

Barnet Safer Neighbourhoods Team involved in Black History Month

As part of Black History month, Colindale Safer Neighbourhoods team (Barnet borough) worked with Novo and 'Joy Bringers R Us' at the Novo centre to bring together the local black community on the Grahame Park Estate. The aim was to get the local black residents to come to a social meeting to talk about what matters to them, what parts of black history they would like to share and to express their culture to the rest of the group.

Novo is a new social enterprise that started four years ago to provide a safe area for kids. Its aims are to provide a shelter for young kids on the estate, somewhere to go and meet up rather than on the streets and committing criminal disorder as a result.

'Joy Bringers R Us' is a voluntary organisation on the Grahame Park Estate which supports people who have faced situations such as divorce, bereavement, redundancy, debt, poverty, loneliness and parental pressures.

Throughout the evening there were talks by key black community representatives, youth groups, dance, vocal displays and a talk by PCSO Kirk Erskine highlighting where he was born and what Black history means to him and the police.



Clement Mwatsama, the key organiser from 'Joy Bringers R Us', said:

"We aim to create a dialogue between the police and young children. Novo mentor the kids on discipline and positive attitude and try to keep the kids out of criminal activity by providing guidance that most need it."

Cephas Akuklu, key volunteer for Novo, said:

"We are here to work on positive relations with Colindale Safer Neighbourhoods team and to teach the black community how to work with and respect the Police. Together we can make a difference".

Sergeant Chris Byrne, of Colindale Safer Neighbourhoods, said:

"This is a great opportunity for us to get together and listen to what matters the most in the community. Whilst everyone is here to talk about their history, it gives us the chance to understand where they are coming from and how we can help them."

Sutton Safer Neighbourhoods Team crackdown on motorists

In mid-November, residents joined police officers from Beddington South Safer Neighbourhoods team (Sutton borough) to crackdown on speeding drivers and drivers who speak into a hand held mobile phone and do not wear a seat belt. The two residents and two Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) took vehicle registration details of 30 drivers during the one-hour, mid-morning operation in Foresters Drive, Roundshaw. Of these drivers, 23 registration numbers were recorded for speeding at up to 50mph in a 30mph road; six were taken for drivers not wearing a seat belt and one for a driver using a hand held mobile phone.

The previous day, officers took vehicle details of 30 drivers who committed offences in a similar operation in Mollison Drive, Roundshaw. On this occasion, 19 of the drivers were spotted not wearing a seat belt, ten for speeding and one for driving with a hand held phone. Drivers are sent warning letters from police advising that they will be prosecuted if offences are repeated.

Residents have told police they want action on road safety and have volunteered to be involved in police operations to make local roads safer. The local Beddington South Safer Neighbourhoods team has road safety as one of its ward-based policing priorities and have trained up a number of residents to use the speed gun when supervised by police.

Participating residents Tim Foley and Michael Bool, who both live in Foresters Drive, said they want to try and prevent any more serious accidents in the road after one collision claimed the life of a 15-year-old boy a few years ago.



Tim Foley said:

"We want to do all we can do to stop motorists speeding in this road, which is used by families and children walking to and from local schools, shops and the park."

Michael Bool said:

"I would like to see more residents come out and help us. A couple of neighbours have said it's good what we are doing."

Sergeant John Withersby, of Beddington South Safer Neighbourhoods team, said:

"The residents were very enthusiastic and volunteered to help again in further operations."

Hammersmith and Fulham Safer Neighbourhoods Team step in to help response team

Towards the end of November, a 999 call was received that a burglary was in progress at an address in Addison Gardens, W14.

The response team at Hammersmith & Fulham were extremely busy and the call was accepted by officers from Addison Ward Safer Neighbourhoods team (Hammersmith & Fulham borough). PC Luke Mooney and PCSO William Noble, both of Addison Ward Safer Neighbourhoods team, were by chance very close to the venue. Upon their arrival, both officers detained three suspects near to the scene and identified a Black BMW that the suspects were using.

Sergeant Matt Moir, also of Addison Ward Safer Neighbourhoods team, co-ordinated officers from his Addison Safer Neighbourhoods team and the nearby Shepherds Bush Safer Neighbourhoods team to secure the premises before undertaking a thorough search of them for further suspects.

This was an excellent result culminating in the arrest of three suspects for burglary and the recovery of several items of property taken from the premises.

Inspector Dave Jones, from Response Team 5, said:

"The response team on the day were very stretched and the local Safer Neighbourhoods teams stepped in very quickly to help us out. Their quick response resulted in the arrest of three suspects for burglary."

West Hampstead PCSO ensures local beggar gets ASBO

One of Camden's most prolific beggars was served with an anti-social behaviour order at Highbury Corner Magistrates' Court in mid-November. The man has become a familiar figure near to Kilburn and Finchley Road tube stations with his

begging bowl and cardboard notice claiming to be homeless, disabled and poverty stricken.

The ASBO obtained will be valid for 3 years and the man is prohibited from begging, soliciting or encouraging any person or persons to give money or alms in any public place, street, highway, court or passage within the M25 area.

West Hampstead Safer Neighbourhoods team (Camden borough) decided to tackle the issue of begging in the area, as it had been raised at a number of recent public and panel meetings.

PCSO Toby Springate, of West Hampstead Safer Neighbourhoods team, has been the officer in this case working with the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit of Camden Council. Over a period of 6 weeks PCSO Springate worked tirelessly to obtain the necessary statements from police officers, PCSOs and members of the public to enable the ASBO application.



Lisa Noonan, Anti-Social Behaviour Officer at Camden Council, said:

"It is not the norm for a PCSO to take the lead on an ASBO and Toby should be commended for taking the initiative. He had never done one before and did not know much about the process, but he did not let this deter him. The huge amount of work he put into the case was excellent, as was the quality of the evidence he provided".

PCSO Toby Springate said:

"Obtaining this Anti-Social Behaviour Order has been very satisfying, and will hopefully deter others from begging and other ASB in the West Hampstead area. If not, our team is more than prepared to take action".

Knight's Hill Safer Neighbourhoods Team make their mark

The Knight's Hill Safer Neighbourhoods team (Lambeth borough) attended a community event hosted by MP Tessa Jowell at Holderness Way in SE27 at the end of October.

The Safer Neighbourhoods team were on hand to give crime prevention advice and mark property using smartwater. Although invisible to the eye, smartwater is almost impossible to remove once applied. When marked property is placed under ultra-violet light the liquid glows to reveal its unique chemical signature, providing proof of ownership. Offenders will then face prosecution and the recovered property can be returned to its rightful owners. The Safer Neighbourhoods team was able to mark all kinds of property from laptops to bicycles at no charge.

The event also proved to be a chance to get information on joining the Metropolitan Police Service as a Police Special constable, which has many benefits. Specials have the same responsibilities and powers as a police officer with great opportunities for promotion and self development. Although it is a voluntary position there are many rewards; Specials qualify for free travel on tubes and buses in the London area, the knowledge that you are contributing to the community and the camaraderie of working in a team to name but a few.



Acting Police Sergeant Saul Bird said:

"The day was a great success and it was good to receive such a positive response from the community. The local community on the Holderness Estate have now set up a Tenants and residents association and we look forward to working with them on this."