I would like to welcome our new Community Policing Inspector Stuart Austin to the team. Stuart was previously our Town Centre Team Sergeant and then undertook work in our Custody Command, he brings a wealth of experience, and you will get to read more about him later in this edition.

Our team have been out with partners across the District this month meeting you and listening to your concerns, which have led to action against speeding, fly tipping, and parking issues. It is great to see so many of our community willing to volunteer their time and we worked alongside the layer DE La Haye Community Speedwatch group helping to reduce vehicle issues. Further work has been undertaken across a number of our villages. If you would like to get involved please contact us, there are so many ways in which you can further protect yourself and your community.

Preventing crime is a key part of what we do, and our officers have been working with young people to ensure they are aware of the dangers the internet can hold, and how their behaviour could impact others in the community all of the year six engaged positively and we enjoyed a great session. Our SeeYouSafer partnership campaign worked with students at the University of Essex, and the Institute to raise awareness of personal safety while enjoying our vibrant Colchester night life too.

We have increased the number of in person events we are running to give you more opportunity to come and speak with us and let us know your concerns, and April see us across the District we look forward to meeting you.

I wish you all the best “





## Driving down Anti social behaviour and poor driving

Officers have carried out an intensive week of action targeting anti-social behaviour and poor driving in Colchester.

There were high visibility patrols in Greenstead, New Town, Highwoods, Tiptree and the town centre as well as daily engagement events including street meets and coffee with cops where people were encouraged to share any concerns.

There was also action taken to combat speeding, fly tipping, and inconsiderate parking.

The activity involved officers from our community policing and rural engagement teams as well as a significant number of special constables.

The Business Crime Team also visited local businesses and care homes to distribute anti-fraud information.

T/Inspector Laura Stellan of the Local Policing Support Unit said that officers had received feedback from the local community and councillors about what mattered to them. She emphasised the importance of tackling these issues before they potentially escalate.



She said: “We identified a number of problems that people had told us were affecting their daily lives.

“Anti-social behaviour (ASB) is linked to criminality and nobody should have to tolerate people causing disturbances or harassing and intimidating them. As a result, we have been tackling ASB in residential areas and the town centre.

“We have also had reports of cars being driven irresponsibly in built-up areas.

“By having a week of intensive activity, we want to send the message that we take these issues extremely seriously.”

The support of partner organisations is key, with the force working alongside agencies including Colchester Borough Council, Essex Watch and Victim Support.

T/Insp Stellan added: “The partnership approach is really important. There are a number of issues that people may not bring to police but take to the council or partner agencies. By working together, we can attack these concerns from a number of different angles.

“Colchester is a thriving town and we want it to continue to be a pleasant place to live and work.”



## Man Jailed for producing cannabis

**A man who was found to be growing millions of pounds worth of cannabis in an industrial unit in Colchester has been jailed for more than three years.**

Rition Mone was growing more than 6,000 cannabis plants at the property in Hythe Station Road.

The cultivation was discovered on April 19, 2021, when officers, who were in the area on unrelated enquiries, became suspicious of the building and believed it may be being used to grow or store cannabis.



When officers attended the unit, a man was seen escaping from the building. As a result, officers acted quickly to apprehend the man and legal entry was then forced into the building.

Once inside, officers discovered a football pitch-sized cannabis grow split into 13 makeshift rooms. In total, there were 6,535 plants present.

Drug experts estimated the harvest to be worth between £2.4 million and £3.6 million. It was clear further harvests were planned which would have been worth a combined total of between £7.2 million and £10.8 million per year, including the initial discovery.

Mone, 26, of Hythe Station Road, Colchester, was arrested and charged with producing a controlled drug.

He appeared at Ipswich Crown Court on February 15 to admit the charge and was sentenced by Her Honour Judge Emma Peters to three years and two months in prison.

Chief Inspector Rob Huddleston, Colchester District Commander, said:

***“This is an example of excellent police work which led to the discovery of a very significant cannabis cultivation. As a result of the excellent work, officers were very quickly able to apprehend Mone, charge him and put him before the court.***

***“The trade in illegal drugs, no matter what class they are in, is inextricably linked to violence and the proceeds from drugs funds more criminal activity which leads to fear and misery for individuals and communities.***

***“Stopping the people behind the growth and sale of cannabis is vital in tackling violent crime and helps keep our community safe.”***





## Commendation for officer who talked an autistic woman down from car park ledge

**An officer who was just eight weeks into her tutorship when she talked an autistic woman down from the top of a multi-storey car park after a four-hour stand-off has been commended by Chief Constable Ben-Julian Harrington**

PC Laura Barlow and her tutor, PC Ivan Sharplin, were called to the car park in Colchester town centre one evening in April last year after reports of concern for a woman's welfare.

