

# Safer

# Hodge Hill

Working Together for a Safer Neighbourhood

Issue 1 - Winter 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 this newsletter is a simple way to tell you about our work to make your neighbourhood a safer place. We hope you like it.

## REGIONAL AWARD FOR GLEBE FARM CRIMEFIGHTING PROJECT

**A police and council initiative to encourage residents to talk to their local officers and take responsibility for the look and feel of their streets has proved to be a real success.**

The 'Tilley Awards' which recognise projects that use innovative and strategic methods to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and address community safety, was awarded for work undertaken in Glebe Farm in the Hodge Hill Constituency. The project successfully reduced reported incidents of anti-social behaviour by 62% in just one year.

The Glebe Farm Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Project was set up to address problems on an estate well known as an ASB hotspot. High levels of violent crime were also deeply affecting the everyday lives of the local community. Residents and businesses continuously complained about the actions of a gang known as the 'Glebe Youth Posse' (who were responsible for the anti-social behaviour) and the impact their conduct was having on other young people, their families and the wider community. Police and Council Officers seeking to address these concerns were met with an ingrained culture of confrontation and violence.

A multi-phase strategy of enforcement and diversion was set in train. During the first phase of the project, the legislation was used to establish a dispersal zone centred on the Glebe Farm area. The next phase was partnership working between Officers from the Birmingham Anti-Social Behaviour Unit and the

such as CCTV and upgraded physical security. Support and diversion for young people was delivered by the ShardEnders Youth Inclusion Project (SEYIP). This strand successfully engaged with some very challenging young people, basing its approach around a local multi-use games area.

This tactic encouraged ownership of the games area to maximise its usage and prevent it from vandalism. Both West Midlands Police and Victim Support provided support for victims and the Glebe Farm Community Association was instrumental to the delivery and success of this project.

Inspector Greg Jennings of West Midlands Police said, "The project has brought about an overwhelmingly positive change in the Glebe Farm area which has been a long-term crime and anti-social behaviour hotspot for many years. The quality of balance struck by the partnership between enforcement, prevention and diversion is a high spot of my twenty-two year policing career".

*"The project has brought about an overwhelmingly positive change in the Glebe Farm area..."*

local neighbourhood policing team to secure seven ASBOs against the main perpetrators. These orders restricted the movements of the ring leaders within the estate. Also some parents were served with Notices of Seeking Possession, which meant that if they continued to allow their children to misbehave, they were at risk of losing their home.

At the same time an overall community safety strategy was implemented which included environmental interventions

# GRAFFITI CLEAN UP IN HODGE HILL WARD

**Birmingham City Council's Environmental Crime Unit is tasked with delivering the City's Anti-Graffiti Strategy, which was developed by the Safer Birmingham Partnership and the Birmingham Environmental Partnership.**

The aim of the strategy is to reduce levels of graffiti across the city. Over the last four years, Hodge Hill was identified as having an average of 34% unsatisfactory graffiti sites. In order to tackle this, a four strand extensive clean up programme was carried out across the Hodge Hill ward during August and September. The programme included removal, prevention, intelligence and enforcement.

In total, waste management received 1379 referrals for graffiti removal between 11 August and 23 September. All referrals were actioned and as a result, the number of unsatisfactory sites was reduced from 34% to 8%.

The clean up programme was carried out by Waste Management graffiti removal teams, the Parks Department who focused on removing graffiti from play equipment in the parks and play areas, 85 offenders who took part in the programme as part of the Community Payback scheme and young people from the youth offending service.

Enforcement action was also taken against two young people who were caught 'tagging' in the area. The youngsters, both aged 12, were instructed to remove the graffiti and their parents were contacted by West Midlands Police officers.

As a result of the surveillance carried out in the area, additional enforcement action was taken as follows:

- 4 alcohol related incidents (involving a total of 8 people) were dealt with;
- 3 driving related incidents (involving a total of 7 people) were dealt with;
- 3 instances of prostitution were dealt with;
- 2 drugs related incidents



(involving a total of 10 people) were dealt with;

- 1 theft related incident (involving 2 people) was dealt with;
- 1 incident of vandalism (involving 5 people) was dealt with;
- 1 ASB incident (involving 1 person) was dealt with; and several youths were dispersed.

