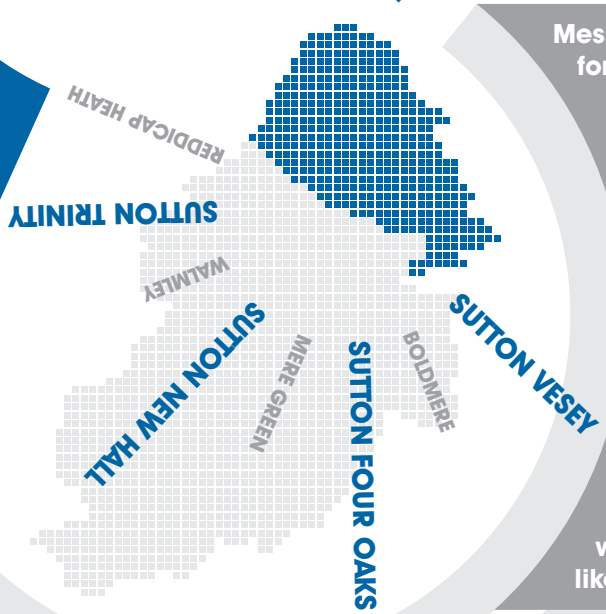
Safer Sutton Coldfield

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.

YOUTH INCLUSION SUPPORT PANEL FOR SUTTON

Sutton Coldfield will shortly be forming a Youth Inclusion Support Panel (YISP).

The YISP will work with children and young people aged 8 to 19 and their families. The programme is aimed at reducing the risk of offending and anti-social behaviour, increasing education attainment and engaging young people in positive activities.

Clients that the YISP will work with include non-school attendees, victims of crime and young people with behavioural difficulties.

The YISP will strengthen relationships between different professionals, raise awareness about the support services available from local agencies, provide an avenue to share relevant information regarding children and young people and prevent the duplication of services.

There are currently 7 panels around Birmingham which have run successfully since they began in 2003. This will be the first panel in Sutton Coldfield.

ACTION TAKEN TO REDUCE ALCOHOL RELATED CRIME

You said...
'People drinking alcohol on the streets is causing problems with crime and anti-social behaviour in our area".

So we...
Worked in partnership with the police and the council to take action.

"...we are prepared to listen to residents' concerns and take action".

We listened to the concerns of local residents and applied to the City Council's Licensing department to make Sutton Coldfield an 'alcohol restricted zone'.

In effect, this means that anyone caught behaving anti-socially who is found to be carrying alcohol on their person, can have their drink confiscated. Depending on the severity of their behaviour, they make also face arrest. Inspector Tom Hadley said, "These new measures will help us to make Sutton Coldfield a more pleasant place for residents to live. It demonstrates that we are prepared to listen to residents' concerns and take action".

LOCAL RESIDENTS NOMINATED FOR AWARD

Henry and Margaret Wattis of Sutton Christian Centre have recently been recognised for their efforts in helping to reduce crime and anti social behaviour within Falcon Lodge area of Sutton Coldfield.

Henry and Margaret regularly drive their bus onto the estate and work with young people to engage them in positive activities.

They also provide help and support to young people with their studies and offer a friendly ear of support to those who want to talk to an adult about issues affecting them.

They have volunteered their services to the community for a number of years and have helped a tremendous amount of youngsters during that time.

Henry and Margaret were recently nominated for the 'Supporting Tomorrow's Citizens' Award at the Safer Birmingham Partnership's United Streets of Birmingham: Community Awards ceremony in September. The awards recognise local heroes who go that extra mile to improving the community in which they live and helping to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.

Local heroes: Sergeant Rachel Crump and Sergeant Lisa Watt with Margaret and Henry Wattis.

Sergeant Lisa Watt nominated them for the award and said, "Henry and Margaret thoroughly deserve recognition for all the hard work they have done over the years – well done to both of them!"

