

Safer Erdington

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

YOU SAID, WE DID

We listened to what local people wanted. Now we want to let you know what has been done about your local concerns.

KEEP IT LOCKED - KEEP THEM OUT

You said...

"The number of burglaries in the Perry Common area has gone up".

So we...

Worked with local police to investigate the matter and found that a large number of residents were leaving their windows open when they left their property.

As a result, we worked with Perry Common Community Watch who agreed to deliver information leaflets to residents, reminding them to close their windows before leaving their home. The Safer Erdington Partnership also arranged a 'United Streets' day and handed out community safety information and advice which offered practical tips on home security.

STOCKLAND GREEN CLEANS UP ITS ACT

You said...

"The Highcroft area of Stockland Green is starting to become a real eye sore and we feel it's local youngsters who are causing the problems".

So we...

Engaged with the YMCA who has now started working with local youngsters in the area. The police have also come on board and set up communication days between residents and young people to try and improve matters. Highcroft HIP residents' group has also come on board to support the activity being delivered by the police and the YMCA.

LOCAL GRAFFITI EYESORE TACKLED

You said...

"There is a persistent problem with graffiti being daubed on cable boxes in the Kingstanding area".

So we...

Worked with the phone companies who have shown a continued commitment to ensuring the graffiti is removed as quickly as possible.

As well as cleaning up the affected areas, Safer Erdington Partnership allocated funding so that graffiti prone areas could be treated with anti-graffiti paint to prevent further damage.

ACTION TAKEN TO COMBAT SPEEDING VEHICLES

You said...

"We're concerned about car drivers using Birches Green as a cut through and the speed at which some motorists in the area are travelling".

So we...

Worked with the police and council to carry out a speed reduction operation and purchased new speed operation signs to tackle the problem.

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY CRIME FIGHTER?

Some members of the public who are already active can get extra training and skills to be 'good neighbours' or community advocates. One of the ways to do that is to volunteer to be a 'Community Crime Fighter'.

There are still some FREE places left to attend residential training - free of charge - in Cheshire. You get to meet other people like you who want to make a difference to your community.

So, if you want to find out where local Neighbourhood Policing meetings are held, OR get involved in Community Payback, OR contribute to community newsletters, OR take part in action days and clean-ups, OR find out what facilities there are to support victims and witnesses of crime and anti social behaviour OR attend walkabouts with local Police and Council officers... You can!

There are lots of ways to make a difference to your area - and you get to choose how.

And after the training, you are equipped with a Resource Pack, access to an action fund, quarterly newsletter and new website.

For details, please call 675 6902 or email andy.tipper@birmingham.gov.uk - or contact the Erdington Local Delivery Group.

FUNDING SECURED TO PROVIDE ACTIVITIES FOR LOCAL YOUNG PEOPLE

You said...

"We're concerned about the increase in anti-social behaviour and the number of young people hanging around in Birches Green with nothing to do".

So we...

Worked closely with West Midlands Police to put a dispersal zone in place and commissioned Urban Devotion, a youth outreach organisation, to work with local youngsters and provide activities for them two nights per week.

As a result, local residents have told us that they feel anti-social behaviour in the area has decreased, as well as the number of young people hanging around the area late at night.

ACTION TAKEN TO TACKLE UNDERAGE ALCOHOL SALES

You said...

"Young people are buying alcohol from a shop in Edmonton Avenue and acting anti-socially while they are under the influence of alcohol".

So we...

Contacted the Police who made several visits to the shop to discuss the matter with the owner. The shop has since come under new management and there have been no further concerns reported.

The Youth Inclusion Programme is now doing outreach work with the young people who hang out in the area and are using the Midnight Bus as a learning resource to provide them with somewhere safe to go.

ACTION TAKEN TO REDUCE CRIME AT WYRLEY BIRCH ALLOTMENTS

You said...

"Young people are causing anti-social behaviour on the allotments at Wyrley Birch. We think it's because the fence has broken so it's easy for them to gain access".

So we...

arranged for the fence to be repaired, worked with the police to ensure increased patrols were carried out in the area and commissioned the Green Door Project to do some education work with local young people. We also secured funding to purchase shed alarms and warning stickers which will be delivered to local residents in the area.

Residents have reported back to say there have been no further problems.

