

4. Community Safety

4.1. Overview

The District enjoys a relatively low occurrence of reported crimes, some 550 crimes being reported in 2004. It is covered by two Neighbourhood Beat Managers, but active response to Emergency calls is resourced from Bideford and Barnstaple which could mean a delay in attendance times. There does however appear to be an increase in Anti Social Behaviour, Shoplifting and Criminal damage, Westward Ho! and Appledore, currently being the main areas suffering from these problems although Northam Town centre also suffers from such problems which could get worse, with the number of younger residents increasing. Drug and Alcohol abuse is also on the increase in all three Villages. Torridge District Council is also planning a Neighbourhood Warden scheme covering Westward Ho! and Appledore East with the possibility of extending this to the rest of the District and Devon & Cornwall Police are also changing their system of NBM's with similar civilian type personnel.

Other levels of Emergency cover Fire, Ambulance, SAR Helicopters, Lifeboats and Lifeguards are satisfactory and with the recent use of the RNLI's Beach Lifeguard service Westward Ho! Beach is now better served, and a Helicopter of the Devon Air Ambulance is now locally based.

4.2 Aims & Objectives

1. To reduce the number of reported crimes.
2. To minimise Anti Social Behaviour.
3. To reduce the number of incidents involving Criminal damage to property.
4. To ensure the Emergency cover in the District is maintained to a satisfactory level.

4.3 Recommendations

1. To work closely with the Local Neighbourhood Beat Managers and monitor the introduction of civilian Wardens and their effectiveness.
2. To monitor the incidents involving the General Public and ensure that everything is being done to reduce any dangers that may exist.
3. To consider the installation of CCTV in the District. This was identified in the recent District survey as a fairly high priority by a high percentage of responder's. An initial survey has been carried out by the Police and recommendations for siting the equipment has been produced. It is envisaged that if such a system was to be installed it could cover not only criminal and ASBO matters but monitor Car Parks, and Estuary, and also traffic problems along with the two Northam schools and part of the Burrows.
4. Involve the local Residents Associations more actively. Westward Ho! and Appledore both have very active Resident's Associations and make useful contributions to the running of the district.
5. Liaise with all Emergency services on a regular basis and ensure that a satisfactory level of cover is being maintained.