

Update from Councillor Ayers November 2010

Police and Partner Neighbourhood Activity:

The below update is taken from the Surrey police web site as well as from information provided by the Borough Community Safety Team:

Overall, crime has dropped by 1.4%: From 3,573 offences committed between 1st April to 30th September 2009, to 3,524 crimes between the same periods in 2010.

Junior Citizen 2010

Junior Citizen is led by the Borough Council with significant involvement from Surrey Police, British Airways and Surrey Fire & Rescue Service. This year's event was again extremely well supported by local primary school children, as many as 1,200 attended at the British Airway's Learning Centre at Heathrow. Activities include exercises around stranger danger, cyber crime (grooming of young children), water dangers, fire dangers, road safety and more.

Stanwell North & Stanwell Moor

The Stanwell Safer Neighbourhood Team have been carrying out speed enforcement in the Stanwell area in various locations. A number of residents have been issued fixed penalty notices for speeding, for not wearing seat belts and using a mobile phone whilst driving.

Surrey Police have introduced the Driver ALERT scheme which covers a number of offences including speeding, seat belts, construction and use, mobile phones, lack of concentration, and anti social use of conveyance.

The Driver ALERT scheme is an education programme and highlights the potential consequences of the offence for which the driver has been stopped, in a very graphic way, showing photographs of real situations (road traffic collisions) dealt with by Surrey Police.

This scheme can be offered to offending drivers by police officers if a driver fits certain criteria. The Driver ALERT scheme can only be offered once in any 12 month period and only if the driver agrees and signs to state they are happy to be shown the photographs. This scheme is offered as an alternative to being issued a fixed penalty notice. A number of drivers in Stanwell have been issued with a Driver ALERT.

We are also pleased to announce that a second ULTRALYTE 1000 speed gun has been kindly donated by Cllr Carol Coleman for the use of officers in Stanwell, Ashford and Sunbury.

Stanwell South & Ashford North

Stay safe during Halloween and on Bonfire Night

The Stanwell Safer Neighbourhood Team increased patrols in the area in the run up to Halloween, a time where anti-social behaviour is usually at its highest.

The **Pumpkin Patrol** again took to the streets in the week before Halloween in an attempt to reduce anti-social behaviour and raise residents' awareness of how to avoid becoming a victim. Later shifts were also worked over the Halloween weekend, increasing our presence in the area and trying to and stamp out the kind of problems that usually arise at this time of year.

The CCTV camera in Hadfield Park, Stanwell has been upgraded and relocated; additional CCTV signage has also been provided.

A Partnership Action Day took place on 27th October involving many different agencies, as a result some of the actions that took place are listed below: -

Environment Agency

- 2 leaflets left on windscreens of vehicles which may carry waste
- 4 further persons spoken to who carry waste as part of their business

Of these, 2 were already registered as waste carriers, 2 admitted to carrying waste as part of their business but weren't registered (therefore now required to register), and 2 left with advice and guidance.

Neighbourhood Watch

One new watch set up in Ashford High Street
One new contact for a new watch

DVLA

Undertook checks on vehicles for vehicle tax, numerous vehicle details were recorded for automatic penalty charges.

Police

Patrolled the area and visited licensed premises with the Environmental Health and Surrey Fire & Rescue Service who between them issued a number of warnings and advice. Speed checks were also carried out which resulted in the issue of fixed penalty notices.

Various

Domestic Abuse Outreach Service; Mediation Service; Age Concern Handyman Scheme were also represented resulting in a number of new

referrals and promoting the availability of the services to the local communities

Staines Town

You told us... there has been anti-social behaviour and criminal damage in the Waters Drive park area, predominately at the weekend.

We responded... by conducting frequent foot and vehicle patrols in and around the area. Several youths were been stopped and police action was taken against offenders. We have not received any further reports of anti-social behaviour or criminal damage in the park area over the last few weeks. We are currently liaising with the Community Safety Team at Spelthorne Borough Council in relation to replacing the damaged wooden bench at the Memorial, with a metal or stone bench. Please continue to report any further outbreaks of anti-social behaviour - and please rest assured that Waters Drive remains a high priority for the Staines Town team. Meanwhile, if you see any anti-social behaviour or damage being caused, please call us quoting crime reference A/07/25915.

