

### **Anti-social moped rider fined £103**

The St Mary's Safer Neighbourhoods team (SNT) has successfully reduced anti-social behaviour in Bexley Village so much so that it is no longer a ward priority.

Anti-social behaviour was committed by a group of young people on mopeds in Station Approach, Parkhurst Gardens and outside the Post Office in Bourne Road. In August, the neighbourhood ward panel made up of local people, set the St Mary's SNT the priority of tackling this behaviour which included smoking cannabis, drinking alcohol, making noise late at night by using their mopeds and littering.

During the summer and autumn of 2009, the policing team engaged with the group of youths and carried out enforcement activity which included issuing penalty fines for no insurance and riding not in accordance with a licence, a cannabis warning and warnings for riding mopeds anti-socially.

A 17 year-old youth appeared at Bexley Youth Court in January where he pleaded guilty to riding not in accordance with a licence and received a total of £103 in fines and three penalty points on his driving licence.

Police Constable John Horton, of St Mary's SNT said: "Our persistent interventions led to the dispersal of this group of 10-15 young people and the majority of them no longer own mopeds. It is months since we have received any calls or complaints from the community about the anti-social use of these vehicles."

A St Mary's resident said: "Since approaching the local Safer Neighbourhoods team the problem has been resolved most satisfactorily; they updated me on action already taken and steps planned to return the area to tranquillity. We had a very informative street briefing where it was great to put names to faces and meet the team. By this time the problem had been eradicated and we have been fortunate that the youths have not returned. A job well done by the Safer Neighbourhoods team, they are friendly, informative and have made a real difference to residents' lives."

### **Kilburn Park School win football tournament**

In late January, Brent's Kilburn Safer Neighbourhoods team (SNT) organised a football tournament at Charteris Sports centre for pupils aged between eight and eleven from St Mary's Catholic School, Kilburn Park School, Salusbury School and Christchurch school. In total 22 children were involved.

The children were coached by Arsenal and England ladies professional footballer Rachel Yankey.

During the two hour session the children were divided into their school teams and played against each other. Kilburn Park School were the winners. Rachel then arranged for the pupils to play against a fantasy team made up of the best players from the other schools, two Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and Rachel Yankey.

Kilburn Park school team received medals and certificates and certificates were also awarded to top scorers in each of the other teams. Each child that took part received a free goodie bag provided by Camden Council.

PCSO Narayan Patel, of Kilburn SNT said: "The day was a great success and the children are keen to attend an event like this again. We would like to thank Leanne Rodriguez, Youth and Community Officer, Tristan Wesley, Sports Development Officer, Rachel Yankey and the staff of Charteris Sports Centre for all their help in arranging such a fantastic event."

### **Closure order imposed on Penge flat**

At the beginning of February, the Penge and Cator Safer Neighbourhoods team (SNT) in Bromley were successful in obtaining Bromley's first closure order using Section 11b of the Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003 on a flat in Upton Court, Blean Close in Penge.

Officers from the SNT, working in partnership with the Bromley Council's Anti-social Behaviour Unit and Affinity Sutton Housing Association, moved swiftly to use the Premises Closure Order legislation. This was following persistent disorder and serious nuisance caused by the tenant and her visitors, which included fires being lit in communal areas, possible solvent abuse, class B drug use, petrol being spilt from repairing mini mopeds in the communal areas, together with more general abuse, such as noise and fighting.

Bromley Magistrates Court had no hesitation in imposing the three-month order. The flat will be closed for three months while eviction proceedings are pursued.

Sergeant Rob Goodwin, Penge and Cator SNT said: "This is a clear message to those people causing misery to their neighbours. If you act in an anti social manner with no regard for others, you will be targeted and you may find that you potentially lose your home".

### **Local school children teach PCSO Steve about road safety**

Andy Sharp, a local Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) from Kensington & Chelsea's Golborne Safer Neighbourhoods team teamed up with Joe Lewis, Road Safety Officer from the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea and the Metropolitan Police Service's very own 'PCSO Steve' character to deliver a series of road safety talks to groups of school children from each of the four schools on Golborne ward.

The first of the campaigns took place at Middle Row School at the beginning of February with a further three taking place later in the month.

The children, aged between six and eleven, were keen to show their knowledge of the Green Cross Code to both Andy Sharp and Joe Lewis. The highlight of the show as far as the children were concerned, was when they were introduced to PCSO Steve and helped to show him the importance of looking and listening before crossing any road.

Another reason for the visits was to address the number of complaints the police have received from both parents and teachers alike concerning the number of vehicles which park in the 'Strictly No Parking' zones outside the school, especially at the start and end of the school day.

Traffic Wardens and local police are to provide additional patrols in the area during these times and will also help deliver leaflets to all motorists, reminding them of the legal implications of such actions and where appropriate issue on the spot fines.

To assist with this campaign, each child has been invited to take part in a competition to create a poster or leaflet with a suitable slogan to help publicise the importance of road safety and the dangers that illegal parking can create, especially for children.