ROAD SAFETY IN SUTTON

The Road Safety Partnership is made up of a number of partners including West Midlands Police, West Midlands Fire Service, Birmingham City Council, the Ambulance Service and members of the local community.

The aim of the group is to reduce the number of road traffic accidents in the area through the implementation of a variety of measures. Specific areas of focus include raising awareness of the dangers of drink/drug driving, speeding, poorly fitted car seats and not wearing seatbelts.

A number of road safety speeding operations have already been carried out in the area, which resulted in the issue of fixed penalty notices to the tune of £60 and offending motorists having their licenses endorsed with 3 penalty points.

A large amount of work has also been carried out in schools to educate children on the importance of road safety and highlight the role they can play in encouraging their parents to drive responsibly.

For more information on the work of the Road Safety Partnership, contact Lewis O'Rourke on 0121 464 7575 or email: lewis.orourke@birmingham.gov.uk

GRAFFITI CLEAN UP

Sutton Coldfield residents are being encouraged to do their bit to help keep cable boxes free of graffiti within their local area.

A number of cable boxes have been treated with a special coating which means that any new graffiti daubing can be wiped off easily.

If you have a cable box in your area which attracts a lot of graffiti, simply contact the Sutton Coldfield Environmental Wardens team on 0121 675 5064 or email nvwardenssuttoncoldfield@birmingham.gov.uk

Residents who take part in the scheme will be entered into a monthly prize draw for a chance to win a £50 shopping voucher.

FUNDING SECURED TO PROVIDE ACTIVITIES FOR LOCAL YOUNG PEOPLE

The Sutton Coldfield 'Stay Safe' Group has recently secured funding in order to run a number of activities specifically for young people across the constituency.

The range of activities available includes football training sessions, non contact boxing and fishing trips.

The activities are designed to encourage young people to participate in positive activities and also gives them somewhere to go during evenings and school holidays instead of hanging around on the streets.

If you, or a young person you know, aged 11 – 18, would like to find out more about these activities, contact Lewis O'Rourke on 0121 464 7575 or email lewis.orourke@birmingham.gov.uk.

CUTTING CRIME IN SUTTON TOWN CENTRE

Sutton Coldfield's 'Stay Safe' Group carried out an intensive programme of activity over the summer months to combat excessive drinking in the town centre.

Working in partnership with the Police, City Council, Birmingham Drug and Alcohol Action Team (BDAAT) and the Road Safety Partnership, a range of awareness raising events were delivered on Friday and Saturday nights between August and September to help educate individuals on the dangers of binge drinking.

Pubs and clubs in the city centre were extremely supportive of the initiative and also played their part by displaying posters and beer mats in their venues which highlighted the health risks posed by drinking too much alcohol.

Extra police officers patrolled the area and drug and alcohol outreach workers targeted individuals to give them specialist advice on the dangers they posed to their health. They were also offered access to free support sessions if they showed concerns about their use of illegal substances and/or alcohol.

As well as raising awareness of the health risks, the events also aimed to make individuals aware that action will be taken against them if they are found to be acting anti-socially or committing crime while under the influence of alcohol under the `Get Caught Go to Court' message.

Free bottles of water, guidelines on alcohol unit consumption and personal safety information was handed out to hundreds of individuals who visited pubs and clubs in the town centre area.

The events were extremely successful and we were able to engage with a number f people and talk to them about their misuse of alcohol and the dangers this posed to themselves and to others.

Sergeant Rachel Crump who played a leading role in organising the events said, "These events went really well and the free products we handed out were well received – the idea was to engage with everyone and we certainly did that. The bottles of water went down really well and encouraged people to think about the importance of drinking soft drinks in between alcoholic beverages".

We would like to thank the Safer Birmingham Partnership, Sutton Coldfield Stay Safe Local Delivery Group, BDAAT and the Road Safety Partnership for the funding they donated to support these initiatives.