Panel Meeting

A Panel Meeting was held at Staines Community Centre on Wednesday, 1 September. The issue of misuse of bicycles in Staines High Street was again raised. An Action Day aimed at educating cyclists has been arranged in the High Street in November. We continue to encourage residents to attend our Panel Meetings and discuss any issues or concerns they are having in their neighbourhood.

Staines Urban

You told us... about youths congregating and behaving anti-socially in the Northfield Road and Northfield Court area. And that particular families were causing noise at all hours and damaging property on occasion

We responded... by conducting regular Safer Neighbourhood Team patrols in the area. A 14 year-old boy was arrested by PC Vernon and charged on suspicion of taking a motor vehicle without the owner's consent as well as various related traffic offences. The teenager was later convicted at court for driving without insurance. A 16 year-old girl was arrested by PC Vernon on suspicion of being in possession of an offensive weapon and affray. She later received a juvenile reprimand for section 5 of the Public Order Act.

We regularly patrol the estate at all times of the day and night, youths are regularly stopped and searched and street cautions have been issued for possession of cannabis - a class B - substance. Section 59 notices have been issued for anti-social use of motorcycles on the estate.

PCSO Debbie Tippetts and PCSO Dominic Long held a meeting in Northfield Road with Brian Kingston Spelthorne Council's Anti-social Behaviour Officer and the A2 Dominion Estate Manager responsible for a large number of properties there. We discussed actions that can be taken to stop further

incidents. A street meeting also took place in Northfield Road on 8 September.

Alcohol Awareness Day took place on 29th October in the High Street, Staines led by NHS Surrey involving several partner agencies. The day went fantastically well- with lots of interest from the public. In total, between the agencies present, we spoke to over 300 people (based on the number of alcohol wheels distributed) - if not more!

An evaluation for the event will be ready to share with partner agencies by mid November.

Ashford Common & Ashford East

You told us... to get tough on those using drugs in Clockhouse Park.

We took action... by planning and conducting plain clothes patrols aimed at targeting offenders and gathering intelligence at the location. We carried out 'stop-searches' on individuals known by police to be connected to drug usage/drug supply. We also responded to drug-related suspicious activity as a matter of priority. This resulted in the disruption of an individual dealing drugs in Clockhouse Park. PC De Cogan and PCSO Faulkner recovered a large quantity of Class A drugs and an investigation is now underway.

You told us... to deal with anti-social behaviour in Saxon Park.

We responded... by carrying out more frequent patrols in the late hours, targeting youths causing anti-social behaviour and drinking alcohol underage. A group of youths was recently stopped and searched by PC De Cogan, resulting in the seizure of cigarettes and alcohol from an underage girl. We also carried out licensing checks at local off-licences and shops, making sure they are adhering to the conditions of their licence and reminding them of the penalties for serving alcohol and cigarettes to anyone underage.

You told us... to take action against speeding vehicles in Convent Road, Feltham Road and Feltham Hill Road.

We liaised... with Spelthorne Council which very kindly provided funding for a new speed gun solely for use by the Ashford and Sunbury Safer Neighbourhood Teams. The equipment will be used to carry out regular speed enforcement activity at problem locations

The Roads Policing Unit continues with regular enforcement action in Convent Road. Figures for September were as follows:

04/09/10 7-8am Speed enforcement:

- 3X endorsable FPNS issued

13/09/10 11.15am-1.15pm Speed enforcement:

- 1X Driver Alert Warning issued

- 3X endorsable FPNS issued
- 1X FPN issued for no seatbelt
- 1X driver reported straight to court

24/09/10 1-1.30pm Speed enforcement:

- No process issued

25/09/10 3.30-5.10pm Speed enforcement:

- 1X Driver Alert Warning issued

Rogue Traders caught out

PC De Cogan and PCSO Cook (of the Ashford Town team) responded to a call from a local bank on Tuesday 12 October. The bank was concerned for an elderly man who had attempted to withdraw a large amount of money from his account, to pay for building work.

PC De Cogan and PCSO Cook went to the man's home and found four workers attempting to charge him over £5,000 for clearing moss from the roof, weeds from the paved driveway and painting the front of the house and garden walls. On checking, it was established that they were well known to police and Trading Standards for fraud and theft offences.

PC De Cogan and Response Team officers worked with Trading Standards to conduct an initial investigation at the scene. This resulted in three of the men being arrested for conspiracy to defraud. This was a great example of partnership working in order to protect our community members.

