

## **Drugs raid in Wandsworth**

Wandsworth Common Safer Neighbourhoods team (Wandsworth borough) has been alerted to problems at an address in Bassingham Road, SW18 recently. Local residents have been disturbed by late night anti-social behaviour and possible criminal activity in and around the property. The address and activity was researched resulting in a successful application for a warrant under the Misuse of Drugs Act. Safer Neighbourhoods officers together with Territorial Support Group (the Met's specialist support officers) carried out the search warrant.

Utilising drugs search dogs, an amount of Class B drugs was seized as well as drug paraphernalia, suggesting that the supply of drugs was being conducted at the address. A man found residing at the property was arrested. Detailed enquiries revealed that he was an overstayer and was further arrested for immigration matters.

Sergeant Jerry Ostrowski of Wandsworth Common Safer Neighbourhoods team said:

"This result perfectly demonstrates how working in partnership with the council, local residents and specialist police units like the Territorial Support Group, anti-social behaviour and local crime activities can be resolved by local police teams. Concerns were raised by the community and acted upon by the team as part of our commitment to improving the quality of life for the residents of Wandsworth Common."

## **Fraudster sentenced**

At the end of March, Church End Safer Neighbourhoods team (Redbridge borough) received a telephone call from a member of a local neighbourhood watch (NHW) stating that a man had been collecting door-to-door purporting to be running a charity race for cancer. The NHW member had made a note of the race and the name of the participant before refusing to give any money. Police soon established that the name was correct but a false address had been given. The charity, "Race for Life", was contacted and they informed police that the race is female specific and there was not an event on the date listed. After some enquiries by Church End Safer Neighbourhoods team, an arrest was made and the sponsor form recovered.

The man was arrested and fully admitted collecting money by means of fraud on four occasions and asked for six other offences to be taken into consideration. At the beginning of August, Ivan Botha aged 23 years from South Woodford appeared at Snaresbrook Crown Court where in light of overwhelming evidence he pleaded guilty. He was sentenced to complete 150 hours of unpaid work, a one-year supervision order and pay a £500 fine.

Sergeant David Somerville said,

“This is an excellent example of the positive working relationship between Neighbourhood Watch and Safer Neighbourhoods officers. With the launch of more no cold calling zones within Redbridge, I hope this sends out a message to any would be fraudster that the residents and police will not tolerate it”

### **New Safer Neighbourhoods team base opens in Ruislip**

The West Ruislip & Ickenham Safer Neighbourhoods teams in Hillingdon now have a new base located next to West Ruislip train station on High Road Ickenham. It was formally opened in mid-August at midday by the Borough Commander Julian Worker and Mayor of Hillingdon Counsellor David Yarrow.

The new base is in an ideal geographical location which is in the West Ruislip Ward and only a few hundred yards from the Ickenham Ward boundary. It will enable the two Safer Neighbourhoods teams to provide an enhanced service and a greater presence within their communities.

As the two teams are now co-located they will be able to share information and support each other whilst having better working conditions and storage for the equipment they use. The facility also has a meeting room making it easier to hold surgeries/meetings with their local residents. An LCD screen has been installed in the front of the premises to provide up to date information on police meetings etc. to the passing public.



Mayor of Hillingdon Counsellor David Yarrow said:

"The council has strong and long-term commitments to ensuring residents feel safe and supported in Hillingdon. I am therefore delighted that this fantastic new facility will provide a clear police presence and enable local people to fully engage with any issues that may arise in their area."

Hillingdon Borough Commander Julian Worker said:

"I am really pleased with the opening of this new Safer Neighbourhoods base. This base brings the two teams closer to their communities and thus making it easier to meet local people and work with them to reduce problems.

"The new base offers good facilities for our staff to operate from. More importantly it will enable them to work together with greater degree of flexibility ultimately providing an improved service".

### **“Bikeworks” project a success in Hackney**

In mid-August, Wick Safer Neighbourhoods team (Hackney borough) in partnership with Hackney Council held their final ‘Bikeworks’ youth engagement session.

The session was one of twelve, held throughout August, at different venues around the Wick ward. The purpose of the project was to develop a good relationship with local children and offer crime prevention advice. The team were also trying to set up a youth community advisory panel with the children they met.

At each session, approximately 15 to 30 children attended and many came along with their pedal cycles, which were in various states of repair. Bikeworks, a community focused cycling hub, were on hand to repair the bikes free of charge and show the children how to maintain their bikes themselves.



PC Matthew Challis said:

“This was a great event that has helped the team create a stronger relationship with the children and we are now being approached more frequently. Many of the parents we spoke to were happy to see us interacting with children and praised police for organising this event. We are still looking to recruit more children for the youth CAP (Community Advance Project), if you are interested please call the team on 020 8721 2938”.

### **1st Riverside Brownies awarded crime prevention badges by borough commander**

Newington Safer Neighbourhoods team (Southwark borough) was recently able to assist the 1st Riverside Brownies who were working towards attaining their crime prevention badge. Safer Neighbourhoods team officers were able to deliver both crime prevention talks to the brownie pack and supply them with related literature.

The brownie pack were presented with their badges at Southwark police station by the Borough Commander, Mr Wayne Chance. They were also given a guided tour of the custody and CCTV suites at the police station and treated to some food and refreshments in recognition of their hard work.

A binder containing lovely pictures and letters of appreciation by the entire brownie pack was received by Newington Safer Neighbourhoods team.



Mrs Beverley Cooper from the 1st Riverside Brownies said:

"We really appreciated the efforts of our local police in assisting us - the brownies have enjoyed and loved working with their local SNT."

PC Michael Lulu from the Newington Safer Neighbourhoods team said:

"It was a real pleasure to assist the brownies to work towards their crime prevention badge. The girls put a lot of time and effort into earning them and hopefully Southwark police were able to make the presentation of their badges a special occasion for the brownie pack to remember".