



KNOWLE AND DORRIDGE AREA NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE TEAM NEWSLETTER

WORKING TOGETHER TO BUILD SAFER AND BETTER COMMUNITIES

Welcome to your November edition of our newsletter which gives a summary of police issues in your neighbourhood. Just to remind you that the current areas covered by our neighbourhood team are:

Beat 7 – Knowle

Beat 8 – Dorridge, Bentley Heath and Hockley Heath.

Beat 20- Cheswick Green, Dickens Heath, Tidbury Green and Earlswood.

There are proposals pending to make our beats ward based and our neighbourhood would then include the entire Blythe ward. However, no definite decisions have been made and I will update you with information on this in due course.

WHAT CRIME HAS OCCURRED IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

During November 2006, a total of 179 crimes were recorded across our neighbourhood area. Vehicle crime accounted for almost half of all this recorded crime. It is a crime that has increased in the neighbourhood and that we are working hard to reduce. November continued to see reductions in house burglaries and a substantial reduction in criminal damage.

CURRENT OPERATIONS, INITIATIVES AND LOCAL ISSUES

OPERATION MOMENTUM is a force-wide drive using local initiatives to reduce overall crime. On our OCU we are concentrating on combating the increase in vehicle crime especially across our neighbourhood with a number of measures which include high visible patrols of our 'hot-spot' locations, working with owners of pubs and hotels to put into place crime prevention measures to reduce the opportunity to commit crime and ANPR operations. We have also deployed our 'capture car' in Knowle and this resulted in the arrest of 3 men for vehicle crime.

OPERATION MULBERRY is a number of police tactics and initiatives, working together, with partner agencies to tackle anti-social behaviour and youth issues. High visible patrols continue many youths have been encountered. Other activities to address this issue on a longer-term, include, involvement of youth services, a meeting with adults and youths to bridge the generation gap, education within schools, test purchasing at local off-licence to curtail alcohol supply and consideration of a dispersal order. A recent test purchasing initiative resulted in 3 out of 6 off-licences being issued with a fixed penalty ticket for supplying alcohol to under-age youths. As a result of this work, there has been a substantial reduction in offences of criminal damage.

DRUG OPERATIONS - In response to community information, there have now been a number of intelligence led drug warrants executed in the neighbourhood and these have resulted in a number of arrests and seizures of both drugs and financial assets. The community are to be applauded by providing the intelligence for the police to act on and are encouraged to continue to play a part in reducing the supply of drugs to their communities.

PARKING – Inconsiderate and illegal parking has continued to be highlighted by community members as a problem, especially in Knowle, Dorridge and in and around some of the local schools. We are grateful to the Shirley Traffic Warden, who has carried out patrols in Knowle and Dorridge. On 23 November 2006 whilst patrolling Knowle and Dorridge, the traffic warden issued 22 parking tickets and advised many other drivers. Our officers have also issued parking tickets and during 20th to 24th November, officers issued 26 parking tickets in and around a local school in Dorridge.

POLICE SURGERIES

Police surgeries are being held on a monthly basis with the time-table as follows:

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Monday 8 January 2007 Monday 5 February 2007 Monday 5 March 2007 Monday 2 April 2007	1000-1200	KNOWLE Library High Street, Knowle.
Tuesday 9 January 2007 Tuesday 6 February 2007 Tuesday 6 March 2007 Tuesday 3 April 2007	1000-1200	DORRIDGE Community Police Station – Forest Court car park.
Wednesday 10 January 2007 Wednesday 7 February 2007 Wednesday 7 March 2007 Wednesday 4 April 2007	1100 - 1200	Cheswick Green Post Office, Cheswick Way, Cheswick Green.
Thursday 11 January 2007 Thursday 8 February 2007 Thursday 8 March 2007 Thursday 5 April 2007	1430 - 1630	Dickens Heath Library Old Dickens Heath Road, Dickens Heath.

The Police surgeries are run by our neighbourhood team and encourage members of the local community to visit and discuss policing issues that concern them. The Police surgeries also allow people to have a better say on issues that they consider a local policing priority. Please encourage any members of your community to use the police surgeries or call in yourself.

CONTACT US

Our team is now based at Shirley Police Station. Our contact details are:

Address – Shirley Police Station, 285, Stratford Road, Shirley. B90 3AR.

Telephone – 0845 113 5000 extension 7928 6264

Fax number – 0121 712 6159

You can also contact me via email to a.strachan@west-midlands.police.uk or visit the West Midlands Police website at www.west-midlands.police.uk and from there you can access the Solihull neighbourhood policing site which has further information.

If you have any issues that you wish to discuss with me or any of your neighbourhood police team, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Finally, on behalf of my team, I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and safe 2007. Thank you for your support in 2006 and I look forward to your continued support in 2007.

Ann Strachan