



Policing in Woking Borough

Local Committee for Woking

22 October 2003

KEY ISSUE:

To report on the crime figures for Woking Borough from April- August 2003 (compared to April-August 2002) using Police statistics supplied by Mount Browne, Surrey Police Headquarters.

SUMMARY:

This report sets out the crime figures for April – August 2003. They show an increase in a number of categories of crime. The background to this will be explained at the meeting, which will include the impact of the National Crime Reporting Standards.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

None – this report is for information

Introduction and Background

1. Woking is policed by the North West Surrey Division of Surrey Police, which also covers the boroughs of Surrey Heath and Runnymede. The policing boundaries of the boroughs are coterminous with those of the local authority. This paper, alongside the presentation at the Committee, sets out recent crime figures for Woking Borough.

Analysis and Commentary

2. The table below sets out the crime figures for Woking Borough for the period April – August 2003, compared to the same period last year.

Offence	Change	Detection rate	Numerical difference
Total crime	+ 22%	20%	+ 567
Burglary dwelling	+2.3 %	5%	+ 4
Violent crime	+ 53%	46%	+ 187
Robbery	+ 59 %	20%	+ 13
Theft of motor vehicle	- 15 %	15%	-14
Theft from motor vehicle	+ 49.2%	5%	+ 87

3. Key issues that will be highlighted in the presentation to the Committee include:
 - a. The impact of the National Crime Recording Standards which have had a major impact upon general reported levels of crime and should not be under-estimated. There are many recent examples of this which will be discussed at the meeting.
 - b. Detection rates accordingly appear low but in real terms more crimes have been detected this year than last. Areas to concentrate on are burglary dwelling detection rates with a notable success in August of a recently released offender being arrested whilst committing a burglary.
 - c. Areas to concentrate on for violent crime are the town centre with Chertsey Road accounting for 30-45% of the borough's violent crime offences monthly. Also, to support the day-to-day use of police patrols. Strategic actions include the successful opposition to a proposed new nightclub in High Street, Woking using Crime & Disorder Act legislation. A similar objection to the renewal of a town centre's public

entertainment licence is being put before the Licensing Committee on 14 October 2003.

- d. Use of Surrey Street Standards by foot patrols in the town centre to help combat anti-social behaviour.
- e. Joint patrols by police/Environmental Health Officers made to check town centre door staff. The registration of two door staff has been revoked for inappropriate behaviour with others pending.
- f. Good joint working with Woking Borough Council at West Byfleet using the jointly funded mobile CCTV van and drinking order.
- g. Burglary blip in August, which was probably weather related, has changed what was a 14% reduction to a small increase.
- h. Robbery figure is misleading as several recorded crimes have been amended, with low figures for September. There has been one notable arrest in October with the offender remanded in custody.
- i. Theft from motor vehicle offences have been seen as a priority but are low value, minor offences with items stolen including number plates, light clusters and in car entertainment equipment.

Crime and Disorder Implications

- 4. As described in the analysis section above, the use of the Crime & Disorder Act can be useful with strategic issues as portrayed in the section on town centre issues and violent crime.

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