



OPERATION DODFORD

Report May - September 2020

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Crime and Anti-social behaviour (ASB) Leighton Buzzard & Linslade

Bedfordshire Police implemented a new crime recording and case management system on 23rd May 2018. New processes associated with this system have led to some data quality issues, principally because of differences in the way that information is captured. The Force is actively working to implement improvement actions which we envisage will improve the quality of our data over time. Therefore the recorded crime data for May 2018 onwards cannot be verified by the Force and there are potentially significant issues with the accuracy of recorded crime data during this period. This should be taken into account when attempting to draw any conclusions around the profile for recorded crime over time.

Recorded Crime Rates

Crime Type	Crimes Per Day			Recorded Crime		
	01/05/19 to 30/09/19	01/05/20 to 30/09/20	% Change	01/05/19 to 30/09/19	01/05/20 to 30/09/20	Change
Death/Injury by Unlawful Driving	0.03	0.04	+20.0%	5	6	+1
Violence with Injury	12.46	12.69	+1.8%	1906	1941	+35
Violence without Injury	22.09	22.02	-0.3%	3380	3369	-11
Stalking and Harassment	13.35	14.64	+9.6%	2043	2240	+197
Rape	2.08	1.47	-29.5%	319	225	-94
Other Sexual Offences	2.64	2.61	-1.2%	404	399	-5
Robbery	2.38	1.80	-24.5%	364	275	-89
Burglary - Residential	7.82	6.34	-18.9%	1196	970	-226
Burglary - Other	4.26	2.07	-51.5%	652	316	-336
Vehicle Offences	16.60	12.82	-22.8%	2540	1962	-578
Theft from the Person	1.87	1.17	-37.4%	286	179	-107
Bicycle Theft	3.06	3.01	-1.5%	468	461	-7
Shoplifting	10.31	7.42	-28.1%	1578	1135	-443
Other Theft	15.08	10.97	-27.2%	2307	1679	-628
Arson	0.87	0.52	-40.6%	133	79	-54
Criminal Damage	14.53	13.30	-8.5%	2223	2035	-188
Trafficking of Drugs	0.75	0.88	+16.5%	115	134	+19
Possession of Drugs	3.13	4.24	+35.3%	479	648	+169
Possession of Weapons	1.37	0.93	-32.4%	210	142	-68
Public Order	15.31	15.73	+2.8%	2342	2407	+65
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	2.61	3.10	+18.8%	399	474	+75
Total	152.62	137.76	-9.7%	23351	21077	-2274

Solved Crime Rates

Crime Type	Solved Crimes			Solved Crime Rate		
	01/05/19 to 30/09/19	01/05/20 to 30/09/20	% Change	01/05/19 to 30/09/19	01/05/20 to 30/09/20	Change
Death/Injury by Unlawful Driving	4	3	-25.0%	80.0%	50.0%	-30.0%
Violence with Injury	275	278	+1.1%	14.4%	14.3%	-0.1%
Violence without Injury	307	347	+13.0%	9.1%	10.3%	+1.2%
Stalking and Harassment	119	144	+21.0%	5.8%	6.4%	+0.6%
Rape	10	22	+120.0%	3.1%	9.8%	+6.6%
Other Sexual Offences	40	54	+35.0%	9.9%	13.5%	+3.6%
Robbery	45	28	-37.8%	12.4%	10.2%	-2.2%
Burglary - Residential	53	116	+118.9%	4.4%	12.0%	+7.5%
Burglary - Other	68	23	-66.2%	10.4%	7.3%	-3.2%
Vehicle Offences	42	47	+11.9%	1.7%	2.4%	+0.7%
Theft from the Person	6	2	-66.7%	2.1%	1.1%	-1.0%
Bicycle Theft	9	5	-44.4%	1.9%	1.1%	-0.8%
Shoplifting	307	166	-45.9%	19.5%	14.6%	-4.8%
Other Theft	62	44	-29.0%	2.7%	2.6%	-0.1%
Arson	7	5	-28.6%	5.3%	6.3%	+1.1%
Criminal Damage	193	195	+1.0%	8.7%	9.6%	+0.9%
Trafficking of Drugs	70	104	+48.6%	60.9%	77.6%	+16.7%
Possession of Drugs	437	618	+41.4%	91.2%	95.4%	+4.1%
Possession of Weapons	116	90	-22.4%	55.2%	63.4%	+8.1%
Public Order	214	234	+9.3%	9.1%	9.7%	+0.6%
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	100	91	-9.0%	25.1%	19.2%	-5.9%
Total	2485	2616	+5.3%	10.6%	12.4%	+1.8%

