



# **Policing in Woking Borough**

## **Local Committee for Woking**

### **14 July 2004**

#### **KEY ISSUE:**

To report on the crime figures for Woking Borough from April- May 2004 (compared to April-May 2003) using Police statistics supplied at local level.

#### **SUMMARY:**

This report sets out the crime figures for April – May 2004 with associated, relevant comments.

#### **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 – May 2004, compared to the same period last year.

Offence	Number of offences	Numerical difference	Change
Total crime	1262	+67	+ 5.6%
Burglary dwelling	65	+2	+3.2%
Violent crime	236	+42	+18%
Robbery	11	-1	-8.3%
Theft of motor vehicle	32	-10	-23%
Theft from motor vehicle	99	+14	+16.5%

3. Key issues that will be highlighted in the presentation to the Committee include:
  - a. Robbery offences are mainly youth orientated with mobile phones and bicycles being taken. The skateboard park has been subject to this offence with a local youth currently being dealt with.
  - b. Theft from motor vehicles shows an increase. A significant proportion of the offences are theft of number plates, light clusters etc. However, the police have been using technical equipment in the form of a 'tagged' laptop and other such devices in order to improve on this situation.
  - c. Violent crime, particularly the town centre continues to be a concern. Additional police patrols have been deployed in order to address these matters but at a cost and detriment to other functions. Police have

opposed the planning application of a new nightclub in High Street Woking as it is seen to contribute to further problems.

- d. A successful objection to the renewal of a town centre's public house's public entertainment licence was achieved in November 2003 using CCTV evidence from the joint WBC/Police system as the premises was deemed not to be run correctly.
- e. Use of Surrey Street Standards by foot patrols in the town centre to help combat anti-social behaviour has developed and helped to curtail rowdy behaviour.
- f. Joint patrols by Police/Environmental Health Officers/Surrey Fire and Rescue have been made to check town centre door staff. The registration of a member of door staff has been revoked for criminal activity with others minor breaches being dealt with.
- g. Strong JAG meeting. An example of this being West Byfleet where the jointly funded CCTV van is tasked through this meeting. The van is deployed every Friday, Saturday evening to known trouble spots. It is staffed by Neighbourhood Specialist Officers (NSOs) and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) who intervene by youth stop-checks, seizure of alcohol, arrests, etc. This work is linked to Woking Borough Council Designated Public Place Order (DPPO), and now intended SCC youth service and trading standards commitment.
- h. It should be recognised and appreciated that most of the PCSO's have volunteered for the above function which is in excess of their contract and so exemplifies their commitment.
- i. CIAG continues to flourish with two interim ASBO's in place and two post conviction ASBO's obtained by Police. All parties keen to develop capacity in this area and are currently finalising working practices between council and Police to improve this area of business. Both the interim ASBO's have been breached.
- j. Operation Violet- This was an intelligence –led policing operation targeting class A drug suppliers within the Woking borough. This culminated in February with 18 arrests made and 113 charges being brought. The cases are currently ongoing through the court system. It should be noted that the week following this operation that crime dropped by 30%.

## **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. The impending Licensing Act, which to some extent is a deregulation, offers a threat to crime and disorder unless all agencies come to a common understanding over their respective functions.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: None

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