Safer Edgbaston

Working Together for a Safer Neighbourhood

Issue 1 - Autumn 2009

Message from Councillor Khan, Cabinet Member for Local Services and Community Safety

Birmingham is one of the safest cities in the UK thanks to partnership work - but we are not complacent about progress. In Safer Birmingham Partnership the Council, the Police, the Fire Service, the Probation Service, the Health Services and the third sector all work together - and so do Birmingham residents like you. We are working together on the things that you have told us matter to you, and matter to the quality of life in your neighbourhoods.

We know that you want to hear more news about how we deal with your concerns about anti social behaviour and crime and we think the this newsletter is a simple way to tell you about our work to make your neighbourhood a safer place. We hope you like it.

ACTION TAKEN TO TACKLE RESIDENTS' CAR PARKING CONCERNS

You said...

"A number of people are parking their vehicles inconsiderately St Johns Road, North Road, Barlows Road, Metchley Park Road, Metchley Lane, and Malins Road. This makes it difficult for pedestrians to pass and for emergency vehicles to gain access which could put people's lives at risk".

So we...

Arranged for Officers to patrol 'hotspot' locations and issue fixed penalty tickets to vehicles parked inappropriately. Warning signs have also been placed in the problem areas and letters are being sent to vehicle owners who park inconsiderately. Neighbourhood team officers will continue to maintain a constant presence in the affected areas.

ACTION TAKEN TO TACKLE SPEEDING VEHICLES

You said...

"We have serious concerns about vehicles that are speeding on Wellington Road, South Edgbaston. A recent traffic survey confirmed that 60% of vehicles using the road in the week the survey was carried out were speeding".

Speed Watch in full effect.

So we...

Arranged for a Community Speed Watch initiative to be put in place. This involves the local community and local neighbourhood team operating speed cameras in the area. Any motorist found to be speeding is issued with an initial warning letter and if they continue to break the speed limit, they receive a final warning before being prosecuted.

Pro-laser operations were also put in place during the first two weeks of August, (in conjunction with the Road Policing Unit) to identify and prosecute offenders. The team is also in the process of liaising with Birmingham City Council to establish the traffic calming measures available as a longer term solution.

The number of vehicles speeding has dropped in recent weeks and neighbourhood team officers are maintaining a constant presence in affected areas to ensure this trend continues. If you would like to get involved in Community Speed Watch contact the team on 0845 113 5000 and ask for Sgt. John Proudman.

ACTION TAKEN TO TACKLE SHOPLIFTING IN HARBORNE

Shoplifters beware! New measures have been introduced at stores on Harborne High Street to tackle crime.

The official launch of the new radios (front left to right): Cllr. Deirdre Alden, Bob Flack, PC Kevin Fearn, Cllr. John Alden and Poppy Brady. (middle left to right): David Smith, Chris Birdsell and Mark Lewis. (back left to right): Phil Stokes, Jay Heer and Ian Lowe.

Shopkeepers have received special training and are now using a radio link up system to reduce retail crime.

Harborne Village Partnership Manager, Bob Flack, who launched the new radio scheme said: "This is the culmination of different groups working in partnership to make the High Street an even safer place to shop. Our local police do an excellent job in providing a presence on the High Street but these radios will help traders to be even more aware of potential problems."

Funding for the radios was provided by Harborne ward committee, plus a contribution from Waitrose, one of Harborne's anchor stores.

PC Kevin Fearn of Rose Road Police station said, "Harborne High Street has one of the lowest crime rates in Birmingham and hopefully this project will help to keep it that way."

YOUNG PEOPLE LEARN THE FACTS ABOUT DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

Pupils at Bartley Green schools have been learning about the harms associated with drug and alcohol misuse through special interactive learning sessions.

The sessions are designed to encourage youngsters to act responsibly and make informed choices.

Keith Dugmore who coordinated the programme of activity said, "Encouraging young people to develop life skills helps them to resist negative influences and have the confidence to make informed choices. These skills can have a major influence on their long-term outcomes."