Local Area Comparison

	Crimes Per Day			Recorded Crime		
Crime Type	01/04/19 to 14/10/19	01/04/20 to 14/10/20	% Change	01/04/19 to 14/10/19	01/04/20 to 14/10/20	Change
Dunstable and Houghton Regis	17.17	14.14	-17.6%	3382	2786	-596
Leighton Buzzard and Linslade	7.43	6.22	-16.3%	1464	1225	-239
Leighton Rural	4.59	3.57	-22.3%	905	703	-202
Dunstable and Leighton Buzzard Total	29.19	23.93	-18.0%	5751	4714	-1037

Area Comparison – Force Wide

	Crimes Per Day			Recorded Crime		
Crime Type	01/04/19 to 14/10/19	01/04/20 to 14/10/20	% Change	01/04/19 to 14/10/19	01/04/20 to 14/10/20	Change
Luton Borough	58.48	50.73	-13.3%	11521	9994	-1527
Central Beds	49.82	42.23	-15.2%	9815	8319	-1496
Bedford Borough	40.75	39.10	-4.1%	8028	7702	-326
Unknown Location	3.90	3.56	-8.8%	769	701	-68
Force Total	152.96	135.61	-11.3%	30133	26716	-3417

Top Crime Scene Locations in the Selected Period

Location	Crimes in Period
Wm Morrison Supermarkets Plc, Lake Street, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 1WS	18
37, Poundstore, High Street, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 1DN	16
50, Swan Hotel, High Street, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 1EA	10

Shell, Billington Road, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 9HH	10
Morrisons Supermarket Plc, Morrison, Filling Station, Lake Street, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 1WS	9
Tesco Stores Ltd, Vimy Road, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 1ER	8
109-113, Co-operative Retail Services Ltd, Waterdell, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 3PL	7
█ Gibson Drive, Leighton Buzzard, █ (Residential Address)	7
Aldi Foodstore Ltd, Vimy Road, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 1ER	7
400, CO-OP FOOD, Stanbridge Road, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 4FN	7
Parsons Close Recreation Ground, Parsons Close, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 1SD	5
10, The Top Bell Public House, 10, Market Square, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 1EY	5

Anti-social behaviour May to September 2020

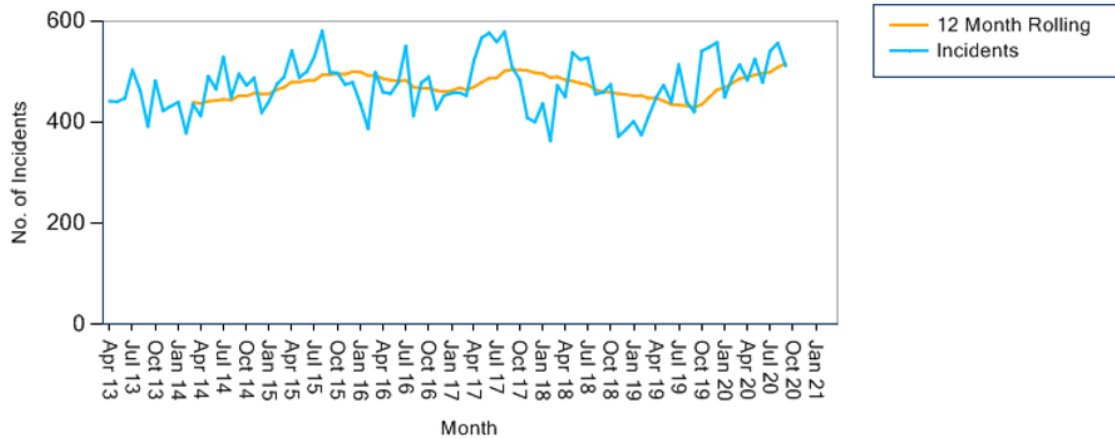
Area	ASB Personal	ASB Nuisance	ASB Environmental	Total Closed ASB	Closed Other, Tagged ASB	Total ASB
Leighton Buzzard	51	260	64	375	0	375
Linslade	3	53	10	66	0	66
Leighton Buzzard and Linslade	54	313	74	441	0	441

