

Basildon Police Station
Great Oaks
Basildon
Essex
SS14 1EJ

James Duddridge MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

10 December 2015

Dear James,

I apologise for the slight delay in responding to you following our recent telephone conversation. As I mentioned on the phone, there has been a modest increase in the levels of antisocial behaviour in the area of Rochford town centre over recent months. On 14th November there were 16 incidents reported and on the 15th there were 19 as a comparison. Neighbourhood Policing Inspector Fergus Caulfield has overseen the response to this, which I am pleased to say has very much involved the local community and key partners such as Rochford District Council.

At least two local community meetings were held in October and November; they were both well attended, and supported personally by the Chief Executive Amar Dave and several Councillors. In addition, the 'Caring for Rochford' Facebook page, which has almost 3,000 members, is a valuable platform that we use to share information and reassure the community regarding action being taken to deal with those issues most affecting them.

The majority of concerns appear to focus on the West Street and Market Square areas, with many of the reports alleging stones being thrown at windows and the feeling of being intimidated by youths congregating in these areas. Please be assured that this is a priority for Essex Police and has received a considerable amount of attention. I would also urge you, on behalf of the local community, to encourage people to contact us with information to help us deal effectively with the situation.

There have been several excellent outcomes recently in respect of young individuals who seem determined to intimidate the public and cause damage to property. In particular, following the recent dreadful incident involving the Christmas tree, local officers identified the culprit within 48 hours and have dealt with him formally through the Criminal Justice system. He will appear at Southend Youth Court on the 17th December.

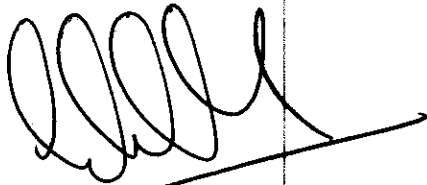
Turning finally to the wider partnership approach and structure in Rochford, I have been really impressed with the level of energy, enthusiasm and passion across this space. There is a keen

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focus on making Rochford safer through a progressive partnership approach covering not only the operational strand, but critically how we develop and invest in future leaders within the public sector to get the most from key agencies going forward.

There is inevitably more we can do to further improve. However, we cannot ignore the impact of austerity on the public sector; we remain fully committed along with partners to provide the very best local policing within the funding that we have available.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Luke Collison
Chief Superintendent
South Local Policing Area