Prizes will be given to the four winners and two runners up from each school and as an additional prize, Joe Lewis arranged for the most creative entries to be professionally printed and be used as part of a road safety campaign on the streets in Kensington & Chelsea borough.

### **Safer Neighbourhoods team improve cycle security**

Responding to a ward priority over concerns about anti-social cycling and thefts of pedal cycles on the ward, Southwark's Chaucer Safer Neighbourhoods team ran a two-day event at The Rockingham Community Centre and Hanky Hall, where officers were on hand to fit free ImmobiTags into the frames of cycles brought along by residents of the ward. All ImmobiTags are activated online at Immobilise.com.

Photos, descriptions, receipts, frame numbers and other relevant information can all be added free of charge when registering your ImmobiTag. In the event of theft the bike's status can be changed from within the online account, notifying the Police and the second-hand trade. By doing so, a certificate of keepership can be created to assist in the completion of an accurate crime report and insurance claim.

Officers have also been out on the streets giving words of advice and fixed penalty notices where appropriate to those engaging in anti-social cycling, failing to stop at red traffic signals and those cycling on the pavements.

At the two-day event, the team were also able to hand out SmartWater kits to their residents. SmartWater contains a unique forensic solution that is registered to their home. SmartWater is simply applied to inconspicuous areas of valuables, making them forensically traceable back to the registered address.

Police Sergeant Kevin Linklater of Chaucer Safer Neighbourhoods team said: "Anti-social cycling and cycle thefts are issues our residents asked us to address. This was a well attended weekend which we will be repeating and plan to make a regular event. It was a great opportunity for us to hand out these security products and engage with our residents."

### **Day of action results in an arrest**

Officers from Sutton's Safer Neighbourhoods teams spoke to dozens of residents and made around 50 'stops' on individuals during a 'Day of Action' in Woodcote Road and Wallington Square during an eight-hour period at the beginning of February.

Officers made one arrest; this was a 30-year-old man for a deception offence after he approached a number of shoppers for £10 cash towards the repair of a fictitious car. Officers also issued £80 Fixed Penalty Notices to two drivers for having no insurance and three drivers for not wearing a seatbelt.

The Day of Action followed concerns raised by some residents following detailed engagement with the communities in Wallington. Residents had raised concerns about groups of youths and undesirable groups gathering, speeding vehicles, inconsiderate parking and litter.

More than 15 officers were involved from the following Safer Neighbourhoods teams: Beddington South, Beddington North, Wallington South, Wallington North, Carshalton Central and Carshalton South & Clockhouse. Inspector Colin Baker said: "These days are all about high visibility policing to reassure the public that we are listening to what they are telling us and taking appropriate action."

### **Partners work together to reduce truancy**

A Safer Neighbourhoods team (SNT) sergeant has held a training session on tackling truancy for a group of Lewisham Council's attendance welfare officers, street wardens, and deputy head teachers from schools across the borough.

At the end of January, at Lewisham police station, Bellingham SNT Sergeant Ruth Willshire discussed the benefits of close working relationships between the police and schools to reduce truancy.

Sergeant Ruth Willshire described her experience of reducing truancy at one secondary school on her ward, Sedgehill School, as a case study to show how team work between different agencies effectively dealt with issues there.

Initially, residents reported the issue of truancy at Sedgehill to Bellingham SNT, who began establishing links with the teachers at the school to remedy the problem. Officers organised for the school to have an environment audit which identifies how students leave the school and monitors the safety of the area.

They also introduced truancy cards, which allow officers to complete details of the student who is not at school and post this through the parent or guardian's home address for faster parental notification.

Other methods include increased police patrols around the school, sending joint letters to parents for repeat truants, and giving students passes for having valid reasons for not being in school. This initiative highlighted which schoolchildren were repeat truants.

Sergeant Willshire from the team said: "We all want young people to achieve their potential in a safe working environment. Close working with the school, and partners at the council really enabled us to identify patterns at Sedgehill then address them effectively. If agencies and schools work together we can share our areas of expertise to maximise support for students and parents or guardians.

"Truancing can lead to other areas of crime, and therefore it is important we take it seriously and work together to find out why it is happening and how we can stop it. This works best when schools have officers based with them or good links with their local policing teams."

### **Drugs and cash seized from property**

In February, Police Constable (PC) Paul Shakespeare from Bromley's Crystal Palace Safer Neighbourhoods team (SNT) received a call from a local housing authority regarding a group of men who were illegally residing at an address on the ward. This particular house was to be used to re-house patients that had mental health issues. The housing officer also stated that she attended the address and had seen some drug paraphernalia.

Crystal Palace SNT and the local police response unit attended the address to assist in the removal of the men residing there. Once inside the property, one of the men who was searched was found to be carrying herbal cannabis. Following this, the whole property was subsequently searched.

It wasn't long before PC Paul Shakespeare and Police Sergeant (PS) Selwyn Bascombe uncovered a large amount of crack cocaine in the living room where one of the men had been sleeping. A continued search of the address also resulted in approximately £8,000 being found in a carrier bag.

All the men were arrested for possession with intent to supply and were further arrested for money laundering.

