

Safer Hall Green

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.



HALL GREEN COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP - WORKING FOR YOU

Chief Superintendent Phil Kay is Chair of the Safer Hall Green Partnership.

"As Chair of the Partnership, I am very proud to have responsibility for making Hall Green Constituency a safer place to live, work and visit. The Partnership is made up of representatives from agencies that treat your safety as their priority.

Despite crime rates being at their lowest for 20 years, we know the public do not feel safer. If anything, they feel less safe than they did 10 years ago. The Partnership is committed to changing that and wants you to feel safe in your home and on your streets during the day and at night.

We are placing much more emphasis on tackling the things that matter to local people.

We are paying much more attention to dealing with anti-social behaviour because we know how much it impacts on people's quality of life.

I want you to have trust and confidence in your local police. If we do something well then please tell the people who live nearby, if we don't, then please tell us so we can do something about it.

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL - WORKING FOR YOU IN YOUR AREA

Bret Willers is the Constituency Director for Hall Green. Improving community safety is a key priority for him and his team who believe that all residents have the right to feel safe as they go about their daily life.

It has been a successful year for Hall Green in terms of crime reduction, with an overall reduction in recorded crime of 7.1%. The constituency was also nominated for local and national awards for its burglary reduction initiative.

Speaking about the constituency's approach to crime reduction, Brett said, "Keeping communities safe involves more than just preventing crime and disorder, we thrive to create social and economical change".

The Constituency also has a dedicated Community Safety Manager, Talbinder Kaur, who is responsible for providing a co-ordinated multi-agency approach to addressing residents' concerns. Talbinder said, "Change can only happen if we work together to ensure that those who live in, visit and work in Hall Green feel safe".

POLICE OPERATION ENSURES 'IT'LL BE ALRIGHT ON THE NIGHT' IN MOSELEY

An operation launched to combat late night crime has helped to make Moseley a safer place for people to work, live and visit for a night out.

Officers at Woodbridge Road police station launched 'Operation Mosewatch' in response to changes in legislation which allow licensed premises to extend their opening hours on Friday and Saturday nights.

Operation Mosewatch's aims was to ensure people enjoying a night out in the area, working at one of the businesses benefiting from the extended opening hours or living in the local area, were not affected by a potential increase in violent crime or anti social behaviour.

By conducting licensing checks, officers ensured that under age drinkers, and those already heavily under the influence

of alcohol were not served alcoholic beverages. Anyone deemed to be at risk of committing alcohol related crime was instructed to leave the area under a 'Notice of Direction' and were warned they would face arrest if they returned to the area within 48 hours.

Checks were also conducted on both hackney carriages and private hire vehicles to ensure that taxis were working within their license conditions, therefore maximising the safety of those visiting and leaving the area.

Commenting on the success of Operation Mosewatch, PC Thomas Mahoney said, "The work undertaken by the police, council, local residents, businesses and the support of those visiting the area has led to a reduction in alcohol related crime, anti social behaviour and violent crime, which has collectively helped to make Moseley a safer place."

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TELL US HOW WE CAN IMPROVE YOUR COMMUNITY

The reductions in overall crime are extremely encouraging, but we need your support to make sure that crime continues to fall.

The Police and Birmingham City Council hold monthly Neighbourhood Tasking meetings to listen and act upon your community safety concerns. This is a great way for you to influence local priorities. Residents are encouraged to come along to meetings and have their say so that we can begin to take the actions needed to improve your local area. To find out and where and when your next local meeting will be taking place, visit www.west-midlands.police.uk

FACE THE FACTS AND FEEL SAFER

That's the message behind an important new website launched by West Midlands Police giving detailed information on local crime levels and trends.

www.myneighbourhood.info is an online crime mapping system which gives detailed information on a range of crime types which are broken down to neighbourhood level based on a postcode search.

CRIMINALS DON'T GET AN EASY RIDE

An operation launched to combat late night crime has helped to make Moseley a safer place for people to work, live and visit for a night out.

A crime reduction operation delivered by officers from Belgrave Road police station has resulted in 164 fewer victims of crime.

The police operation, codenamed Nemesis, also led to there being 80 fewer victims of robbery, burglary and vehicle crime compared to the same period (June) last year.

Almost 50 vehicles, including a Ferrari and a Porsche, were seized as part of operations conducted in the Sparkbrook and Sparkhill areas. Officers also made 12 arrests in relation to drug and robbery offences and seized suspected Class A drugs and cash linked to criminal activity.

The operation proved to be so successful that there are plans to re-run it in the coming months. The intention is to catch and convict those offenders who believe it is acceptable to commit crime. We hope that in doing so, local residents will feel assured that action is being taken to cut crime in their area.



Too fast, residents furious! Sergeant Amer Shams in front of one of many seized vehicles.



Catching out the speeding motorists: Officers with local residents during the speeding operation.

A SPEEDY RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY CONCERNS

You said...

"Dangerous driving is affecting our quality of life".

So we...

Worked alongside police officers from Woodbridge Road police station, PCSOs from Moseley West Neighbourhood Policing Team and Russell Road Residents' Association to tackle speeding motorists through the delivery of a speed awareness campaign.

Members of the residents' group were shown how to use speed detection devices to detect the speed of moving vehicles. They then went out onto the roads with police officers to identify and stop speeding motorists.

During the hour-long operation, 12 motorists were stopped for speeding offences. Officers also stopped a driver who was identified as driving unaccompanied whilst holding a provisional license and without valid vehicle insurance. The driver's car was subsequently seized and the driver will now face court action.

Professor Carolyn Hicks, Chair of Russell Road Residents' Association, said, "We experience serious problems with speeding traffic and it often makes our lives a misery. We're very grateful to the local police for organising this speed check as it has given the residents' association the unique opportunity of speaking to speeding drivers about the impact they have on our daily lives."