A SNAPSHOT OF SOME OF OUR SUCCESSES IN RECENT MONTHS:

- Residents were becoming increasingly concerned about the use of mini motos, particularly around Hawkesyard, which was being used as a cut through. The Safer Erdington Partnership raised the matter with the police, who agreed to heighten patrols in the area, and arranged for street signs to be erected stating that action would be taken.
- Residents said they were not happy with the condition of some of the paths in Erdington Hall. A walkabout was arranged with Highways staff and areas of concern have

GATING SCHEME CUTS BACK ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

You Said...

"Fly tipping is becoming a real problem in the Landswood area of Kingstanding, along with cars being stolen and later found burnt out in the area".

So we...

Worked closely with the City Council's housing department to arrange for a new gating scheme to be installed to reduce the number of incidents occurring. The scheme consists of four 6ft gates.

As a result, residents have reported that fly tipping and the problems with car access have improved.

been identified. Work has now started on improving the pavements.

- Residents said they were not happy with the amount of people letting their dogs fowl on the streets around Erdington Hall. Environmental wardens carried out patrols, arranged a leaflet drop for local residents and placed signs on lampposts in the affected areas.

- Residents said they were concerned that a family in Erdington Hall Road were causing ASB

and selling drugs. The Police, Birmingham Anti-social Behaviour Unit (BASBU) and the City Council's housing department worked together to tackle the issues. Local residents also played a part by keeping diary sheets which recorded any concerns they observed. As a result, two members of the family have now been issued with ASBOs and had restrictions placed on their movements which forbid them from entering Erdington Hall.

ALLEYWAY CLEAN UP PROGRAMME

You said...

"The number of overgrown alleyways and increasing amounts of dumped litter are becoming a real problem in Birches Green".

So we...

Arranged a community clean up day with a variety of local partner agencies including Probation services and Environmental Wardens. The event was extremely successful and there are plans in place to repeat them at regular intervals in the future. Probation services will continue to maintain the areas once they have been cleaned up.

WHAT DO RESIDENTS SAY?

James Lewis, a resident in Erdington tells us his views on how crime and anti social behaviour is tackled...

"Personally, I think agencies have had a massive impact on crime and anti social behaviour. I set up group of neighbours about 3 years ago from Neighbourhood Watch, that quickly grew. We email about 70 people in the community with local news, and the Police and Council often sort out problems for us. Talking to each other works!

"In this area, the residents know what 'Neighbourhood Tasking' can do for them and they like it. We get listened to and get a response. It all helps to make this area a safer place."

COMMUNITY PAYBACK

Have you heard of Community Payback? It's the name given to unpaid work by offenders, who wear orange jackets while carrying out a tough visible punishment.



Community Payback in action!



Louise Casey of Witton Lakes with Dan Gibbin and Andy Tipper from the Safer Birmingham Partnership.



Recognising the residents. Linda Hines gets a personal thank you from Jackie Russell, Director of Safer Birmingham Partnership and Kobina Hall (Probation).

It's organised by West Midlands Probation, but the public can have their say.

In fact, over 18,000 took part in a national public vote, to decide what work the public wanted offenders to do first as part of Community Payback. Birmingham achieved one of the highest votes in the UK - and the winning area (Witton Lakes and Brookvale in Erdington constituency) registered more votes than any other area in the country.

Sites were identified by constituency Local Delivery Groups using feedback from Police meetings and public concerns.

Neighbourhood Crime and Justice Coordinator, Andy Tipper said, "The results of the public vote on Community Payback were great. It's a winner for everyone because residents get to nominate a project and see their neighbourhood become a cleaner and safer place - the public also get to see visible consequences of crime for offenders."

Although that vote has ended, you can still nominate Community Payback projects. Simply call 0121 248 2688 - or visit the West Midlands Probation website www.west-midlands-probation.gov.uk

NEIGHBOURHOOD TASKING

Neighbourhood Tasking is a process that communities, council services, police and other partner agencies can utilise to address and resolve local concerns



Working in partnership. Neighbourhood Tasking Teams.



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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and priorities within neighbourhoods.

There are local public meetings happening across Erdington on a regular basis where you can bring your issues to get resolved, such as fly tipping, antisocial behaviour, speeding cars etc. Look out for the flyers or for more information please contact Pamela Powis on 0121 464 2220.