

Operation

METER



What is Op Meteor?

- Operation Meteor is Bedfordshire Police's response to reports of nuisance motorbikes in the south of the county.
- This operation is designed to capture evidence of offences, to disrupt and identify individuals and to reassure the public
- This direction of this operation relies heavily on the information that is passed to us by members of the public

What are the issues ?

- Individuals riding dangerously on roads and pavements
- Individuals involved in other criminal activity
- Endangering members of the public and other road users
- Potential for collisions and injuries to members of the public and themselves
- Public view around the police's perceived lack of response to this issue and public dissatisfaction
- Increased anti-social behaviour in the areas that the bikes are being ridden
- Disruption to the members of the public in the vicinity that the bikes are being ridden in terms of noise.
- Road Traffic Offences being committed
- Property being damaged

What are the Reported Incidents?

- In the last 3 months November – January 2016 there have been 1188 calls in relation to off road nuisance bikes
- Hotspot areas have been highlighted from this and are
- St Thomas Road Luton – 27 calls
- Tithe Farm Road Houghton Regis – 22 calls
- Court Drive Dunstable – 21 calls
- Ridgeway Road Luton – 19 calls
- There are seasonal trends in relation to these calls and they peak in the summer across all areas, due to the warmer weather and prolonged lighter evenings

What have we done ?

- Creation of dedicated email address to allow online reporting of incidents
- Responded to all emails received into the inbox and where applicable taken evidential statements
- Build comprehensive intelligence profiles around our key targets, looking at other areas of criminality
- Worked closely with housing and local councils looking at tenancy agreements and potential breaches
- Created a team dedicated to the development of Op Meteor, including a number of PCSO's with specific knowledge of offenders

What are we continuing to do?

- Work closely with partners to address incidents of anti social behaviour
- Collate evidence of criminal activity
- Look to disrupt individuals and arrest for offences, with a view to positive prosecutions and outcomes
- Maintain contact and respond to all emails and intelligence received into the op meteor inbox
- Have regular days of action targeting identified hotspot areas, at the peak times, as well as responding, where possible to calls from members of the public

This is a South Bedfordshire issue

- These issues spread across the south of the county and are not just confined to one area
- There is a core of individuals that have been identified as having the biggest impact in terms of call volume and anti-social behaviour
- These individuals are also linked to other offences, and are being tackled in such a manner to disrupt their activities and to arrest and prosecute them for other crimes
- Where circumstances and evidence allows, we will be looking to seize and destroy bikes found that belong to these key offenders
- This issue is widespread, therefore resources need to be tactically placed , to enable the greatest possibility of catching individuals and securing evidence

How is this achieved?

1. Community engagement – partners, CCTV
2. Gather and secure evidence of relevant offences
3. Arrest for offences – Criminal Justice
4. Provide alternative outcomes for offenders on periphery of offending
5. HVP and reassurance patrols
6. Positive media

Good News

- Since the implementation of Op Meteor 2016 we have arrested four key offenders, they have been charged with theft offences and have appeared at court
- Another key offender has been arrested for Robbery, and one in the Dunstable area has been arrested for a number of Burglary offences
- We have had 3 days of activity devoted to Op Meteor
- We have had a very positive response from the public about the days of action that we have had, especially the seizure of bikes
- We have developed intelligence around other key offenders with a view to taking action against them.
- We have seized 3 mini motor bikes and 7 motorbikes from an address in Dunstable, and one from Stopsely.
- A bike has been seized from close to St Thomas's Travellers site, a large number of bikes have been seized from an address in Luton

So what next

- We will continue to build intelligence pictures, around the key individuals, looking to make arrests and seizures where possible
- We will continue to have days of action around OP Meteor with assistance from RPU and off road bikes.
- We will continue deploy resources in strategic locations as per the information from the analyst
- We will continue to monitor the dedicated email address and respond to all emails.