

# AUTOCRIME

WORKING GROUP



SUMMARY

## BACKGROUND

The Autocrime Group was established as a supporting group to the Safer Thurrock Partnership towards the end of 2007 to try and address the issues in relation to vehicle crime within the Borough.

Offence Type	YEAR		
	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008
Theft From Motor Vehicles	2330	2135 (8.4% reduction on previous year)	1756 (17.8% reduction on previous year)
Theft Of Motor Vehicles	1219	1068 (12.4% reduction on previous year)	962 (9.9% reduction on previous year)

Since 1st April 2005 Thurrock has suffered the following number of Offences in relation to vehicle crime. Within the last 3 years, Thurrock have reduced the number of offences from 3549 in 2005 to 2718, therefore reducing vehicle crime by 23.4%. Lakeside Shopping Centre still continues to generate the most amount of vehicle crime due to the number of visitors to the centre and the surrounding retail parks.

## HOW THIS WAS ACHIEVED

During the last 3 years, Lakeside Shopping Centre have taken a number of measures to reduce the problem within their area. With the introduction of the dedicated Police Officers and use of a building as the Police Station, this has increased the response times to incidents relating to the site. Lakeside Management have also invested a large quantity of money into what was originally the "Safer Parking Award", now known as the "Park Mark" scheme.

To obtain the award, Lakeside Management, re-painted the car parks, increased the level of lighting, increased the number of help points within their Car Parks along with the installation of CCTV within the open air parking facilities.

## MEMBERSHIP WITHIN THE WORKING GROUP

Membership within the working continues to develop when new problems become identified, At present , we hold the meetings at the Lakeside Management Suite within Lakeside Shopping Centre. The Chair of the group is the local Inspector Nick Morris with the support as deputy Chair Steven Greener the Thurrock Police Community Safety Manager.

Lakeside Management, Lakeside Police Sergeant, Essex Police Analyst, The Junction and AEJ Management contribute to the group with support from Ed Vokes within Thurrock Council in relation to highway issues.

The Membership is also looking at having a member from British Transport Police to sit within the group as a number of our problem areas surround access to Railway Stations along with the Manager from the local hotel following the ongoing issue of vehicles overnight within their car park.

## ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE GROUP

The Essex Police analyst has identified key sites within the borough which are considered our high crime areas, the areas vary around the borough due to various factors from lorry parking on the highway to areas close to the proximity of the Railway Stations. Over the next couple of months a core group within the working group will carry out site visits to try and identify possible environmental solutions that may contribute to reducing vehicle crime further within the borough.

Over the next few months, the group will be working alongside the Anti-social Behaviour Group and staff to try and target the ongoing problem in relation to nuisance Motorcycles, Scramblers and Mini-mopeds.