Total reports (+126 on same period 2019)

Highest ASB demand locations:

Location	Postcode	In Period
Falcon Mews, Stanbridge Road, Leighton Buzzard	LU74QX	16
High Street, Leighton Buzzard	LU71EX	16
Vimy Road, Linslade	LU71LA	16
Meadow Way, Leighton Buzzard	LU73XL	13
Astral Park, Johnson Drive, Leighton Buzzard	LU74AY	12
Market Square, Leighton Buzzard	LU71DN	11
Johnson Drive, Leighton Buzzard	LU74TP	9
Oakley Green, Leighton Buzzard	LU73ED	9
Vandyke Road, Leighton Buzzard	LU73HH	9

ASB long-term trend



Financial Year	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total	Avg
Current Financial Year: 2020/2021	484	525	479	541	557	512							3301	550.17
Financial Year: 2019/2020	449	474	440	514	441	421	541	549	558	450	490	514	5841	486.75
Financial Year: 2018/2019	451	538	524	528	456	460	475	372	386	402	375	411	5378	448.17
Financial Year: 2017/2018	523	567	577	559	579	509	485	409	401	437	364	473	5883	490.25
Financial Year: 2016/2017	460	457	479	551	413	478	490	426	453	458	459	453	5577	464.75
Financial Year: 2015/2016	542	489	501	531	581	499	498	475	479	437	388	499	5919	493.25

Dodford Results

Current tasking is weekly market day patrols on Tuesday and Saturdays (single PC or PCSO 09:00 – 17:00 to disrupt and detect anti-social behaviour.

Market day patrol intention

- Provide high visibility policing in the town centre and Market.
- Patrol the shops.
- Make licensed premises checks in the town centre.
- Monitor the taxi ranks, and deal with any offences.
- To seize alcohol and cigarettes from minors and alcohol in designated areas.
- Stop check younger children and enquire as to truancy.
- To ensure that the shoppers who come to the town centre and shop keepers and their staff feel safe whilst going about their business whilst deterring shoplifting in the retail establishments.
- To deter and move on street drinkers within the town centre area.
- To challenge and document antisocial behaviour and parking.
- To visit and patrol Parsons Rec & Pages Park to deter/ detect antisocial behaviour.
- **To assist with encouraging social distancing and help to ensure the current COVID guidance is adhered to and enforced.**

Total hours worked and outcomes

During May and June 2020 Dodford officers were tasked to patrol various locations including retail outlets and beauty spots and parks to ensure that members of the public were adhering to social distancing Government guidelines. This was due to the market being suspended due to Covid-19 restrictions. Officers were double crewed during these shifts. Hours worked for these shifts are set out below:-

May 2020 – 112 hours.

June 2020 – 88 hours.

Month	Hours worked	Footbeat (hours)	Incidents Attended / of note	People stopped	Vehicles Stopped	Arrests
July 2020	88	62	4th – CCTV viewed at M & S and offender identified. Officers split during this shift with one concentrating on the HIGH STREET and the other on the parks and retail park. Twitter post submitted. Intelligence submissions X3. 11th – Numerous known offenders seen in the HIGH street and spoken to. ARDEN HOUSE checked due to insecure boarding and thought to be being used by drug users. Homeless male checked on for welfare.	20+	0	1