## YOUR CONCERNS ARE OUR TOP PRIORITY

Neighbourhood Tasking meetings are working well in the Hodge Hill 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 Birmingham. 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](http://www.west-midlands.police.uk) and enter your postcode to find out when and where your next local neighbourhood tasking meeting is taking place.

# YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGERS AND NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM OFFICERS ARE:

## BORDESELY GREEN

**Joy Anibaba** | Tel: 0121 766 6021 | Email: joy.anibaba@birmingham.gov.uk  
2nd Floor SME9, South Birmingham College, Fordrough Lane, Birmingham B9 5LB  
**Inspector Greg Jennings** | Email: d3\_nhp\_heartlands@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk  
Neighbourhood Tasking Meetings take place at Blakeland Sheltered Scheme, Bordesley Green, Blakeland Street  
19th January 2010 | 10.30am - 12.30pm  
23rd February 2010 | 10.30am - 12.30pm

## FIRS AND BROMFORD

**Nicola Holmes** | Tel: 0121 464 2389 | Email: nicola.holmes@birmingham.gov.uk  
Ward End Park House, Washwood Heath Road, Washwood Heath, Birmingham B8 2HB  
**Sergeant John Ashman** | Email: d3\_nhp\_hodgehill@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk  
Neighbourhood Tasking Meetings take place at Ambridge House, Folkestone Croft, Bromford  
21st January 2010 | 10.00am - 12.30pm  
25th February 2010 | 10.00am - 12.30pm

## GLEBE FARM/LEA VILLAGE

**Margaret Dieterman** | Tel: 0121 464 3131 | Email: margaret.dieterman@birmingham.gov.uk  
Shard End Community Centre, 170 Packington Avenue, Shard End, Birmingham B34 7RD  
**Inspector Ainsley Cobbett** | Email: d3\_nhp\_glebelea@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk  
Neighbourhood Tasking Meetings take place at The Pump, Kitts Green Road, Kitts Green  
19th January 2010 | 10.00am - 12.30pm  
16th February 2010 | 10.00am - 12.30pm  
16th March 2010 | 10.00am - 12.30pm

## SHARD END

**David Benbow** | Tel: 0121 464 3131 | Email: david.benbow@birmingham.gov.uk  
Shard End Community Centre, 170 Packington Avenue, Shard End, Birmingham B34 7RD  
**Sergeant Khizra Dhindsa** | Email: d3\_nhp\_shardend@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk  
Neighbourhood Tasking Meetings take place at Khidmat Centre, 2a Heather Road, Small Heath  
5th January 2010 | 10.00am - 12.30pm

## SMALL HEATH

**Altaf Kazi** | Tel: 0121 766 6095 | Email: altaf.kazi@birmingham.gov.uk  
Construction College, 172 Herbert Road, Small Heath, Birmingham B10 0PR  
**Inspector Greg Jennings** | Email: jennings\_3016@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk  
Neighbourhood Tasking Meetings take place at The Khidmat Centre, 2a Heather Road, Small Heath  
5th January 2010 | 10.00am - 12.00pm  
2nd February 2010 | 10.00am - 12.00pm

## WARD END AND PELHAM

**Christy Acton** | Tel: 0121 675 3014 | Email: christy.acton@birmingham.gov.uk  
Ward End Park House, Washwood Heath Road, Washwood Heath, Birmingham B8 2HB  
**Inspector Craig Underwood** | Email: underwood\_4010@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk  
Neighbourhood Tasking Meetings at Ward End Fire Station, Washwood Heath Road, Ward End  
21st January 2010 | 10.30am - 12.30pm  
18th February 2010 | 2.00pm - 4.00pm  
18th March 2010 | 10.30am - 12.30pm