Commenting on the success of the speed awareness campaign, Inspector Janine Fagan, from Woodbridge Road police station, said, "The offence of excessive speeding is a priority for the local community and therefore, in line with the policing pledge, is also a priority for us. I am very pleased that members of the residents' association have been able to take an active role, alongside their local officers, in tackling the issues that they are most concerned about. Hopefully this campaign will have a positive effect on road safety, as well as the quality of life of residents in the area."

SAFER HOMES FOR YOU

There is extra money available for preventing burglary in the Constituency.

Thanks to a grant from the Home office Safer Homes Fund, Bournbrook Community Safety Project (BCSP) will be offering a free supply and fit service to improve security to local residents' homes. BCSP will offer to fit locks and other security devices on doors and windows at properties which have been burgled in the past, or are perceived to be at risk of burglary.

This is a totally free service with no cost to the occupants and it doesn't matter if you own your home or rent it – you can still access this free service.

The police, in partnership with BCSP, will be targeting the programme of work so that those most at risk receive priority. The Police will make referrals to BCSP who will assess and carry out the work required at the property. All project workers carry ID cards and will only visit your home by appointment at a time convenient to you.

For further information contact Talbinder Kaur, Community Safety Manager, on 0121 675 7928.

'OPEN DOORS' TO THE PUBLIC

Neighbourhood police officers from Woodbridge Road and Sparkhill police stations are opening their front doors to members of the public.

Residents living in Sparkhill, Moseley, Selly Park and Cannon Hill will be able to visit the station's enquiries office and meet their local neighbourhood police team to talk about any issues of concern which may be affecting their quality of life.

Commenting on the open door policy, Chief Superintendent Phil Kay said, "Several people have asked me to open more of our police stations to the public, so I am taking action to meet the needs of our communities and improve the service we offer.

Our experience shows that new technology, such as mobile phones and other means of communication, have led to a reduction in visits to the police station. I hope that ensuring our doors are open will inspire more trust and confidence between local officers and our communities".

Woodbridge Road police station is open Monday - Friday from 10am until 6pm. Sparkhill police station is open 7 days a week from 10am until 6pm.



Come on in! PC Ben Westwood with a local resident.

EVERYBODY NEEDS GOOD NEIGHBOURS

Officers from Kings Heath police station have teamed up with the local Neighbourhood Watch and the Trading Standards Doorstoppers Team, scheme to launch a new initiative aimed at reducing distraction burglary and bogus callers.

The 'Nominated Neighbour Scheme', which will be launched in late autumn this year, encourages residents to look out for and help older, vulnerable residents living in their neighbourhoods.

The scheme will enable vulnerable residents to nominate a trusted neighbour who they can call on to seek help such as checking whether unexpected callers to their door are genuine or bogus. This trusted person would be their 'nominated neighbour'.

Residents joining the scheme will receive a welcome pack which contains a card with details of their nominated neighbour on. If the resident then receives a call at their door from someone they do not recognise, they should display the card to the visitor through their window or letterbox to direct the visitor to their nominated neighbour.

We hope this scheme will deter potential bogus callers and deter them from entering the area, whereas a genuine caller will not mind waiting and will follow the instructions on the card. If you would like to become a Nominated Neighbour or would like further information, contact Theresa Gordon at Kings Heath Police Station on 0845 113 5000.



RESPONDING TO RESIDENTS' CONCERNS IS OUR TOP PRIORITY

Neighbourhood Tasking meetings are working well in the Hall Green area, thanks to local residents attending the meetings to tell police and council staff about issues of concern in their local community.

Since the Neighbourhood Tasking model began, we've done a lot of work to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and taken action against those who commit crime and cause nuisance in the community. As a result of these measures, residents are telling us that they feel safer - something which we hope to improve on even further.

As part of our continued efforts to reduce crime and disorder, additional CCTV cameras and Automatic Number Plate

Recognition (ANPR) cameras will be installed in known crime hotspots across the area later this year, extending the coverage across the Hall Green Constituency. ANPR cameras record the number plates of vehicles travelling in and out of an area identifying vehicles that may have been used to commit offences, which helps the police to be more informed when deciding whether to stop a car.

We hope this will give residents

further assurance that we are taking action to make them feel safer and reduce crime in their neighbourhood.

If you would like to raise any concerns you have about crime or anti-social behaviour in your area, then contact your local neighbourhood police team on 0845 113 5000 or log on to www.west-midlands.police.uk and enter your postcode to find out when and where your next local neighbourhood tasking meeting is taking place.

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

Safer Birmingham Partnership
Working together for a safer city

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

SCHOOL CHILDREN ISSUE PARENTS WITH FIXED PENALTY NOTICES

A giant car and mock parking tickets were issued by children to help to give parents the road safety message in a new campaign.

The schools road safety campaign covers five primary schools and aims to improve safety through educating parents and children. It was launched at Robin Hood School, when schoolchildren and neighbourhood police officers patrolled the roads around the school in high visibility jackets, and issued 'mock' fixed penalty notices to parents found to be parking inconsiderately.

The notices recorded the date, time, location and vehicle registration number and advise the driver that they have parked their vehicle inconsiderately and should avoid putting others at risk.

A large cardboard car and zebra crossing were placed on site to illustrate a "child's eye view" when crossing a road which is heavily populated by parked vehicles. It also demonstrated how a child can easily be overlooked by oncoming traffic, especially when cars are parked inconsiderately.

Talbinder Kaur, Community Safety Manager for Hall Green Constituency - who part funded for the campaign, said: "This is an innovative campaign which equips children with the tools required to undertake patrols outside their schools during peak times and tackle inconsiderate parking by parents - keeping them and their friends safe."