They found the woman sitting on a ledge at the top of the car park. Initial attempts to get her to talk failed so the officers stayed with her while identity checks were carried out.



Meanwhile, roads around the car park were closed off and police negotiators arrived at the scene.

The woman was identified after an officer remembered dealing with a missing person of the same description months earlier. The team then made enquiries with neighbouring police forces that revealed the woman was autistic and unlikely to engage with questions.

By this time, the woman had been on the ledge for more than three hours and appeared to be getting sleepy. The temperature had dropped to just 3C.

With time against them, the negotiation team changed their approach by only asking the woman questions that only required yes or no answers, and brought in PC Barlow to speak to her as they believed the woman would be more likely to engage with someone of a similar age.

PC Barlow was successful in building a rapport and after more than four hours on the ledge, the woman climbed down to safety.

PC Barlow said the commendation was "a shock and completely unexpected" and thanked PC Sharplin for his support throughout what was initially a daunting experience.

She described the situation on the night:

*"When we arrived, we could see a silhouette in the distance looking out over a drop that would have killed her. It was 11 o'clock at night, pitch black and cold.*

*"She was just wearing a t-shirt and at one point she looked like she was falling asleep. She started to slip when she was leaning against the roof next to her and it was looking like she might even fall accidentally.*

*"When we changed tack, I told her if she came down, she wouldn't have to talk, she could just sit there and we'd get her somewhere warm. That worked almost straight away.*

*"She turned around, got herself down and was able to talk to me. It was great to make that breakthrough.*

*"There were multiple occasions where we thought she might fall, so the sense of relief was instant. You could feel it from everyone there. I was glad we were able to stay with her throughout."*

Chief Constable Ben-Julian Harrington praised PC Barlow after presenting her with a framed certificate at headquarters.

*He said: "This was an incredibly delicate situation that reached a safe conclusion thanks to the outstanding work of PC Barlow.*

*"As a police officer, the ability to build a rapport with people is so important and PC Barlow's ability to make a connection with the vulnerable young woman prevented her from coming to serious harm.*

*"For somebody so new to policing, PC Barlow's professionalism and calmness were exemplary. She should be incredibly proud of her actions."*



## Rural Policing

Over the past month we have been out speaking, listening and acting on the concerns of our rural communities.



Our officers from B shift CPT joined the Layer de la haye community speedwatch group for a joint speedwatch deployment. Prior to the teams arrival the speedwatch group had recorded 6 speeding drivers. After the CPT's presence this reduced and only saw one vehicle travelling in excess of the 30 limit and this driver was spoken to by officers and warned about his speed.

Sticking with B shift, PCSO Ryder and PCSO Howe hosted a coffee with cops event at Perrywood Garden Centre in Tiptree where they spoke to residents about their concerns alongside the Essex Watch scheme co-ordinator to help promote the benefits of joining a range of difference watch schemes across Colchester.



A common complaint for our rural villages relate to speeding vehicles. The entire team have been out across the district completing speed checks and dealing with drivers who are caught driving at excess speed. Some of the area's the team have deployed to this month include, Copford, Marks Tey, Birch, Tiptree and Layer.

If you have issues in your community you want to speak to us about—please see the events page and come and speak to us—failing this you can email the community team on—

ColchesterCommunityPolicing-Team@essex.police.uk





## Children and young persons update

Part of the role of our CYP officers is to speak to young people and adults who are responsible for engaging with young people. Some of the common themes we have seen over the past couple of months are young people's behaviour when they are out with their friends which can have an impact on our communities.

If your children are out playing, or out with friends, please speak to them about the way they behave, nobody wants these young people to cause harm to their communities and potentially get in trouble with the police due to how they behave.

We have been into primary schools speaking to year 6 children around this but would encourage you all to have a conversation with your children as to what may seem like fun to them, could have a big impact on somebody else.

