

Minute 188

All Reported Crime Figures – response from Pam Bushby, Communities Interventions Manager

Numbers of crimes for Chichester are relatively low but there have been some significant % increases over the last year which are slowly stabilising and in some cases reducing. Below are the crimes which I consider most risky as far as impact. I have requested from Sussex Police some analysis of crime data over the last two years but so far have only received a very brief report on rural crime. We have a multi-agency cross border working group in the North of the district that looks at trends etc. I plan to propose some kind of “rural team” that would cover the North of the district when I meet with Chief Inspector Burtenshaw. Community wardens are seeing a rise in the public reporting to them and our Senior Community warden is a visible presence in the city centre.

Total crime is running at 17.5% for the rolling year which is showing a slight reduction of 4.3% from last month

Burglary residential (now includes shed breaks) up 30% on the rolling year but reducing- an organised burglary group have now been caught and dealt with so may account for slight reduction.

Vehicle crime - theft of 36.8% reducing from 47%

Theft from up 71% but reducing from 111% - 2 x prolific thieves are now in custody and this may account for rise and subsequent reduction.

Violent crime in a public place 21.7% a 3% reduction on the previous month

Pedal cycle thefts down 20% but as the Christmas season approaches we usually see a rise, we have a cycle security campaign planned by the Joint Action Group (JAG) for late November.

Other crime areas where the number of reports are rising are Hate crime and sexual offences.

Homophobic reports up 500% which is actually only 5 crimes

Race crimes up 68.2% which is 30 crimes

Reports of sexual offences have risen by 40% which may include historic cases of abuse.

I am comfortable that these rises are positive and rather than mean there is an increase of these types of crime happening it is more a case of increased awareness and reporting, which we encourage.

Other areas of crime are remaining stable as in the case of anti-social behaviour and criminal damage.