TACKLING CRIME AND DISORDER IN ST.HELENS – WARD UPDATE
THATTO HEATH

Significant reductions in crime and anti-social behaviour continue to be experienced across the Borough, which reflects the work being done by the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and our Community. There are exceptions, and some Wards may have experienced increases in individual crime types. For example, in Thatto Heath, there have been some increases in Drug Offences and Theft of Vehicles. Partner agencies are continuing to work together to tackle these issues.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>April to July 2009</th>
<th>April to July 2010</th>
<th>+/- %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Borough Wide Profile</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Crime Survey Comparator Crimes</td>
<td>2148</td>
<td>1806</td>
<td>-15.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Recorded Crime</td>
<td>4127</td>
<td>4085</td>
<td>-1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ward Profile</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>British Crime Survey Comparator Crimes</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>-29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Recorded Crime</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>-11.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft of a Vehicle</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>+100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft from a Vehicle</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>-57.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Burglary</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>-21.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft from a Person</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-66.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Damage and Arson</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>-12.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug Offences</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>+23.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Anti-Social Behaviour calls to the Police
- Rowdy Behaviour 161 103 -36%
- Nuisance Vehicles 22 15 -31.8%
- Street Drinking 4 4 0

**Merseyside Police** - Your Neighbourhood Inspector is Debra Rayment and your Neighbourhood Sergeant is Gary Bradley.

Support the Good Guys this Autumn!

Building on the success of last year, Crime and Disorder Reduction Partners will once again be out in force over the Autumn period to help maintain a safe, and clean environment in anticipation of Bonfire Night. Residents will be encouraged to report the build up of combustible waste to reduce the risk of nuisance fires and anti-social behaviour throughout the borough.

Last year, the campaign led to a 20% reduction in anti-social behaviour and a 59% reduction in the number of nuisance fires. Partner agencies worked together and with help from the Community, removed over 260 tonnes of combustible material across the Borough.
Borough wide Initiatives

Less alcohol on the streets

Young people in the borough seem to be getting the message that street drinking isn’t a smart move.

New figures released by the police show a 60 per cent drop in the amount of alcohol seized during regular weekend operations to tackle underage drinking.

Working with the Council and other agencies as part of the borough’s Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, officers have confiscated 802 containers (cans or bottles) of alcohol during special weekend operations at known trouble spots since April. During the same period last year the haul was 2,028 containers.

“These are encouraging figures,” said Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, Safer Communities and Youth Councillor Sue Murphy, “and are reflected by the decreasing number of calls to police to report street drinking in St Helens.”

Agencies are also tackling the problem at source. Test purchases by Trading Standards officers revealed that just four of the 48 businesses tested handed over alcohol to youngsters. Those who failed received an £80 fixed penalty notice for disorder. Trading Standards officers are investigating further in pursuit of a criminal prosecution.

Running alongside the enforcement activity is an ongoing operation to ensure vulnerable young people are removed from danger or situations where they may potentially become involved in anti-social behaviour.

Over the last three months around 50 young people – believed to be at risk- have been taken off the streets and taken to a place of safety by police, social workers and the Council’s Youth Service Team.

Dishing the Dirt on Doris!

The Council's Safer Communities Team purchased DORIS in July 2010; a cleaning kit with a difference.

DORIS is an environmentally friendly portable cleaning machine that is used to blast remove graffiti, clean driveways, buildings, roads and plastic surfaces. With a low Carbon footprint, it recently won an award for Environmental Innovation.

The equipment is being used as part of the Community Payback scheme. Doris saw it's first outing into the Community back in July, as offenders used it to clean up graffiti in Victoria Park. In July 2010 – Offenders completed over 1020 hours Community Payback in St. Helens.
Be a Good Guy - enjoy bonfire night safely!

Firework and bonfire abuse can cause serious injuries to people and damage to properties. Although most people enjoy the bonfire period safely and responsibly, there are a small few who spoil the festivities for others.

Here are the facts about Fireworks and The Law

It is illegal to:

- Get rid of domestic waste in a way likely to cause pollution or harm human health – including burning it
- Make bonfires in the Street
- Allow smoke to drift across roads, endangering traffic
- Damage property with fireworks
- Cause injury or danger to others with fireworks
- Sell Fireworks to under 18’s
- Set off fireworks after 11pm at night and before 7am in the morning. (Except on 5th November). This known as a curfew period
- Have professional fireworks unless you have a licence

If you see anyone taking part in the above activities illegally, or know of anyone selling fireworks to under 18’s, you can tell your local Neighbourhood Police Officer, or Police Community Support Officer, or call St Helens Trading Standards section on 01744 676789 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Spark In The Park

Look out for the Council’s annual firework display, Spark In The Park, on the 5th November in Sherdley Park. We recommend attending a professionally organised firework event, rather than buying your own fireworks. It’s safer, cheaper and more fun for all the family!! Times will be announced soon on the Council’s website www.sthelens.gov.uk.