Lending a helping hand. A PCSO assists in the activities.

POLICE FUNDING PROVIDES SAFE HAVEN FOR YOUNGSTERS

Thanks to funding from the West Midlands Police team based at Bournville Lane, additional 'Just 4 Kids' youth groups sessions are now being held at Long Nuke Tenants Hall in Bartley Green.

The sessions, which are held on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, are open to local young people aged 8-11 and are proving to be extremely popular.

As well as offering activities such as kickboxing and dance, youngsters are also encouraged to think about the ways in which they interact with their peer group and the impact this has on the local community.

All youngsters who attend the sessions are asked to sign up to a code of conduct which ensures that they show respect for the community building and their local area.

ARE YOUR ITEMS PROTECTED?

West Midlands Police is urging local residents to register any valuable items on their national database – 'Immobilise'.

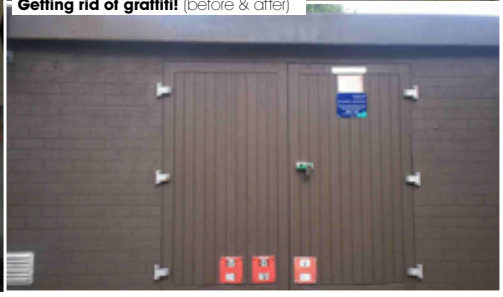
Simply log on to www.registermythings.co.uk and enter the serial numbers of any valuables you have in your home. Mobile phones and Ipods can also be added to the site.

One of the main benefits of registering your valuables is that the Police are able to identify the owner and return any lost or stolen items if they are recovered.

WORKING TOGETHER TO CLEAN UP ROMAN WAY

Roman Way Neighbourhood Tasking Group was established to tackle residents' concerns about crime and anti-social behaviour in their area.

Addressing local concerns in partnership (left to right): John Brandrick, Sophia Mann, Nick Reynolds, Sue Hickin, Sgt. Mark Heard and Mike Winkett.



Getting rid of graffiti! (before & after)

EDGBASTON HIT SQUAD TACKLES ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME

You said...
"Fly tipping, dumping, litter and graffiti is a problem in our area"

We acted by...
Identifying funding to launch the Edgbaston Hit Squad – a vehicle manned by two members of staff which responds to reported incidents of fly tipping, dumping, litter picking, environmental crime and graffiti removal across Bartley Green, Edgbaston, Harborne & Quinton.

Why is this so successful?

- No quibbles over who owns what area of land
- Direct link into the Constituency Office
- Residents feed directly into the system, which reduces frustrations of making numerous calls
- Communities see a swift response & action being taken
- A strong message is sent out that this is an area where people take a pride in their environment

Call **0121 675 3969** to contact the team and report any incidents of environmental crime in your area.

Local residents take part in the meetings and work alongside officers from West Midlands Police, Birmingham City Council and West Midlands Fire Service to resolve local issues.

"Residents now feel that they have a voice on matters of local concern..."

Chaired by local resident, Nick Reynolds, the group identify issues affecting their community and task representatives at the meeting to respond to them. Nick said, "Residents now feel that they have a voice on matters of local concern and that the problems they raise are being resolved because of the close working relationship we have with police and council colleagues"

Successes to date include:

- the removal of graffiti;
- cutting back overgrown areas around the estate;
- the removal of litter and dumped items; and
- the establishment of a local police surgery.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES REDUCE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

A range of initiatives for young people living in Quinton has helped to reduce residents' concerns about the youngsters hanging around with nothing to do.

That is why an under 14's football team was created. 'Elite Futures FC' and outward bound activity sessions in Aberdovey, have both played a part in reducing residents' concerns. Both of these actions have given the youngsters somewhere to go and something to do. Residents are delighted with the improvement. **Well done to everyone involved with Elite Futures FC on your recent promotion!**

One of many activity weeks for young people.

HAVE YOUR SAY ON ISSUES WHICH AFFECT YOU

As part of our commitment to dealing with issues that really matter to local people, the Police and the Council now host a Partners and Communities Together (PACT) Meeting on a monthly basis.

