

# **BRAINTREE AND DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

*Affiliated to Essex County Neighbourhood Watch Association*

*which is a registered Charity No: 1168988*

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## **Essex Police appointed PC 2812 James Draper as Braintree & Uttlesford's Community Safety & Engagement Officer in October.**



### **PC James Draper (left) with Inspector Colin Cox outside Braintree Police Station.**

This is my first time writing something for Neighbourhood Watch in nearly 20 years of policing but there's always a first time for everything.

When I first joined Essex Police, I was posted to Pitsea, Basildon which was a great place to learn the trade as there was never a dull moment. After a couple of years, I got moved onto the newly formed Neighbourhood Policing Team and I have to say at the time I wasn't very happy about it. This was because I didn't really know what community policing was about but as soon as I started, I realised that this was the area of Policing for me.

In 2008 I moved to Braintree District which was a lot closer to my home and joined the Braintree Community Policing Team, this is where I've been for the past 12 years.

I really enjoy Community Policing as I feel I can make a difference to people's lives. What the community team does is work with different partners like the council, housing, licensing and social care to try and deal with long term problems.

The work we do is very varied and might include working with a Housing association to evict a problem tenant or executing a drug warrant at an address linked to drugs. It's never boring.

In my spare time, I run the local volunteer Police Cadets which I've been doing since 2016.

The volunteer Police Cadets are young people aged 13-18 with an interest in Policing.

Unfortunately, we haven't been able to meet since March but we have around 20 cadets and we do activities like leaflet drop in high crime areas and have different police departments in to talk about what they do.

Essex Police has very recently created a new role, the Community Safety Engagement Officer (a bit of a mouthful) and they have posted them in each district.

I've been lucky enough to be selected for the Braintree post.

With the role being so new I'm looking forward to developing it to work for the needs of the residents of Braintree district.

We have a unique district with three large towns and the many surrounding villages which all have different policing needs.

As the title suggests it's about engagement with the different communities of Braintree district. With the district being so vast, I plan to reach as many people as possible by using our extended police family more.

I want to work more with groups like Neighbourhood Watch, Active Citizens and the Police Cadets to reach as many communities as we can, to listen to what these communities need and discover how together we can best keep the most vulnerable safe.

I look forward to us working together in the future.

**WANT TO VOLUNTEER AS AN ACTIVE CITIZEN AND WORK WITH ESSEX POLICE TO REDUCE CRIME?  
PLEASE SEND YOUR FULL DETAILS AND EMAIL ADDRESS TO [active.citizen@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:active.citizen@essex.pnn.police.uk)**