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Police reassure residents they are working to keep county safe

Temporary Assistant Chief Constable Maurice Mason has reassured residents in Essex that police are working to keep the county safe.

There has been no large scale disorder in Essex akin to what has been happening in London but Essex Police has extra resources in place to deal with violent disorder should it arise in the county.

Officers have been offering support to colleagues in the Metropolitan Police Service and have vowed to take a robust approach to anyone who uses social networking sites to stimulate fictitious rumours.



Above: T/ACC Maurice Mason

▶ A 20-year-old man from Colchester who allegedly sent messages from a Blackberry encouraging violent disorder been charged with encouraging or assisting in the commission of an indictable only offence under the Serious Crime Act 2007. He has been conditionally bailed to appear at Colchester Magistrates' Court on September 1.

▶ An 18-year-old woman from Clacton, arrested on Thursday, August 11, has been charged with intentionally encouraging or assisting in the commission of an offence under the Serious Crime Act 2007, namely sending a message via Blackberry messaging encouraging others to take part in violent disorder on August 8.

She has been released on police bail to appear at Colchester Magistrates' Court on September 1, 2011.

▶ Two have been charged in connection with the possession of an offensive weapon in Clacton on Wednesday, August 10, 2011.

Jason O'Hagan, 19, of Church Road, Clacton was arrested alongside a 14-year-old boy from Clacton near Clacton Leisure Centre, at 10.30pm.

Both were charged with possession of an offensive weapon. O'Hagan was also charged with intentionally encouraging or assisting in the commission of an offence, namely posting a message on Facebook which was capable of encouraging or assisting in the commission of violent disorder. The 14-year-old was also charged with theft.

Both will appear at Colchester Magistrates' Court on August 12.

▶ A teenage boy has been charged with inciting violent disorder on a social media website following an investigation into criminal damage to cars at Harlow.

Police were called to the Northbrooks area of Harlow on August 8 following reports that four vehicles had been damaged.

A 16-year-old boy was arrested at his home in Harlow on August 10 and was later charged with encouraging or assisting in violent disorder under the Serious Crime Act 2007.

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He was due to appear at Chelmsford Magistrates' Court on August 11.

▶ Police officers arrested a 17-year-old Clacton man for incitement to commit violent disorder on August 9 after comments were published on facebook encouraging people to gather at a location in Essex and cause disorder. The man has been released on bail until August 23, 2011 while investigations continue.

▶ An 18-year-old man from Grays, a 16-year-old from South Ockendon and a 17-year-old man from Clacton have been arrested for using social networking sites to encourage others to gather together and cause disorder.

Steve Jones, 18, of Stour Road, Grays was remanded in custody and appeared at Basildon Magistrates' Court on Thursday, August 11, 2011. The 16-year-old from South Ockendon appeared at Southend Youth Court. The man from Clacton was arrested at 5pm on the same day after comments were published on Facebook encouraging people to gather at a location in Essex. He has been released on bail until August 23, 2011 while investigations continue.

Police will continue to monitor social networking sites for unlawful activity.

Temporary Assistant Chief Constable Maurice Mason said: "If people use social networking sites inappropriately to stimulate rumours we will do our best to track the individuals down and if they have committed offences under criminal law we will deal with them."

▶ A 17-year-old boy from Loughton charged with the criminal damage of a bus in Loughton High Road on August 8, has been fined at court.

The boy was arrested for throwing a £1 coin at a bus door and received a six month referral order and was fined £335.22 which had to be paid before he left court.

▶ Police were patrolling Basildon town centre on the evening of August 9, 2011 when they discovered a large group of people gathered in the area.

A 22-year-old man of no fixed address was arrested and later charged with resisting arrest. He was bailed to appear at Basildon Magistrates' Court on August 18.

▶ Police were also contacted at 10.50pm on the same night to reports of a window being smashed at Dreams Bed Superstore in Westgate Park, Basildon.

▶ On August 8, 2011, two young men were arrested after a brick was thrown at a police car in Valley Hill on Buckhurst Hill.

A 17-year-old from Buckhurst Hill was arrested on suspicion of violent disorder and a 16-year-old from Loughton was arrested on suspicion of violent disorder, criminal damage and assaulting police. Both are currently in custody pending further enquiries.

▶ Thirteen men were arrested following a break in at a clothing shop in Queens Road, Buckhurst Hill in the early hours of August 9, 2011.

Those arrested are from Colchester, east London, Ipswich, Maldon and Epping and are aged in their late teens and 20s. They have been released on bail until August 12, 2011 while investigations continue.

Essex Police will continue to respond to requests for assistance from other forces by the provision of personnel, specialist equipment and other facilities. This is a period of unprecedented demand on police resources and we will play our full part in meeting that demand whilst continuing to police our own area.

T/ACC Maurice Mason is reassuring residents there are plans in place to keep the county as safe as possible.

He said: "We haven't got any specific intelligence that there is going to be any disorder in Essex at the present time.

"What we have got though is a plan that involves putting additional resources in place so that if individuals commit offences we will deal with them robustly. We will not tolerate that kind of behaviour in Essex.

"We are doing a whole range of things to keep the county as safe as possible. There are plans in place for additional officers to be on duty at the right times, we are assessing intelligence as it comes in and neighbourhood policing officers are still out there working with communities to resolve local

problems."

If you witness any incidents taking place then call 999. To pass on information or intelligence call our non emergency number 101 or 0300 333 4444 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