Another common theme we are seeing among teenagers is the sharing of inappropriate pictures. Again, it is important to remember that once a picture is circulated, it is there forever and you have no control where it can be distributed and could reach hundreds of thousands of people in seconds. Also, it is an offence to take and distribute an inappropriate image of someone under the age of 18—therefore if you send such images, you are committing an offence yourself.

If people are asking you to do this, you feel like you should or you have sent indecent images of yourself, speak to an adult you trust or alternatively you can speak to childline or the NSPCC.

More information can be found here—  
[www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

### District Statistics for Colchester – February 2022

District Commander: Chief Inspector Rob Huddleston



**childline**

ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME

You can report all non urgent matters via our website—[www.essex.police.uk](http://www.essex.police.uk), by either completing an online report or utilising the live chat option between 7am-11pm.

If you do not have access to internet you can still use the 101 telephone system.

In an emergency always use 999.



Report



Digital  
101  
[essex.police.uk](http://essex.police.uk)

Report anti-social  
behaviour online

Do it online at:  
[essex.police.uk](http://essex.police.uk)

In Your Area





## Upcoming Events

Below are some of our pre planned events for our communities to come and speak to us in person. Please note events are added regularly so please check our social media accounts for up to date events.

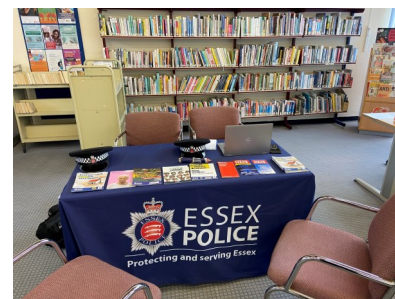
On the first Monday of EVERY month (excluding bank holidays) we will be in the **C360 hub on long wyre street, Colchester town centre (the old Poundland building) between 11am and 12pm** so why not come and join us and have a conversation over a cup of coffee.

From **January 2022** we will be in the local Libraries as per below:

First **Tuesday** of every month between 10:00-11:30 at **Tiptree** Library.

First **Thursday** of every month between 10:00-11:30 at **Wivenhoe** Library.

First **Thursday** of every month between 13:00-14:30 at **West Mersea** Library.



Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2022 – Coffee with Cops - **Northern Gateway Sports Park** - 1500-1630 hrs

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022 - Coffee with Cops – **Maison Mollie Coffee & Gift Shop (Wivenhoe)** – 10:30-12:30

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March – Coffee with Cops -**THE OAK TREE COFFEE HOUSE – Highwoods square**—1100 -1230s

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022—Coffee with a Cop—**Greenstead Community Centre**—1000-1200

Tuesday 5 April Coffee with cops – **MICA centre (West Mersea)** - 15:00 to 16:00

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at – **Go4 Café (Old heath recreation ground)** - 12pm until 1pm

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022—Street Meet Multi Agency event with Eastlight Community Homes on from 1pm to 3pm in **Saw Mill Road**.

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2022 - Coffee with Cop - **CURZON cinema**—15:00 to 16:00

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022 Coffee with a Cop **Tesco's café Highwoods**—1000-1100

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2022—Cops outside shops—**Wivenhoe co-op**—10:30-12:30

Wednesday 13 April – coffee with a cop, **Langenhoe village hall**— 10:00 to 12:00

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2022 - Meet your local PCSO event at **The Hythe Community Centre**—3pm to 4pm

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2022 – Coffee with a Cop - **Northern Gateway sports park**—1000-1100

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2022—Street meet—**Castle Park Bandstand** - 15:00 to 16:00 with Colchester Borough Council.

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022—Street Meet—**Lion Walk**— 12:00 to 13:00 hours



## A day in the life of:

This week has seen Inspector Stuart Austin start his role as inspector for Colchester Community Policing Team so below is a small profile to get to know him.

### Police Inspector—Stuart Austin



**Role:** Community Policing Team Inspector

**Length of service:** 11 years

**Hobbies:** I play cricket locally for Dedham CC during the Summer and am a huge Tottenham Hotspur fan. Playing and watching sport are my main hobbies. I will play and watch anything, when I have time. Otherwise, I enjoy spending time with my family and my young daughter keeps me busy and on my toes.