PACT meetings give local people a say in how their local area is policed and how neighbourhood issues are identified and dealt with. They also provide the opportunity to meet your neighbourhood policing team and other residents to decide what your community's priorities should be.

To find out when your next local meeting is, contact your local sergeant:

Quinton West Neighbourhood (Team 6)
Sergeant Dez Lambert
Call: 0845 113 5000 ext. 7867 6228
Email: f2_nhp_quintonwest@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk
Visit: www.west-midlands.police.uk/np/roseroad/n06.asp
Write: Quinton Police Station, 294 Quinton Road West, Birmingham B32 1LY

Quinton East Neighbourhood (Team 7)
Sergeant Jeff Doak
Call: 0845 113 5000 ext. 7867 6230
Email: f2_nhp_quintoneast@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk
Visit: www.west-midlands.police.uk/np/roseroad/n07.asp
Write: Quinton Police Station, 294 Quinton Road West, Birmingham B32 1LY

Harborne East Neighbourhood (Team 8)
Sergeant Jon Proudman
Call: 0845 113 5000 ext. 7863 6441
Email: f2_nhp_harborneeast@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk
Visit: www.west-midlands.police.uk/np/roseroad/n08.asp
Write: Rose Road Police Station, Rose Road, Birmingham B17 9LL

South Edgbaston Neighbourhood (Team 9)
Sergeant Michael Richards
Call: 0845 113 5000 ext. 7601 6245
Email: f2_nhp_sthedgbaston@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk
Visit: www.west-midlands.police.uk/np/roseroad/n09.asp
Write: Rose Road Police Station, Rose Road, Birmingham B17 9LL

Harborne West Neighbourhood (Team 11)
Sergeant Andy Taylor
Call: 0845 113 5000 ext. 7863 6725
Email: f2_nhp_harbornewest@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk
Visit: www.west-midlands.police.uk/np/roseroad/n11.asp
Write: Rose Road Police Station, Rose Road, Birmingham B17 9LL

Safer Birmingham Partnership (SBP), previously known as Birmingham Community Safety Partnership, is the new name given to the City's crime and disorder reduction partnership which includes West Midlands Police, Birmingham City Council, West Midlands Fire Service, Probation, PCTs and the third sector. We all work together to tackle difficult problems that affect communities. We listen to your concerns and do our best to respond to them. We deal with issues such as effective drug treatment, support for people suffering domestic violence or hate crime, protecting people from fire, burglary or anti social behaviour.

The Safer Birmingham Partnership has three core outcomes which are the driving force behind its work programme. It is SBP's aim that Birmingham will:

- Be a safe place in which to live, work & visit
- Feel a safe place in which to live, work & visit
- Be a place where young people choose not to engage in criminal and anti-social behaviour

SaferBirmingham Partnership
Working together for a safer city

Tel: 0121 303 3160 / www.saferbirmingham.org.uk

LOCAL RESIDENT TAKES ACTION TO TACKLE CRIME

A number of years ago Waterworks Estate resident, Chris Hoare, was fed up with the levels of crime and anti-social behaviour on the estate and decided to take action instead of moving house.

Under Chris' direction, agencies and volunteers have worked together to introduce gating schemes, install CCTV cameras, turn derelict land into designer gardens and carry out the part restoration of Perrots Folly.

In conjunction with West Midlands Police, Chris has also established a weekly youth club at the Church of the Redeemer. The primary aim of the club is to prevent young people from getting involved in crime and anti-social behaviour by providing them with somewhere to go where they can access activities which interested them.

The Youth Club has been a great success and attracts around 50 young people every week. PCSO Clarke who worked closely with Chris to develop the service said, "We believe this club has helped to break down some of the barriers between young people and the wider community. The young people consider the club their own and have shown an extremely positive attitude towards the police and the local community".

For further information contact PCSO Martin Clarke on 0845 113 5000 ext 7864 6272.