			<p>Market Inspector spoken to ensure social distancing is being observed within the market area. <i>Intelligence submissions X2.</i></p> <p>18th – A known offender and drug user captured on CCTV acting suspicious around the HIGH STREET. Offender checked on PNC and he was deterred from the HIGH STREET and then left. Known shoplifter seen in WATERBORNE WALK who was wanted for theft. Male got away on his bike. Officers made aware. Member of the public made officer aware of nuisance youths on bikes around the town. Youths not seen after extensive search. <i>Met up with Street Watch who were out on patrol and shared information.</i></p> <p>21st – No issues in town on this day. Market traders all spoken to and social distancing was adhered to. Footfall was down today probably due to Covid-19 still being a threat. Female suffered an allergic reaction in Waitrose but had recovered when officer left. Only 1 shoplifter seen in town but officer presence put them off and they left town.</p> <p>25th – Engaged with market stall holders when the market was being set up and throughout the day. <i>Known offender arrested for outstanding offence.</i> Spoke with male suffering from mental health and has suicidal markers. Beacon House made aware and male booked in for a meeting with them for help.</p> <p>28th – <i>Council funded youth event at ASTRAL PARK with Ground Works. 25 children attended with positive feedback from kids and parents. Bike maintenance, street dance, football and crazy bikes were some of the events laid on for the kids. Food supplied by LEIGHTON LINSLADE council and Morrisons.</i></p>			
August 2020	72	66	<p>1st – Anti-social behaviour at Homebase in VIMY ROAD with a youth refusing to leave the store. Youth identified and parents were spoken to. Known shoplifter acting suspicious in WATERBORNE WALK but left when noticed Police presence.</p> <p>4th – A large amount of foot patrol and engagement with shops, market traders and members of the public. Homeless males asleep in the alleyway leading up to WEST STREET car park. Alleyway due to be cleaned and males moved on in the coming days. Known female shoplifter in town but did not see her enter into any shops. Complaints about taxis parking along BRIDGE STREET. A couple of taxi drivers spoken to and advised.</p> <p>8th – Known female shoplifter seen in town. Checked on PNC but not wanted at this time. Parking dispute attended by officer and sorted. Large number of people spoken to. Local parks also visited and Tesco and Morrisons attended and staff spoken to. <i>Intelligence submissions X2.</i></p> <p>11th – Mobile and foot patrols conducted today to ensure that GROVEBURY ROAD retail park did not have any problems. Known female shoplifter seen in town but left due to not being able to get into any shops. Local parks all visited throughout the shift due to kids still being off school. Male known to the Police for being violent seen in HIGH STREET after a long</p>	20+	0	0

			<p>time of being off the scene. No problems on this occasion. Group of traveller females acting suspicious in Wilkinson's. Kept looking at me but after a while paid for items they had in their basket. Street drinker spoken to by the bench by MARKET CROSS. No alcohol on him this time and spoke to me with no issues. High visibility patrol in PEACOCK MEWS, shops that were open were very happy to see officer presence. Market traders packed up a bit earlier today due to lack of footfall and extreme heat. Intelligence submission X1.</p> <p>15th – Female shoplifter spoken to and moved on from the HIGH STREET. Risk of Extinction Rebellion turning up at Homebase so officer presence there throughout the shift. Report of anti-social behaviour by youths in Wilkinson's. Youths left prior to officer arrival. Area search for female who had stolen from Boots via Shop Watch radio. Female not found and Boots asked to report. Spoke to participants from The Rotary Club who were taking part in the V.J. Day Run for Peace. All in order. Market quiet in the afternoon due to heavy rain.</p> <p>18th – Full market on and the HIGH STREET busier with lots of families around so lots of engagement carried out. No other problems identified.</p> <p>22nd – Two males begging for money spoken to and advised. Two vehicles parked on double yellow lines had owners spoken to and moved on. 2 males seen acting suspiciously in the HIGH STREET. Officer followed them to Morrison's and spoke to security guard to make them aware. GROVEBURY retail park, LINSLADE tennis club and PAGES PARK also visited for any ASB issues or concerns.</p> <p>25th – Only a couple of stalls turned out today as market officially cancelled due to bad weather. Shops were visited for reassurance with no issues identified.</p> <p>29th – Approached by member of the public has problems with one of the local homeless / street drinkers. Advice and reassurance given. Manager at Poundland expressed concerns to me regarding one of the local shoplifters then assaulted him. Report and statement have been taken. Reassurance and advice given. Same offender was mentioned to me by the manager at Super Drug. They had good stolen too and a report has been taken. Advice and reassurance given. Met up with Street Watch to share information.</p>			
September 2020	72	64	<p>1st – Vehicles stopped and made to turn around going the wrong way down LAKE STREET. Cyclists requested to dismount riding through WATERBORNE WALK. CCTV reviewed at Waitrose, Super Drug and Wilkinson's. Time spent conducting high visibility patrols around PULFORD rec. Intelligence submissions X3.</p> <p>5th – Collection of a found knife and put in amnesty bin. Vehicles stopped going the wrong way down LAKE STREET. Keys found in PULFORD rec and later returned to owner. CCTV reviewed in Morrison's and B & M. 6 traveller females seen putting items in the bottom of a buggy in Peacocks which was passed over the Shop Watch radio. Officer attended and items retrieved. At the time not past the point of payment. Multi storey car park checked numerous</p>	25+	0	1