OFFENDERS IN TOWN CENTRE CLEAN UP OPERATION

Sutton Coldfield Constituency have recently benefited from the Community Payback initiative.

Community Payback provides the opportunity for local people to have their say on how men and women, who have committed crimes, should make amends for the harm they have caused.

Magistrates and Judges can order offenders to undertake a specified number of hours community service work, varying from 40 hours to 300 hours. In the past this sentence has been called community service or, more recently, community punishment.

A fully trained supervisor led a team of 8 workers to carry out a makeover on the constituency grounds. The team carried out weeding, digging, cutting back shrubbery and general gardening maintenance. Sutton Coldfield Constituency Director, Gill Taylor, was full of praise for the work carried out by the Community Payback Team. Gill said, "The Community Payback Team carried out an excellent job and have made a real difference".

The type of work undertaken through Community Payback includes:

- Graffiti removal;
- Street clean-ups;
- Ground clearance;
- Recycling projects;
- Building maintenance and landscaping;
- Improvements to park and community facilities;
- Environmental preservation programmes;
- General gardening projects;
- Painting and decorating in community centres; and meeting places.

Making and repairing goods for sale in charity shops.
For information on Community Payback or to nominate a project for a clean up programme, simply log on to www.communitypayback.co.uk

Alternatively, contact Lewis O'Rourke, Sutton Coldfield Community Safety Coordinator, on 0121 464 7575.

WORKING WITH YOU TO TACKLE YOUR CONCERNS

Sutton Coldfield's 'Stay Safe' Group recently hosted its very own Neighbourhood Tasking Summit.

Neighbourhood Tasking meetings bring together representatives from the Police and City Council who listen to concerns raised by local residents and then go away and action them in an effort to resolve the problems.

The Summit also provided the opportunity to thank Sutton's Resident Champions for the work they have carried out over the past 12 months. Resident Champions play a vital role in the Neighbourhood Tasking process as they bring to the table the issues which are affecting local communities.

Partnership working in your local area: A Neighbourhood Tasking Summit in full swing.

There have been numerous successestodate in responding to local issues of concern including graffiti removal, dog fouling initiatives, the installation of litterbins, tackling the misuse of mini mopeds in public areas and speeding operations.

For information about Neighbourhood Tasking, or to find out how you can get involved, contact Lewis O'Rourke on 0121 464 7575 or email lewis.orourke@birmingham.gov.uk

COMMUNITY SAFETY EVENT

The Safer Sutton Coldfield Partnership will be holding an event on The Parade in Sutton Town Centre on Wednesday, 4 November 2009 from 11am – 2pm.

The event will provide local residents and visitors to Sutton Coldfield with the opportunity to talk to City Council staff and representatives from West Midlands Police and Fire Service to find out more about what's being done to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour. The Fire Service will also be promoting their free Home Fire Safety Checks.

For more information, please contact Lewis O'Rourke on 0121 464 7575.

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

MAKING SUTTON'S ESTATES SAFER

Safer Estates meetings are held on a monthly basis and bring together representatives from a range of partner agencies to discuss issues affecting local communities.

The meetings place a particular focus on individuals who are committing crime or anti-social behaviour.

The partners attending the meetings include West Midlands Police, Probation Services, Registered Social Landlords, various Birmingham City Council departments and the Safer Birmingham Partnership's Anti Social Behaviour Unit.

The meetings are not open to members of the public, due to the sensitive nature of the cases discussed and because the personal details, such as names and addresses, of individuals and their families are disclosed – all of which is covered by the Data Protection Act.

The aim of the meetings is to implement measures to address the behaviour of individuals who are causing problems within their community for other residents. These may include punitive measures such as arrest and conviction or referring individuals on to charitable organisations such as the Rathbones for help and support. Rathbones provide information, advice and guidance designed to help people back into education, employment or training.

Members of the public can be assured that Safer Estates meetings are helping to address crime and anti social behaviour within Sutton Coldfield.