PS Selwyn Bascombe from Crystal Palace SNT also added: "I am very pleased with the result. We as a team always strive to keep drugs off of our streets and this is an excellent example of police working effectively with our partnership agencies to get positive results."

Natasha Staples, from Stoneham Housing, added: "It was clear that these men were using this address for their illegal business and preying on the mentally vulnerable in order to do this. I am very pleased with the rapid effort of PS Bascombe and all of the Crystal Palace Safer Neighbourhoods team for their assistance."

### **Local residents attend crime prevention day**

Officers from East India & Lansbury Safer Neighbourhoods team (SNT) in Tower Hamlets teamed up with the London Fire Brigade to host a crime prevention day at Shaftsbury Lodge in Upper North Street.

The event informed local residents about topics such as dealing with bogus callers, home security and safety in the home. It was also an opportunity for the residents to get to know their local policing team and to voice any concerns about their neighbourhood.

Police Constable Michelle Hamilton-Levy of East India & Lansbury SNT said: "This type of event is a good way to get to know the local people, particularly the most vulnerable, it will hopefully prevent crime in the local area. It is something we will be looking to organise again."

### **Fly tipping not welcome in our neighbourhood**

Police and Council workers took to the streets recently to carry out joint patrols to identify and address areas of concern for the local community.

East Ham North Safer Neighbourhoods team (SNT) worked in partnership with the London borough of Newham (LBN) Street Scene Enforcement Officers to address ongoing anti-social behaviour (ASB) issues including fly tipping, vandalism and litter.

This joint problem solving initiative resulted in warnings and advice being given to occupants regarding rubbish/rubble in gardens and the removal of it. Health and safety issues were raised relating to vermin and problem areas have been identified for further progression and monitoring.

Investigations are being carried out by LBN Street Enforcement Officers regarding regular fly tipping of hot spot areas including outside a resident's garage and the removal of furniture and rubbish that has been dumped in the streets.

East Ham North SNT Sergeant Paul Vear said: "I am very pleased with the effective way the partners are working together. We have a common aim - making Newham safer and more enjoyable place to live. These joint patrols will continue and we hope to see significant positive impacts in the area as a result."

Counsellor June Leitch, Newham Council executive member for ASB, said: "We are working with police in sending out a clear message that fly-tipping is not welcome in our borough. We will never apologise for being tough on those making lives a misery for the vast majority of decent residents."

## **Shop assistant fined £80 for the illegal sale of alcohol**

Over a three-day period in February, Lambeth's Safer Neighbourhood teams (SNTs) carried out test purchase operations in Off Licences and Newsagents across the borough in partnership with Trading Standards Officers. This followed complaints regarding the sale of cigarettes and alcohol to under 18's. Out of the 76 premises visited, only three were found to have broken the law.

The law states it is an offence to sell alcohol or cigarettes to anyone under the age of 18 years old. Five volunteer teenagers aged 14 and 15 entered the shops under covert supervision and attempted to purchase alcohol or cigarettes. Seventy six shops were tested over three days.

Two shops were caught selling cigarettes to the volunteers. The first shop in Westow Hill, Gipsy Hill was given a caution, while the other shop on Streatham High Road in Streatham was reported to appear before a court.

A final shop on Wandsworth Road, South Lambeth was caught selling alcohol to a minor and the shop assistant was given an £80 fixed penalty ticket fine for this. Selling alcohol to people under 18 can result in a fixed penalty fine, prosecution or the alcohol licence being revoked.

Police Sergeant Mark Brindley from one of Lambeth's SNT stated, "The operation was deemed very successful as the majority of the shops did not sell. This is particularly reassuring as many youth anti-social problems originate from youths being able to get hold of alcohol and cigarettes. Those shops that did sell believed it was okay to do so provided the person looked 18 years of age. This is no defence. The responsibility is on the seller to ensure they have checked the age of the buyer."

He also added a word of caution to sellers, "Safer Neighbourhood teams will continue to work with Trading Standards to do test purchase operations to ensure licensed premises abide with the law and to prevent anti social problems occurring in Lambeth. By maintaining these types of operations, our figures show the compliance message is getting through."

## **Safety awareness event a success**

Towards the end of February, Heston Central Safer Neighbourhoods team (SNT) were joined by London Fire Brigade, Prevent & Engage team, Victim Support Service & Hounslow Community Safety team to promote safety for residents of Heston Day Care Centre.

The day was organised by Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Derek Campbell to raise awareness of burglary and street crime. It was specifically aimed at the over 60's and those that maybe considered to be vulnerable.

Over 50 residents benefited from services such as the Hounslow Home Security scheme, crime prevention information, advice on personal safety including “beat the bogus caller” and free personal attack alarms. London Fire Brigade offered home referrals to install new smoke/fire alarms. All residents were also encouraged to register with Hounslow Borough’s Ringmaster scheme. Victim Support Service and Community Safety Teams promoted support services available through the London borough of Hounslow.

All participants agreed that the event was a huge success providing reassurance to residents and as a result further events are planned within the ward in the near future.