		<p>times due to reports of youths hanging around on the top level.</p> <p>8th – Nothing reported today over the Shop Watch radio or from Police control. Town fairly quiet to start with but picked up later in the day. Public complaining about the bus stops on WEST STREET and the fact there are no shelters and no public consultation. No regular nominals seen in town today.</p> <p>12th – Officer assisted in pursuit of a male who had decamped for a stolen motorbike where he was blocked on a bridge and then arrested and taken to custody. Footballers checked in parks with no issues. Wallet handed to officer by market stall holder. Eventually owners mother tracked down and handed to her to give to owner. No nominals seen in town today despite lots of foot patrol around the town.</p> <p>15th – Attended an incident in WEST STREET car park with male attempting to hang himself. Successfully talked down by attending officers and taken to mental health ward. Theft from Waitrose while officer was in town. officer attended to view CCTV and assist but manager turned the officer away twice saying she was too busy. Requested to other staff that this be reported and that someone near to the entrance / exit is in possession of the shop radio as this was not utilised. Attended Pyman jewellers to try and identify 3 males trying to buy an expensive engagement ring but card kept getting declined so said they would return with cash but never did. Males not known in the area. Advice and reassurance given. Street drinker seen by MARKET CROSS with half a can of Ice cider. Refused to hand it over but did move away out of town. A number of known nominals were seen in town today but due to officer attendance all were moved on out of town. GROVEBURY retail park visited twice, no issues reported. Foot patrol around PEACOCK MEWS, shops open happy to see officer walking around. Intelligence submissions X2.</p> <p>19th – Footballers at ASTRAL PARK checked on, no issues. Along queue of traffic from KESTRAL WAY leading back to near ASTRAL PARK. Officer assisted with traffic flow due to complaints from drivers and residents. Drivers were going down a no entry road due to road works. Youths causing anti-social behaviour spoken to and moved on from PULFORD rec. Vehicle parked in NORTH STRET illegally moved away. Lots of engagement today with members of the public and shop workers.</p> <p>22nd – Public Houses in the town centre spoken to and reassurance given in relation to recent issues with local male who has recently been released from prison. Full market on today with lots of engagement with the public and stall holders. PULFORD REC checked and all in order as was ASTRAL PARK. Assisted an elderly female who had fallen over and had a suspected fractured hip. Taken away by ambulance.</p> <p>26th – 2 traveller males who had been causing problems with the shops in the town centre seen and followed around until they finally got fed up and left in a white jeep. Clarkes Shoes attended after 2 males had entered the shop the previous day and caused no end of problems. This was reported to Police and CCTV was waiting to be collected. Advice and reassurance given. ASTRAL PARK walked around to</p>			
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			make sure the footballers were ok and no issues raised. Spoke to parents there and all in good spirits. GROVEBURY retail park checked twice with no problems raised. 2 cars turned around going the wrong way down LAKE STREET. Attended the band stand in PARSONS REC after a report over CCTV radio that 3 females were setting fires there. On arrival females had left and no sign of any damage. Time spent in Poundland after a family were thought to be trying to shoplift from the store. Saw officer standing at the exit and got in the queue and paid for the goods. Pyman jewellers visited again to see if the males had returned, the hadn't. VIMY ROAD retail outlets visited and no problems brought to officer's attention. Intelligence submissions X1 .			
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Additional information

Nothing further of note.