Praise for ‘safest towns in UK’

THE people of Lampeter and Aberaeron are the most honest in Britain, according to the area’s top policeman.

New Inspector for the district Nicola Carter paid tribute to the upright morals of residents, saying their law-abiding nature made Lampeter and Aberaeron are “probably the safest towns in the UK.”

She was speaking as new figures for the Dyfed Powys force as a whole revealed a five per cent drop in recorded crime this year, the equivalent of 1,500 fewer offences.

Inspector Carter said: “We are blessed with an honest population in this area. You only have to look at an event like the Aberaeron Seafood Festival last weekend to see that.

The town was thronging with people—there were hundreds out there in the streets and picnicking by the river.

Anywhere else you would expect to have some thefts, possibly robbery, some drink-related crimes and disorderly behaviour.

“But the only incident we had reported was when someone actually handed in a lost handbag.”

Inspector Carter said she was “delighted” with the latest crime figures for Lampeter and Aberaeron, which showed the area had fewer criminals than anywhere else in the country.

Statistics for the entire Dyfed Powys force showed the area had one of the lowest crime rates in Britain.

Violent crime dropped by 300 offences and the detection rate was up 6.1 per cent, now standing at 65.9 per cent.

The number of sexual offences committed in the force area has also fell by 3.5 per cent and there were only 35 robberies in the force area.

Inspector Carter said Lampeter and Aberaeron were the safest towns in the country’s safest police region.

She said: “The latest figures for April to June this year have just come out and they show that in Lampeter and Aberaeron areas there were only 7.5 crimes per 1,000 population.

“That really is a phenomenally low crime rate. It makes Lampeter and Aberaeron probably the safest towns in Britain.”

Inspector Carter said the crime rate in her district is so low that residents can feel more secure than any other people in the UK.

Police figures show there were only 183 crimes recorded in the Lampeter and Aberaeron district in April, May and June.

In Lampeter town there was just one burglary in the period.

The average crime rate for comparable forces in rural areas is nearly double the Lampeter figure at 15.5 crimes per 1,000 population.

Inspector Carter said crime committed by local people was particularly low, and that measures to deter and detect travelling criminals were proving effective.

The policewoman, who is originally from Aberaeron and was a pupil at the town school, said she was “privileged” to return to Ceredigion after serving the North Wales force.

She added: “In North Wales we had problems with travelling criminals who were coming into the area using the A5.

“Thankfully in Ceredigion we do not have so many difficulties of this kind. We have measures in place to monitor those who may come into the area with the intention of breaking the law, and those measures are proving effective.”

Inspector Carter it was important to celebrate the absence of high crime levels in the area because people did not fully appreciate just how safe they were.

She said: “The perception is that crime is increasing, but the reality is that in our area in particular, crime is going down.

“The problem we have is that criminal activity is too frequently exaggerated out of all proportion.

“If you look at Crimestoppers, for example, the things you see on there are horrendous.

“But the fact is that they are very rare, especially in our district.

“People in Lampeter and Aberaeron really should feel that they live in a safe place.”