

# RIVER WARD PRESS RELEASE 4<sup>th</sup> December 2008

## Councillor appalled at Medway crime statistics

The release on the internet of crime statistics for Kent to March 2008 by Kent Police has shown up some unpleasant features of crime in Medway, with central Chatham River Ward appearing at the top of virtually every measure of crime by a huge margin and gets close to being the worst in Kent. The Conservative Councillor for River Ward, Craig Mackinlay, who lives in the heart of central Chatham has analysed the crime data from across Kent and is shocked by the findings showing 346.1 crimes per 1,000 population for the year, four times the Medway average.

“Whilst all high street and town centre areas across every conurbation in Kent show higher figures than average, only Margate Central Ward in Thanet, Maidstone High Street Ward, Town Ward in Dartford & Dover Castle Ward in Dover show higher overall crime figures than does River Ward here in Medway. With Medway’s primary shopping area of Chatham High Street being in the Ward, a higher figure that would include shoplifting offences is to be anticipated; strip shoplifting out and the statistics are still truly appalling with a 1 in 8 chance of being subject to anti-social behaviour, a 1 in 13 chance of suffering a violent attack and a 1 in 50 chance of being burgled or subject to vehicle crime EACH year. I can attest to that figure with two vehicle crimes against my household in the past three months alone. The figures are made that much worse in that the ward takes in St Mary’s island enjoying relative affluence and low crime and Chatham Town Centre having an insignificant night-time economy compared to say Rochester West that takes in the busy High Street, which fares reasonably well in the crime statistics. Whilst I applaud recognition by Medway Police of the significant problems of River Ward and the significant reduction in reported crime from 2007 figures following the allocation of additional resources, there is still a very long way to go, and I call upon Medway Police to implement zero tolerance, high visibility policing to crack the problem.”

The crime data reveals significant variations across Medway, with River Ward suffering close to three times the level of overall crime than its nearest rival, Gillingham South Ward that takes in Gillingham High Street. The most crime-free ward is Cuxton & Halling with all Rainham Wards showing crime levels of half the Medway average, with Medway as a whole revealing 88.9 offences per thousand population against the Kent average of 76.6.

**ENDS**

**Contact:-**

**Councillor Craig Mackinlay, 8 Manor Road, Chatham, ME4 6AG**

**[crime@riverward.co.uk](mailto:crime@riverward.co.uk) / [www.riverward.co.uk](http://www.riverward.co.uk) 07973 123614 / 01634 841108**

**Data obtained from the Kent Police website (I'd highly recommend)**

**<http://www.kent.police.uk/crimestatistics/app/>**

**Further notes to editor:-**

**Margate Central Ward – 385.2 crimes per 1,000 population**

**Maidstone High Street Ward – 357.3, Town Ward Dartford 405.1, Dover Castle Ward 358.8 (although heavily skewed upwards by an anti-social behaviour figure of 261.9 per 1,000 population)**

**Spreadsheet attached for your information sourced from the Kent Police site**