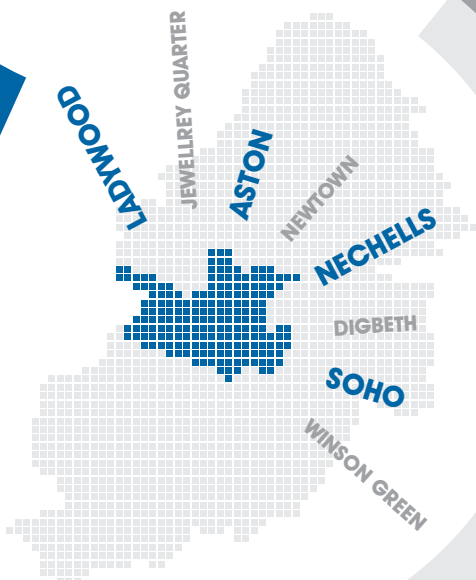


Safer Ladywood

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.

There are currently nine Neighbourhood Tasking groups within the Ladywood area. The meetings provide local residents with the opportunity to speak to police and council staff working in their area, voice their concerns and challenge them to resolve the issues they present. The groups have had a number of successes to date and we are delighted that residents in Aston are now coming on board and getting involved with the Neighbourhood Tasking group in their area. Here's a snapshot of some of the problems residents presented us with and the actions taken to resolve the matters:

Issues Raised	Action Taken	Result
Double parking of cars outside Wattville School.	Local Sgt approached the school's Headteacher who agreed to send parents a letter advising them of local concerns.	Parents are no longer double parking.
On the corner of Crows Street and Watterville Road, cars were being parked inconsiderately and causing an obstruction.	The police explained to local residents that if yellows lines are painted, they will loose the power to remove cars/issue tickets as it is not enforceable by them.	Local residents were happy for the police to monitor the situation and enforce any action in ways available to them.
Traders blocking access to the public foot path by displaying their goods on the Soho Road.	Neighbourhood Manager, police and enforcement agency to patrol the area and advise traders that action will be taken if they continue to obstruct footpaths.	This is an on going action which is being monitored the Soho Forum.
Cars being parked on the corner of Long acre Road, Nechells outside Lloyds TSB bank	The double yellow lines were faded making it difficult for enforcement action to be taken.	The double yellows lines have been repainted and enforcement action can now be taken against those who park illegally.
The lack of activities for young people during school holidays leads them to cause anti-social behaviour in the area'	All agencies worked with the school cluster co-ordinators and created a work plan and identified resources.	Activities for children and young people identified and funded.

PEOPLE'S CHAPEL IN CLEAN UP PROGRAMME

The neighbourhood police team and local businesses in Newtown teamed up to tackle problems affecting the People's Chapel on Great King Street.



Partnership working on 'Action Day'.

The church has suffered from the effects of anti-social behaviour with windows being broken and drug users regularly hanging out in the area around the church causing damage.

To help tackle these problems, the local police team arranged an "Action Day". The police, along with

the local businesses and churchgoers, cut back the overgrown hedges and painted the church giving it a fresher look while at the same time removing graffiti which had made the place a local eyesore.

Local businesses in the area provided funding to help improve street and security lighting, fund the installation of new CCTV cameras, as well as installing a height restriction bar in the church car park to prevent lorries parking overnight.

As the church is a key feature of the Newtown area, the local businesses and churchgoers volunteered to help out at this event.

PC Jenny Dolan from the Newtown neighbourhood police team, which played a pivotal role in arranging the clean up event said, "This is a great start in helping the community to improve the People's Chapel and should give them a helping hand in maintaining the church and its grounds in the future."

MESSAGE FROM LADYWOOD CONSTITUENCY

Since devolution began back in 2004 Ladywood has seen real improvements, especially in the areas of community safety and the environment. Ladywood Constituency is both safer and cleaner than it was before services were devolved and we will continue to make the case for a greater voice for local residents and community groups so that services more accurately reflect local needs and priorities.

Officers working in the Ladywood constituency have continued to work hard to improve the lives of local people. Receiving the Local Government Chronicle award in the Health and Wellbeing category for the Gym for Free initiative was the highlight of the last twelve months.

WORKING TOGETHER TO TACKLE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN YOUR AREA

You said...

"Anti-social behaviour is a growing problem in our area"

So we...

Worked together with the Broad Street neighbourhood police team, British Waterways, Birmingham City Council and the residents of Civic Close to start tackling the problems affecting their community.

Residents filled out log sheets to help gather evidence of the anti-social behaviour occurring in their area. The evidence they collated demonstrated that groups of people were congregating at the benches along the canal path, drinking excessively and using illegal substances. Birmingham City Council took action and removed the benches and also obtained a dispersal order to stop people gathering in the area.

British Waterways also played a part in the programme by replacing the fencing along the canal path and tidying up the area.

Residents in the area have now noticed a dramatic reduction in anti-social behaviour and as a result of the actions taken, feel safer in their community.

PCSO Matthew Jones who took part in the operation said "This operation shows how working together with the community and bringing together different agencies can help tackle and reduce crime. The result is a genuine feeling of safety to accompany the reality."

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

"We will consult and engage with citizens and partners through meaningful participation to meet local needs for all, thereby creating community cohesion, promoting civil renewal and achieving the objectives of flourishing neighborhoods by ensuring that there are no hard to reach groups in the Ladywood Constituency".

NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT WITHIN LADYWOOD CONSTITUENCY

Neighbourhood Management is an approach being adopted in many parts of the country to improve the quality of life for residents in areas that face deprivation.

It involves:

- local communities deciding needs and priorities and communicating these to local agencies (police, council, etc);
- agencies working more closely with each other and with local communities to meet needs and priorities;
- local communities and agencies working together to agree service delivery priorities, new ways of working and new initiatives; and
- working together to review success in delivering what has been agreed and making changes whenever necessary.

