

Clean up event a success

Queens Park Safer Neighbourhoods team (Brent borough) working together with Brent Housing Partnership (BHP) and other agencies carried out a two-day clean-up event in and around Claremont Road, Cullen House, Premier Corner and Keniston Press building in South Kilburn.

The hard working team removed graffiti, cleared rubbish and foliage and deep cleaned the car park and surrounding areas. Three skips were filled with rubbish and the area was much improved.

Sergeant Graeme Day from Queens Park Safer Neighbourhoods team said: "This was a great effort by everyone involved; it is very rewarding when you feel you have made a difference to an area. I would like to thank everyone involved for all their hard work."

Christian Longdon, Head of the Resident and Community Safety team at BHP said: "It was a pleasure to be involved in such a brilliant community initiative to clear up the local area. The results were very impressive and the improvement to the area has been enormous. At BHP we are committed to improving the environment for our residents and ensuring they live a better quality of life. We will continue to get involved in projects such as this in the future."

Safer Neighbourhoods team turn tables on youth in Lambeth

Herne Hill Safer Neighbourhoods team (SNT) (Lambeth borough) turned the tables on young people at 'Kids Company' by playing a friendly table football tournament. Kids Company is a charity set up and run by Camila Batmanghelidjh who provides educational and therapeutic facilities for young people excluded from school at a base on Herne Hill ward.

Herne Hill SNT has developed strong links with Kids' Company to build trust among the young people and to open the lines of communication between the police and them. The objective of supporting the company is to make young people feel safer and create a diversion from anti-social behaviour or petty crime that they may otherwise become involved in. In recent times, the surrounding area was subject to a dispersal zone, empowering police to disperse anti-social groups; Kids' Company's daytime activities and popular after-school youth club provides hundreds of local teenagers with safe, constructive activities.

Sergeant Tom Cornish of Herne Hill SNT secured funding for table football hire, professional organisers 'Goalden Events', a quiz and prizes to enable young people aged between 11 and 21 to enjoy positive interaction with their local Safer Neighbourhoods team officers. During the course of the tournament, officers engaged in conversations about how safe the young people feel in the area and how the team can help them.

Sergeant Tom Cornish said: "My Safer Neighbourhoods team aims to be recognised and trusted by local young people. Only by doing so, can we identify how to keep them safe and obtain information about under-reported youth crime. Kids' Company makes a real difference on Herne Hill ward by helping many young people stay out of trouble and giving their lives some direction. This friendly tournament will have long-term effects in enabling young people to talk in confidence to an officer whom they recognise and trust".

Career day inspires young people

Over 50 young people attended a careers day recently which was organised by Stroud Green Safer Neighbourhoods team (SNT) (Haringey borough) and Haringey Council.

The event was held at Hornsey Vale Community Centre and gave young people the opportunity to talk to a number of organisations to obtain advice or information about jobs, careers, education courses, youth support groups and leisure organisations in the local area. These included; College of Haringey, Enfield and North East London, London Fire Brigade, The Army, London Ambulance Service, Connexions and Kis Training. Advisors were also on hand to give advice with CV writing.

Stroud Green SNT used this opportunity to help people register their valuables onto the immobilise.com website.

One young person said: "The event was very useful; I have made contact with a couple of agencies that are already looking for work for me. The careers fair has made me think about my future and the opportunities there are."

Sergeant Bob Stevenson from Stroud Green SNT said: "I am pleased that this event had a positive impact on the young people who attended. They felt there were appropriate organisations present and most felt inspired to get involved in local activities and careers."

Local residents involved in 'Community Mobile Phone Watch'

In response to concerns raised by Sutton communities around inconsiderate driving, Sutton police and community members from Wallington South held the first ever 'Community Mobile Phone Watch' in Wallington at the beginning of March.

A group of volunteer local residents spotted a total of 15 motorists apparently speaking into their mobile phones whilst driving during the initiative - believed to be the first such initiative of its kind in the Metropolitan Police Service.