## SALTLEY & WASHWOOD HEATH

**Phil Grainger** | Tel: 0121 675 1062 | Email: phil.grainger@birmingham.gov.uk  
Ward End Park House, Washwood Heath Road, Washwood Heath, Birmingham B8 2HB  
**Inspector Craig Underwood** | Email: underwood\_4010@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk  
Neighbourhood Tasking Meetings take place at Hutton Hall, Herrick Road, Washwood Heath  
12th January 2010 | 10.30am - 12.30pm  
9th February 2010 | 2.00pm - 4pm

**All Neighbourhood Policing Teams can be contacted at:**

**Stechford Police Station, 338, Station Road, Stechford, Birmingham B33 8RR**

**Tel: 0845 113 5000**

**www.west-midlands.police.uk**

## HOW NEIGHBOURHOOD TASKING CAN BENEFIT YOUR AREA

**Neighbourhood Tasking is well established in Glebe Farm and Lea Village and has contributed to reducing crime, anti-social behaviour and other problems in the area.**

In summer 2007, residents called the police about anti-social behaviour 959 times. In summer 2009, 598 calls were logged which is an excellent indication of how we have made progress in tackling the issue.

Police and council officers are working together to tackle local problems raised by the community through Neighbourhood Tasking meetings. The issues that residents bring to the tasking meetings directly influence the work that police and council officers do. To date, this has included establishing youth projects, improving lighting, graffiti removal, community clear up days, CCTV improvements, waste collection and many more.

## WHAT ARE YOUR CONCERNS ABOUT WHERE YOU LIVE? TELL US - WE ARE LISTENING!

You can directly influence how your police teams and council officers work together to tackle the issues that matter to you. You can phone us, e-mail us, write to us, or come to Neighbourhood Tasking meetings in your area and tell us what you feel are the main problems affecting you and your community.

# OPERATION STREET PRIDE

**A POLICE and council initiative to encourage residents to talk to their local officers and take responsibility for the look and feel of their streets has proved a success.**

The 'Street Pride' project, which targets streets in Alum Rock, Ward End, Bordesley and Shard End, saw the partner agencies invite local people to join them in tackling issues of litter, graffiti and anti-social behaviour.

The partners focus on cleaning up each street for four weeks before handing it over to the communities themselves to maintain the improvements that had been achieved.

Before the project, local people's engagement with their officers was low and the streets had issues with litter, drugs and vehicle crime.

Now the officers are seeing a real change in residents' attitudes to where they live and they are taking the time to maintain their own gardens and clear up litter. As a result, the streets are cleaner, the people are happier and some residents have commented that their perception of crime in the area is down.

There are plans to hold regular police meetings on the streets to encourage people to attend who wouldn't have gone to a formal meeting and a number of Community Action Days have already taken place where local people have been encouraged to clear out their rubbish.

The officers are also using Community Resolutions to deal with graffiti and anti-social behaviour. One 15-year-old who was arrested for 'tagging' was given the option of going to court or taking part in Street Pride. His parents were delighted with the police response and he agreed to remove his graffiti and help tidy up the streets (pictured).

Inspector Mohammed Hanif, from the WMP Citizen



Take part in Street Pride, or face the courts. A 15yr old arrested for tagging makes the right decision.

Focus Programme, was the force lead for the project. He said: "Before the Street Pride project, some people didn't know basic things like which day their rubbish would be collected, what to do with bulky items like sofas and fridges or how to report incidents to the police or council. Now they do..."

"Now they are even identifying Street Champions to help everyone continue the work that has been started. There is a real feeling of responsibility from the local residents to improve the look of their area. Our officers have been knocking on people's doors, getting to know them and talking to them about the things that matter to them. This has helped us identify further issues of concern and also gather valuable community intelligence."

Maz Dad, Fleet and Waste Management Hodge Hill Constituency, said: "The purpose of this project is to work with the community to build safer, cleaner neighbourhoods along with our partner agencies."

One resident, Mr Zaman, added: "It is excellent to see the police and council working together to deal with our concerns. It is nice to see officers coming and

knocking on our doors and speaking to us about local problems. I have never been to a police meeting so this is the first time I'm letting police know about my concerns."

For further information on the Street Pride initiative contact Insp. Hanif on 0845 113 5000.

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](http://www.saferbirmingham.org.uk)