Neighbourhood Management approaches have been piloted in Birmingham and many other parts of the country. They have led to improvements in service provision, better community engagement and increased residents' satisfaction in the area within which they live.

What does neighbourhood management seek to address?

By adopting a partnership approach with local residents and voluntary & statutory service providers, Neighbourhood Management seeks to address:

- Community safety issues;
- Environmental issues;
- Children & Young people related issues;
- Worklessness;
- Service delivery issues;
- Community engagement & Cohesion; and
- a whole lot more!

Ladywood Constituency benefited from three Neighbourhood Management pilots which were funded by central government. The pilots were in the following areas:

- Summerfield & Central Ladywood, Ladywood Ward*
- Small Heath, Highgate & Digbeth, Nechells Ward*
- Soho Finger & Gib Heath, Soho Ward*

**All of which fall within the 5% most deprived wards nationally.*

The pilots were extremely successful, and Neighbourhood Management is now being rolled out across Birmingham in

21 priority neighbourhoods and 6 clusters.

The new programme, funded by the Working Neighbourhoods Fund, will seek to improve identified priority neighbourhoods by focusing on the following key Local Area Agreement outcomes:

- Strengthen community cohesion and integration between residents of different backgrounds
- Improve Birmingham's Neighbourhoods particularly the least affluent areas, in terms of deprivation, service delivery and overall quality of life for residents
- Encourage more active participation of Birmingham Citizens in neighbourhoods and citywide organisation's events and civic institutions

Ladywood Constituency has benefited from resources to deliver the Neighbourhood Management agenda in the following priority neighbourhoods:

- Aston Pride (New Deal for Communities)
- Attwood Green
- Hockley, Newtown & City Centre North
- North Nechells, Bloomsbury & Duddeston
- Small Heath & Bordesley Green
- Soho Finger & Gib Heath
- St Andrews, Highgate & Digbeth
- Summerfield & Central Ladywood
- Winson Green, Brookfields & West Summerfield

There are now named Neighbourhood Managers in all but two of the priority neighbourhoods.

For more information, contact Neil De-Costa at Ladywood Constituency Office on 0121 464 9460.

LOCAL ACTION TO ADDRESS KNIFE CRIME

Police officers in Birmingham have been using a metal detector arch as part of their activities aimed at addressing knife crime.

Officers from the Bordesley South neighbourhood team used the arch to scan all pupils and visitors entering the Al-Hijrah School and South Birmingham College, both in Bordesley Green.

PC Mitch Darby from Coventry Road police station, said: "We were very well received by students and staff at both the school and the college. At both locations, no students were found to be carrying any offensive weapons, so the events were a great success. Using the arch gives us a great opportunity to interact with pupils and tell them about the actions we are taking to reduce knife crime, while at the same time, deterring them away from carrying dangerous weapons".

Officers from Stechford operational command unit will continue to use search equipment at various locations as part of their activities to support the Home Office's Tackling Knives Action Programme (TKAP).



Partnership working on 'Action Day'.

WATERWORKS SAFE HAVEN

A youth club set up in East Edgbaston continues to go from strength - just a year after opening its doors.

Back in 2007, PC Tudor Roberts and Police Community Support Officer, Martin Clarke, identified the need for better facilities and activities for young people in the area. Following this, the pair joined forces with the Birmingham South West Neighbourhood Group and identified the Church of the Redeemer as the perfect location to host events and provide facilities for local youngsters. Thanks to funding from local police chiefs they were soon able to put their plans in place.

In May 2008, the doors to the Water Works Safe Haven were opened and on the first night, over 25 young people attended. This success has continued over the last year and the team now engage with over 110 young people, 50 of which are regular attendees. The primary aim of the club is to prevent young people becoming involved in crime and anti-social behaviour by providing them with a safe environment and offering positive and fun activities.

Thanks to its early successes, the project has now gained the support of Birmingham City Council's Youth Services department who have allocated two further youth workers to the scheme. This has enabled a wider range of activities to be delivered including sport and exercise clubs, adventure activities and arts, music and culture workshops.

PCSO Clarke said: "The Safe Haven has received excellent feedback from residents and we believe that this project has broken down some of the barriers between young people and the wider community".

The Waterworks Safe Haven is held every Thursday night between 6.30pm and 9.00pm. If you would like to get involved or volunteer to help out please contact PCSO Martin Clarke at Ladywood police station on 0854 113 5000 extension 7864 6272.



Partnership working on 'Action Day'.



WORKING TOWARDS A BETTER ENVIRONMENT

Each year the Better Environment Group receives a grant from the Better Environment Partnership to carry out improvements that will instil confidence in the community.

Priority was given to small schemes that will reduce crime, improve security or improve the local environment. Working with local residents the groups came up with an action plan and work will soon commence on the following projects:

Mount Pleasant Court, Coventry Road, Small Heath, Birmingham B10 0RL

The private car park to this supported accommodation is being used by non residents for fly-tipping, drug dealing and prostitution. Football supporters are also using the site for parking during match days, leaving behind fast food cartons and other confectionary wrappers. Access to the site will be restricted by placing retractable 'rhino' posts across the entrance to the site. Existing wooden fencing will be replaced with metal fencing to block off the escape routes.

Nechells Park Road B7 5PG

Fencing will be installed at the rear of properties to secure and stop rubbish dumping and anti social behaviour as the gardens back onto open space.

St. Michaels Church, c/o St. Michael's Vicarage, 20 Soho Avenue, Handsworth, Birmingham B18 5LB

Fencing and a new community sensory garden will be installed in line with local conservation requirements for the area. The garden will be a community resource.

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

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