Wearing fluorescent jackets, carrying clipboards and watched over by officers from Wallington South Safer Neighbourhoods team (SNT) (Sutton borough), the four residents took up their positions in Stanley Park Road - a busy cut-through between Sutton and Wallington. Over a period of 75 minutes from 3.30pm, the residents recorded the registration numbers of offenders' vehicles.

The information was passed to the Safer Neighbourhoods team officers who established the registered owners of the vehicles and sent out warning letters detailing the offence that the dangers of using a mobile phone whilst driving and the potential punishments that are available to police. The residents who took part are all members of the local ward panel which sets the local policing priorities for the team.

Sergeant Peter Le Shirley from Wallington South SNT said: "Residents in Wallington have identified speeding and inconsiderate driving as two specific issues they want us to focus on. Involving the community and empowering citizen's will help our long-term problem solving approach to tackling issues the community set as priorities.

"Our panel members really enjoyed getting involved with us despite getting a bit cold at the end! We are planning to carry out similar operations in the near future."

Police and council close three addresses due to anti-social behaviour

Following reports about anti-social behaviour from local residents, three addresses in Hayes have been closed. Uxbridge Magistrates Court granted the premises closure orders at the beginning of March in accordance with section 11B of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003.

Police and Hillingdon Council worked in partnership to get the premises successfully closed. The properties had been cited as the location for anti-social behaviour. Residents complained of abuse and threats from people attending the premises, intimidation, criminal damage in the street and visitors to the premises parking across driveways.

Townfield Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT) (Hillingdon borough) served a notice on each of the premises and within 48 hours applications for closure orders were being heard at the court. The court considered the closure order on the grounds that there was anti-social behaviour linked to the premises, which was causing persistent serious nuisance to members of the public.

The properties will remain closed for three months from the date of the order. The order forbids anyone to enter the premises (without the permission of police) for three months with a maximum fine of £5000, imprisonment or both for breaking the order.

Police Sergeant Andy Shuker of Townfield SNT said: "This application was to address the persistent serious nuisance to the residents of East Avenue. We have received encouragement and support from the local community groups based on this street. The aim is to establish legitimate tenants in these buildings who will take responsibility for the area".

Inspector Mike Smith added: "Anti social behaviour has been identified as a priority for the Townfield ward. It is what the residents have asked us to tackle. In partnership with the council we have achieved results, which the local residents have expected.

"Police patrols are being conducted in the area to reassure the residents of our continuing support. We are mindful that anti social behaviour affects the quality of life for the residents and businesses. We will take action. I urge our communities that if they are experiencing problems in their neighbourhood then please contact your local Safer Neighbourhoods team or call 0300 123 1212."

Cross border operation results in three arrests

Over a three-day period in mid-March, the Biggin Hill Safer Neighbourhoods team (SNT) (Bromley borough), supported by officers from Croydon, Kent Police and Surrey Police carried out a cross border operation targeting the roads and lanes that run between Biggin Hill, Croydon, Kent and Surrey.

The operation was the result of issues raised by local residents who were concerned about criminals and undesirable groups using the roads to travel into the area and offending.

Three people were arrested during the operation, one for drink driving, one for drugs offences and one person who had a warrant out for their arrest. In total 56 vehicles were stopped when entering the area, 20 people were stopped and searched, 48 people stopped and asked to account for themselves, whilst one vehicle was seized as the driver had no insurance and two people were issued with cannabis warnings.

Sergeant Gill Smith, Biggin Hill SNT said: "This operation was designed to combat cross border criminal activity and through working with our colleagues from Kent, Surrey and Croydon we were able to effectively disrupt those who travel into Biggin Hill intent on committing crime.

"The nature of the border means that anyone coming into the area looking to commit crime is more than likely to be travelling in a vehicle. Therefore, by carrying out stop checks we not only provide our community with a highly-visible police presence, we also deter criminals from coming into the area.

"I'd like to thank all the officers who took part in this operation for their professionalism and dedication. We have had some very positive feedback from local residents, some of whom had been stopped as part of the operation. We will continue to work on collaborative initiatives like this in the future".