Shepperton & Laleham

The good news is that crime in the area has decreased by 20% within the past year.

Laleham Panel Meeting

It was good to see a large representation from the community. The panel meeting was constructive and gave us all food for thought.

There have been a number of issues raised by the meeting which will be addressed by your local team. These are as follows:-

"You said"

There were problems in Grange Place with suspicious vehicles and offenders possibly poaching.

"We did"

The local SNT along with the Neighbourhood Team conducted high visibility patrols in the area. PCSO Gibbons conducted "Street a Week campaign" in the road. A large number of residents were spoken to. A Neighbourhood Watch is being set up in the road. PCSO Gibbons meet with one of the directors of Grange Place with a manager from Brett's who own the field at the

back of Grange Place. A number of points were raised at the meeting which are being looked into. High visibility patrols will continue by local officers.

"You said"

There was a problem with speeding and vehicles being driven anti-social

"We did"

The local SNT carried out an OP SMART Day.

The operation was led by officers from the Safer Neighbourhood Team, with the help of TPT (target patrol team), Special Constables, roads policing officers, representatives from VOSA and DVLA and parking wardens from Spelthorne Borough Council. New in post Neighbourhood Specialist Officer (NSO) PC Neil Wilkins organised this operation in response to concerns raised by residents regarding traffic issues and a spate of burglaries in and around the area at the last neighbourhood panel meeting.

The operation took place on Wednesday 18 August and saw officers on patrol and stopping vehicles in a number of locations in Shepperton and Laleham, including Shepperton Road and New Road. During the morning a number of suspicious vehicles were stopped and checked. TPT carried out stop checks through the area and the Ultralyte speed gun was set up in a number of locations to deal with speeding.

Officers stopped many vehicles over the morning for a range of offences and issued fixed penalty notices for various offences, including, no MOT, failing to wear a seat belt and not having up to date vehicle tax. A number of drivers were also given verbal warnings by officers during the course of the day about the possible results of poor driving. The verbal warnings and education interventions were given for offences such as speeding, driving while on a mobile phone and defects on a motor vehicle, two vehicles being so serious as to require their immediate removal from the roads until the defects had been rectified.

"You said"

There were parking problems around local schools.

"We did"

As local officers we have been conducting reassurance patrols around local school during the relevant times. A number of warnings have been issued. We will be strenuously enforcing parking offences and anti-social parking around the school areas. This is in conjunction with Op Park Smart. We are working with the schools in this matter alongside local residents.

"You said"

There were problems down by the river with anti-social behaviour.

"We did"

We have undertaken a number of high visibility patrols both on foot and mobile with our response colleagues. These patrols are at varying times and will continue.

Drive SMART

One of the issues continually raised at our Neighbourhood Panel meetings is that of parking.

The Drive SMART campaign (currently operating throughout the county) aims to educate drivers on how to keep Surrey's roads safe and crack down on people who drive in a selfish manner. Park SMART is part of this campaign and aims to inform motorists about current parking regulations and encourage sensible parking.

By respecting the Park SMART principles you will help to reduce inconsiderate and dangerous parking which causes all sorts of problems, including the obstruction of emergency service vehicles attempting to reach the scene of a fire or an accident.

The Traffic Management Act has made parking enforcement more transparent to motorists. With a few exceptions, enforcement of the parking regulations is the responsibility of Spelthorne Borough Council acting on behalf of Surrey County Council and Penalty Charge Notices are issued by their employed Civil Enforcement Officers

Lower Sunbury

Rivermead Island

You told us:

That youths are acting in an anti social manner whilst on Rivermead Island including having bonfires on the island and youths camping overnight causing a disturbance to residents.

We acted:

We have conducted the following in order to try and resolve this issue:

- We have conducted patrols at the weekends late into the evening which is when the reports are being received
- We have obtained the details of large groups of youths who have been reported as causing a nuisance on the island
- We have conducted joint patrols with Spelthorne Borough Council Street Scenes Officers on Saturday mornings to deal with any campers.
- We have spoken to a number of youths and their parents regarding their children's behaviour whilst on Rivermead Island and they have now signed up to a Firewise Course run by Surrey Fire and Rescue aimed at educating the youths in the dangers of setting fires.

I am pleased to report that the number of reports we have received regarding this location has reduced however we will continue to patrol the island to ensure that it stays that way.