St. Helens Got Talent

Young people in St.Helens are being invited to show off their talents by taking part in the most anticipated talent competition in the Borough - St. Helens Got Talent!

Merseyside Police and Riverside Housing have organised the competition, with funding from Crime and Disorder Reduction Partners and Morrisons. Those who make the final cut, will battle it out for the winning title in a final performance to be held at the Theatre Royal in October 2010.
Young singers, dancers, musicians and performers aged between 11 – 18 and 19 - 25 years were invited to audition at Grange Valley Youth Club, Haydock on Saturday 11th September. But it’s still not too late to audition. If you’ve got the talent, or know someone who has, come and audition at;

Birchley St Mary’s Social Club, Trent Road, Billinge, Wigan WN5 7QT
Saturday 25th September  - 10:00am 4:00pm
Sunday 26th September    - 10:00am 4:00pm

For more information, please contact Tanya Marsh Riverside Neighbourhood Housing Officer on 01744 746517

Ward Initiatives

Arrests Charges and Convictions

Significant arrests were made following an aggravated burglary. Police officers attending a report of a disturbance in the area found on their arrival that a group of men had forced their way into a property and stolen a number of items. A description of the men was given and 3 men were located nearby.

They were subsequently arrested for aggravated burglary.

Watching your Speed!

You Neighbourhood Policing Team recently carried out a ‘Speed Watch’ Campaign on Elton Head Road. This resulted in 21 drivers being issued with an Endorseable Fixed Penalty for Speeding

Thatto Heath Primary School

Thatto Heath PCSOs and officers attended Thatto Heath Primary School as part of a community week. The school pupils were happy to see the Police Horses, as the Mounted Section we in attendance, and the Police took their Quad Bike for the children to look at. A talk was also given about the roles of Neighbourhood Police Officers.

Wheelie Watch

As part of a joint initiative to raise awareness about fire safety and Wheelie Bins, Re:new with funding from St. Helens Council have held a number of Environmental days in Thatto Heath over the past month to encourage responsibility for Wheelie Bins and offer crime prevention advice. Residents in Harlow Close, Hatfield Road, Hempstead and Peterlee Close were given free Wheelie Bin stickers to identify their Wheelie Bins and Crime Prevention advice following a number of incidents regarding Wheelie Bins, such as theft and damage.

The Council has received an increasing number of reports of lost, stolen or damaged Wheelie Bins, some of which are often involved in dangerous, anti-social fires.
Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service were also on hand to offer the following advice about how to reduce the potential abuse of bins and risks posed by bin fires:

⇒ Never store bins too close to windows or doors;
⇒ Store wheelie bins securely behind locked gates;
⇒ Don’t overfill your bin or leave rubbish next to it; and;
⇒ When you put your bin out on collection day, remember to bring it back as soon as it has been emptied.

Looking after your bin will greatly help the Fire Service and could even save lives.

Crime Prevention

There have been a few isolated thefts from sheds; we would like to offer some crime prevention advice:

• Fit a good quality hasp and staple with a strong padlock.
• Battery operated shed alarms are available for under £30 at most DIY Stores.
• Security mark your property, and display signage when you do.

For further information please contact 0151 709 6010 and ask for your local crime reduction officer.

Priority Setting

You said

At the last policing priority meeting, those present agreed that the following should be treated as priority issues:

1. ASB – Australia Estate
2. ASB – Springfield Close

We did

Merseyside Police, St. Helens Council and Crime and Disorder Reduction Partners have been working together to tackle these issues.

You local Neighbourhood Policing Team have continued to carry out high visibility police patrols both on foot and in police vehicles on the Australia Estate and have seen a reduction in the number of anti-social problems caused by young people. We are now looking at the problems tenants and visitors to their homes are causing. We have contacted the housing associations and will be working closely with them to come up with a solution.

Extra attention has been paid in and around Springfield Close. During patrols, the Police were made aware of a large group of young men who were sitting drinking on
the grass in front of the flats. They were advised about their behaviour, asked to pick up their litter and move on which they duly did. Again we are working closely with the housing associations in regards to problem tenants and their visitors.

A high police presence has been maintained in Portico, also checking the new play area on a regular basis. We have not come across any anti-social behaviour problems or any issues with alcohol, although there is damage to some of the play equipment and litter in the area.

Regular checks are continuing to be made of Nutgrove and Harlow Allotments at various times of the day and night. There have been a few issues at the Govett Road end of Nutgrove Allotments and anti-vandal paint has been requested for the area.

The problems with nuisance football in Breydon Gardens appear to have subsided. This is since Neighbourhood Police Officers spoke to the parents of 3 children who were causing issues in the area.

Useful Contacts

0151 709 6010 – NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER (general enquiries, speak to Neighbourhood Officers)

999 – EMERGENCY

0800 555 111 – CRIMESTOPPERS (providing information about crime in your area anonymously)

Further information can be found at – www.merseyside.police.uk

St Helens Council

Tel: 01744 456789

Email: contactcentre@sthelens.gov.uk