**What Previous roles have you done:** I am new to the Community Policing Inspector Role; however, I am not new to Community Policing, having spent time as the Town Centre Sergeant for Colchester. Prior to my new role, I have been the Custody Inspector for Colchester and Clacton, making sure our detainees are looked after in the correct way and ensuring we support officers to investigate crime and bring offenders to justice when people are detained in our custody suites. I have previously spent 7 years in Norfolk Police; working in busy urban areas such as Norwich and working rurally in areas such as North Norfolk. My wife and I made the move down to Essex 4 years ago to be close to her family and where she grew

up and I have called Colchester home ever since. Much of my experience is working on frontline teams and I have previously had a secondment training new officers and ensuring we are getting the best people, from all backgrounds into policing. This is an area I feel passionate about.

**What is your vision for CPT:** I am fortunate to join a team, which is already well established, works well with partners and achieves fantastic results. I am keen for the CPT to be visible and accessible for all, making sure that we are local in your area where there is the opportunity to meet and talk to local officers. Modern technology has given us so many advantages in terms of our engagement, but I recognise for many, it is still preferable to be able to put a face to a name and have a chat in person. We are currently planning some Spring and Summer events, which will give people even more opportunities to do this and of course it goes without saying, that if there is an issue our officers will be happy to stop if you see them out and about to have a chat. The CPT will also be at the forefront of problem solving, making sure that we are focused on playing our role and engaging partners to problem solve and secure innovative solutions to problems that can often be complex and difficult to solve. We will solve crimes and ensure that criminals are brought to justice and do the best for the members of the Community. My team will also have passion for everything it does, as a resident of Colchester with a family, I know what a fantastic town it is and want to make sure that it remains so. Colchester is a growing, vibrant place with so much to offer. Like any large Town, there will inevitably be challenges which come with that, but my CPT will work hard to meet those challenges and do their best to make Colchester a safe place to live, work and visit.

**Favourite Part of the Job:** I have always enjoyed working as a team to accomplish a goal. It is always very satisfying when you are up against it and manage to get a positive result for a victim and then can let them know. I am also passionate about the development of people within my teams and seeing them do excellent bits of work, accomplish new things or succeed in promotion and/or getting a new role. I am also an accredited Bronze Public Order Commander which means I am involved in the planning and Command for protests and large-scale public events, which I very much enjoy.





## Protect your home from burglary

Last month National Neighbourhood Watch launched their Think WIDE(N) burglary prevention campaign (1st-31st March), highlighting the simple, evidence-based WIDE measures which can be taken in any home on a variety of budgets.

Police and Neighbourhood Watch, also believe neighbours keeping an eye out for each other is key to reducing burglary, so Neighbourhood Watch extended the WIDE acronym to WIDE(N):

- W: WINDOWS: Keep your windows locked
- I: INTERIOR: Put inside lights on a timer/smart bulb
- D: DOORS: Double or deadlock your doors
- E: EXTERIOR: Put outside lights on a sensor
- (N): NEIGHBOURS: Keep an eye out for your neighbours

To learn more about WIDE(N) and burglary prevention measures, visit: <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/thinkwiden> .

Some additional features that you can consider to keep your home secure are:

If overlooked or the chance of being seen burglars will prefer to go elsewhere, so lighting on your house is a good deterrent. Dusk till dawn on the front, not only can you and others see who is at your door, but also when you come home you have a welcoming light. At the rear fit a motion activated lamp, but ensure you set and site it so that animals and plants don't keep turning it on as that only creates more alarm.

Is there clear unobstructed access to the rear? Burglars will prefer to gain access out of sight at the rear. Where possible fence and gate access to rear gardens, top this with some trellis or spiky toppings (Max height without planning permission 2m or 1m next to a highway used by vehicles and the spiky topping requires a warning notice). How about some defensive planting, what's this you ask.....something like Berberus, Pyracantha or Hawthorn around perimeter fencing or anything else you wish to protect i.e., domestic fuel tank (some garden centres sell more established plants) the RHS can help with further guidance.

Bins: - Secure bins and other objects away from buildings and walls so that they cannot be used as a climbing aid.

Consider a doorbell that you can answer remotely on your smartphone. A lot of these you can add further CCTV cameras that you listen and speak through too.

Create the illusion of occupancy: A radio on, a chair that looks like you have just got up, book or magazine open with a pair of spectacles and a mug next to it, a vacuum cleaner with the lead trailing out of sight (not plugged in), the usual signs of habitation and don't leave it too tidy.

Further crime prevention advice can be found on the NHW website above or the following websites: <https://www.essex.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/> <https://www.securedbydesign.com/guidance/crime-prevention-advice>