Fordbridge Road Car Park

You told us:

That youths congregate in the car park and drive their vehicles in an anti social manner as well as shouting and swearing in the early hours of the morning

We acted:

- We have conducted patrols at this location throughout the night in order to tackle the issue
- We have informed the Roads Policing Unit of this issue for them to patrol and deal with the anti social use of vehicles
- We have asked Spelthorne Borough Council for signage reminding users of the park and car park to be considerate of local residents at all times however this is not possible at this time.
- We have asked Spelthorne Borough Council whether it would be possible to put a barrier on the car park at night time however this is not possible at this time
- We have attended incidents reported to us by residents and dealt with them effectively.

There has been a decrease in reports received regarding this location but please do not hesitate to report the anti social use of vehicles at this location so that we can deal with them effectively. We will continue to patrol this location throughout the Summer.

General update**Sunbury Regatta**

This year's Regatta was unfortunately very wet however there were no reported incidents at the event which is good news.

Halloween and Fireworks Night

Worked on both nights and patrolling throughout the village to tackle any anti social behaviour.

Good Work**Drugs warrant in Loudwater Close**

Officers from the Spelthorne Neighbourhood Support Team (NST) recently carried out a drugs warrant at an address in Sunbury-on-Thames.

The raid, carried out under the Misuse of Drugs Act, saw NST officers search an address in Loudwater Close, Sunbury at around 6pm on Friday 27 August.

Officers recovered a number of items including a large quantity of a substance believed to be class A cocaine and large amount of cash at the scene. These items have since been taken to Staines Police Station and been sent off for further analysis. A 63-year-old woman from Sunbury was arrested at the scene on suspicion of possession of class A drugs with intent to supply. She has since been released on police bail until November 20 while the investigation continues. We are delighted this proactive raid has led to the

seizure of suspected drugs and an arrest. Officers acted on intelligence from local residents and we will continue to work with the community and our partner agencies to take strong action against anyone caught in possession of drugs and particularly those individuals believed to be supplying drugs in the borough.

Surrey Police is tackling drugs and I would urge anyone with any information about drugs activity in their area to contact Surrey Police on 0845 125 2222 or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

I would also remind residents that Surrey remains one of the safest places in the country and through proactive activity, including drugs warrants; we are committed to making sure this remains the case.

Burglaries in Sunbury

Unfortunately there have been a number of burglaries in Lower Sunbury recently.

Offenders are currently gaining access via front doors and rear doors and taking car keys for high value vehicles parked on the driveways of the properties before leaving the address in the resident's vehicle as well as stealing other items from the property.

Below are a number of pointers which you can implement in an effort to prevent you from becoming a victim of burglary:

- Ensure all doors and windows are shut properly and locked. (Sounds simple but it is surprising how many people forget)
- Don't leave valuables on show, including; car and house keys, laptops, game consoles, bank statements, loose change, jewellery, etc
- If possible, separate house keys from car keys
- Do not leave your keys visually near to windows or your front door and either take them to bed with you or place them elsewhere where they can't be seen.
- If you have access to a garage please make use of it and park your vehicles in it so to not highlight high value vehicles to offenders.

Shepperton & Halliford

You told us... that youths were responsible for anti-social behaviour in Manygate Lane and near the Greeno Centre in Glebeland Gardens.

We responded... by creating a neighbourhood priority report for both locations. We met with local residents to find out the key times the youths were meeting. We also increased our patrols including during 'Anti-social Behaviour Patrols' - a borough-wide policing response to late night anti-social behaviour at weekends. To help highlight the issues at the Greeno Centre, we contacted youths and their parents in order to underline the concerns of users of the centre, the local Council and Surrey Police.

The Borough Council is also currently reviewing CCTV coverage in the park.

You said... you wanted to see the Safer Neighbourhood Team patrolling at night and at the weekends.

We responded... by ensuring that we dedicate as much time as possible carrying out high-visibility patrols on our late night and weekend shifts.

Following these actions there has been significant reductions in anti-social behaviour in the area, the situation is being monitored.

Future Developments around the Borough

CCTV to be installed in the area to the rear of the parade, Sunbury which has experienced increased levels of anti-social behaviour.

The police neighbourhood Teams are to be co-located with the council community safety team within the council building from 8th November. Staines police station will continue as the main police facility for the Borough.

The next Partnership Action Day will be held in Shepperton on 24th February 2011.