

Brent Safer Neighbourhoods Team work helps to sentence youth for burglary

A 17 year-old youth from NW10 has been sentenced to a 14-month detention order for burglary and possession of cannabis at Brent Magistrates Court in mid-January.

Towards mid-December, officers from Dudden Hill Safer Neighbourhoods team (Brent borough) were on burglary patrols in the Neasden area. Shortly before 4pm, PC Smith stopped an individual who was in possession of a large quantity of stolen property and drugs. He was arrested on suspicion of burglary and possession of drugs. PCSO Sungum and PCSO Graczyk very quickly identified a property that appeared to have been burgled in Southview Avenue, NW10. The suspect had forced the window on the door and climbed into the property. The owners of the property were able to confirm they had been burgled and identify their property. The youth was then charged with burglary.

Sergeant Gareth Squance, of Dudden Hill Safer Neighbourhoods team, said:

"This was a fantastic team effort. We base our patrols on some great intelligence gathered by the team. We do what it takes to prevent burglaries. We have increased smart water and property marking schemes across our ward. Burglars will be caught. Burglary is a horrible intrusive crime that is totally unacceptable. I would encourage everyone to get involved in Neighbourhood Watch to help us improve our community".

Alperton Safer Neighbourhoods Team arrange visit to House of Commons

Soon after mid-January, officers from Alperton Safer Neighbourhoods team (Brent borough) arranged for 20 residents from Heather Park Neighbourhood Watch to visit the House of Commons.

The Alperton Safer Neighbourhoods team actively supports and works alongside Heather Park Neighbourhood Watch. The Neighbourhood Watch meets once every two months at the Heather Park Public House in Alperton between 7pm and 9pm. There is always a guest speaker from the council, local industry and community police.

The team produces a newsletter that goes out to 850 homes and arranges small events that get the community out of their homes and mixing with their neighbours. The team took 20 residents to the House of Commons where they met Barry Gardiner MP and were given a guided tour.



Sergeant Michael Feeney, of Alperton Safer Neighbourhoods team, said:

"As with our past community events, this is a great opportunity for residents to meet and get to know each other. There is a genuine feeling of community spirit in the Heather Park area and it is something we will be wishing to expand on into other areas of Alperton in the near future".

Wealdstone Safer Neighbourhoods team complete set of Neighbourhood Champions

Wealdstone Safer Neighbourhoods team (Harrow borough) is celebrating being the first ward in the borough to boast a full set of Neighbourhood Champions - one for every road on the ward.

The scheme, which was built on the well-established Neighbourhood Watch programme, is jointly funded by Harrow police and Harrow Council. When the idea was first proposed, the goal was that a champion would be recruited for every street on the borough. Since its launch earlier this year, more than 670 like-minded volunteers, borough-wide, have signed up to support the programme. In total, 39 of Wealdstone's residents are already fully trained, acting as the eyes and ears of their neighbourhood, with a further 34 due to be trained in the coming months.

The key role of the champion is to report issues of anti-social behaviour, graffiti, fly-tipping, abandoned vehicles and noise nuisance to name a few. This is because as a Neighbourhood Champion only covers the road in which they live, issues that need reporting are likely to be minimal. There are no formal obligations to the role and volunteers can do as little or as much as they like. Reports can be logged on the council's website, fast tracked and quickly resolved. Anything with a criminal element is passed onto the police.

The scheme is also a useful tool for police to communicate fast time to residents, to provide crime prevention advice, information about burglaries or any other incidents which may be a cause for concern locally.



Mr. Ray Cooper MBE aged 78 who is the newest recruit to the Wealdstone area said:

"I am well known around here and to ensure everyone knows I am their Neighbourhood Champion, have been giving out leaflets explaining what my role is. I keep in regular contact with the local Safer Neighbourhoods team and see myself as the eyes and ears of the neighbourhood".

PCSO Jules Grant, of Wealdstone Safer Neighbourhoods team, said:

"The important thing for us is that we know we have one point of contact on the street. If there is a problem we know who to talk to and they know they can come to us too. It makes our job easier and more effective, it means we can work more closely with the communities we are here to help".

Chief Inspector Nicholas Davies said:

"The Neighbourhood Champions scheme is proving to be an extremely useful tool. I am delighted with the uptake and the calibre of the champions who have signed up to support their community".

Sutton Safer Neighbourhoods team present primary school children with awards

Towards mid-January, youngsters from Devonshire Primary School in Sutton were presented with their awards for taking part in their Police Academy - an after school club which was organised by officers from Sutton South Safer Neighbourhoods team and Belmont Safer Neighbourhoods team (both Sutton borough).

The pupils took part in a range of activities during the 11-week Academy course which ran throughout the autumn term. These activities included learning about fingerprints, badges of rank, police drill and first aid and resuscitation. It also explained what happens when you get arrested and how police officers use handcuffs and batons. However, their favourite activity was seeing how police drugs dogs worked, namely when Suzie the Spaniel scampered around a school classroom finding objects that had been hidden by dog handler PC Bob Bradley.

All students who attended the Academy received graduation certificates. Having been divided into four different coloured teams, the team judged the best was the red team of Faye, Harvey and Flyn. The student who was judged the overall winner for attendance, enthusiasm, helpfulness and high scoring throughout was Olivia.

The awards were presented by PC John Carpenter of Belmont Safer Neighbourhoods team, who drew up the Academy programme, and Inspector Chris Riggs, of Sutton police station.



PC John Carpenter said:

"The children have been very attentive and have enjoyed everything we have showed them. The programme is all about children being confident with the police and knowing that the police are here to help".

Head teacher Martin Kearsley said:

"It's been a pleasure to see the children and police officers getting to know each other as each week has progressed. The children have thoroughly enjoyed themselves - and I would like to thank the police officers for their help".

Sutton Safer Neighbourhoods Team get wheels in motion

Police officers from the Metropolitan Police Service and Surrey Police teamed up towards the end of January for an operation on Sutton's borders to crackdown on motorists driving illegally and criminals passing through the area.

During the three and a half hour operation starting at noon, the officers were positioned at two locations along Banstead Road. The MPS officers from Sutton police station and traffic officers were based near the junction with Higher Drive whilst the Surrey officers were based further along the road at the junction of Beverley Close. Officers from Sutton Trading Standards and Waste Licence Enforcement teams also took part. The operation used Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology to help officers to identify which vehicles to stop.

The results for the Sutton end of the operation were:

- 64 vehicles stopped
- two vehicles seized for having no insurance
- one man arrested, aged early 20s, on suspicion of being disqualified from driving and going equipped to steal



Sergeant Stuart Taylor-Bard, of Cheam Safer Neighbourhoods team (Sutton borough) who organised the joint operation, said:

"Operations like this send out a strong message that motorists driving illegally will be caught and that criminals are not welcome in the borough. We gathered some valuable intelligence from this operation which will assist our future operations".