

Latest News from Safer Neighbourhoods

Counterfeit DVDs Taken of the Streets

Having conducted extensive research including surveillance, the Hoe Street Safer Neighbourhoods team (Waltham Forest borough) and officers from High Street, Wood Street and Higham Hill Safer Neighbourhoods teams together with Trading Standards and the Federation against Copyright Theft (FACT) executed a search warrant on an address in First Avenue, Walthamstow E17. One person was arrested at the address and approximately 30,000 counterfeit DVDs (Street value approx £150K) and DVD copying equipment were confiscated. Many of the seized DVDs depicted obscene pornographic material.

Sergeant Stefan Milkowski, Hoe Street Safer Neighbourhoods team who ran the operation said: "People who believe they are innocently buying the occasional counterfeit DVD from a street seller need to realise that the proceeds will undoubtedly be used to fund various types of criminality, including human trafficking, prostitution and even terrorism. It is important to remove the source of this misery from our streets and I thank our partners for their support. I urge the public to assist us in identifying these sellers and their premises."

Shepherds Bush 24/7 Safer Neighbourhoods Teams Drugs Arrests

Officers from the 24/7 Safer Neighbourhoods team (Hammersmith and Fulham borough) executed four drugs warrants within Shepherds Bush market. This was a combined operation, led by the team which involved over 50 uniformed officers drawn from the local Safer Neighbourhoods teams, Response Team, British Transport Police, POLSA search officers, drugs dogs, Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and Metropolitan Special Constabulary, accompanied by investigators from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

Numerous people were searched in the course of the operation, which resulted in a total of seven arrests, five for possession of cannabis and two for possession of cocaine. Over £2,200 in cash was seized from one of the persons arrested. In follow-up searches, a laptop computer, mobile phones and valuable camera equipment were also recovered. DWP investigators identified numerous benefits offences involving market employees. This operation was launched following intelligence gathered by local PCSOs and from other sources.

Inspector Bill Heasman from the Shepherds Bush 24/7 Safer Neighbourhoods team said: "A very strong message was sent out today by the local 24/7 Safer Neighbourhoods team. Drug use and dealing will not be tolerated and will be the subject of firm policing."

Automatic Number Plate Recognition Operation in Wandsworth

Officers from Thamesfield Safer Neighbourhoods team (Wandsworth borough) in conjunction with South West Traffic Team ran an Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) operation in Roehampton Lane SW15 targeting drug dealers and gang members.

The aim was to disrupt criminal activity, arrest offenders and provide reassurance to the local community. The operation also involved officers from other Putney Safer Neighbourhoods teams.

In total thirty vehicles were stopped. Six vehicles were seized for no insurance or driving not in accordance with a licence, five arrests were made for handling stolen goods, fraud act offences, theft, disqualified driving and persons being wanted. Numerous searches were carried out and several FPN (E)'s were issued.

PS Roger Chapple said: "This operation has demonstrated to the public that we are committed to tackling crime in Putney and this is one of the methods we are using to reduce crime and disrupt the activity of local criminals. This high volume return of work was achieved in a short space of time and has sent out a strong message to the criminal fraternity that we will take positive action against them. I would like to extend my thanks to the South West Traffic Team for their assistance in making this possible."

Redbridge Police Close Drug Market Pub

Officers from Redbridge borough Safer Neighbourhoods teams, Crime Squad and Borough Intelligence Unit, working with the Territorial Support Group at Chadwell Heath raided the Alfreds Head public house in Hainault, Redbridge. Responding to community information, Redbridge Police launched a covert operation targeting the public house and discovered an open drug market dealing in cocaine and routine handling of the proceeds of crime. Working with the local authority licensing team, a closure notice was served by Hainault Safer Neighbourhoods team, on the premises. A total of 19 persons (from the 57 persons present) have been detained for class A drugs supply offences, procession of drugs and weapons. Three other addresses concerned were also searched. Approximately 40 wraps of Class A drugs were recovered, four items of cannabis and a set of electronic scales.

There have been two people charged with supplying Class A drugs.

Detective Superintendent Player whom led the operation said: "Open drug markets damage communities and in this operation we were able to demonstrate Safer Neighbourhoods teams listening to community concerns and taking action. The community representatives appeared shocked by the volume of arrests and the quantity of wraps police discovered. A message has gone out to the local licensees that turning a blind eye is no excuse and you will be arrested in you fail to take measures to stop drug dealing in your premises as in this case."