



# KNOWLE, DORRIDGE & BLYTHE NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE TEAM NEWSLETTER

**WORKING TOGETHER TO BUILD SAFER AND BETTER COMMUNITIES**

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you, our community members, informed of current policing issues within your neighbourhood.

## WHAT AREA DO WE COVER?

In March, our neighbourhood became co-terminus with council wards meaning our team covers the wards of Knowle, Dorridge & Hockley Heath and Blythe. Our team is part of the Eastern area which also has a team covering the wards Shirley West, Shirley South and Shirley East and a team covering the wards of Bickenhill and Meriden. The Knowle, Dorridge & Blythe team and the Shirley team are based at Shirley Police Station and the Bickenhill and Meriden team have an office in Balsall Common. A fourth team of Officers called the Eastern tasking team are pro-active officers that can be tasked to help deal with issues throughout the eastern area. This team also staffs an anti-social behaviour car on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings.

## YOUR KNOWLE, DORRIDGE & BLYTHE NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE TEAM

<b>WHO ARE THEY?</b>	<b>WHAT DO THEY DO?</b>	<b>HOW CAN I CONTACT THEM?</b>
Inspector Nigel Sarling	Overall in charge of the Eastern neighbourhood.	0845 113 5000 ext. 7928 6230 Email <a href="mailto:n.sarling@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk">n.sarling@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk</a>
Police Sergeant Ann Strachan	Team leader	0845 113 5000 ext. 7928 6666 Email <a href="mailto:a.strachan@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk">a.strachan@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk</a>
Acting Police Sergeant Matt Crowley	Team leader	0845 113 5000 ext. 7928 6254 Email <a href="mailto:m.crowley@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk">m.crowley@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk</a>
PC Gary Waldron	Responsibility for Knowle ward	0845 113 5000 ext. 7928 6264 Email <a href="mailto:g.waldron@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk">g.waldron@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk</a>
PC Andy Timmins	Responsibility for Knowle ward	0845 113 5000 ext. 7928 6264 Email <a href="mailto:a.timmins@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk">a.timmins@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk</a>
PC Simon Harrison	Responsibility for Dorridge & Hockley Heath ward	0845 113 5000 ext. 7928 6264 Email <a href="mailto:simon.harrison@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk">simon.harrison@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk</a>
PC Neil Marsh	Responsibility for Blythe ward (Monkspath)	0845 113 5000 ext. 7928 6264 Email <a href="mailto:n.marsh@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk">n.marsh@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk</a>
PC Suzanne Walton	Responsibility for Blythe ward (Cheswick Green/Dickens Heath)	0845 113 5000 ext. 7928 6264 Email <a href="mailto:Suzanne.walton@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk">Suzanne.walton@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk</a>
PC Lorraine Jones	Reassurance and vulnerable groups.	0845 113 5000 ext. 7928 6264 Email <a href="mailto:jones_7595@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk">jones_7595@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk</a>
PC Sharon Williams	Community contact, Police surgeries, Schools.	0845 113 5000 ext. 7928 6264 Email <a href="mailto:Sharon.williams@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk">Sharon.williams@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk</a>
PCSO Wendy Shale	Police Community Support Officer	0845 112 5000 ext. 7928 6264
PCSO Roger Downes	Police Community Support Officer	0845 112 5000 ext. 7928 6264

## GREAT START TO THE PERFORMANCE YEAR – CRIME REDUCES IN SOLIHULL

The new performance year which commenced on 1 April 2007, got off to a great start with a 7.46% reduction in total recorded crime. Offences of Criminal damage showed a substantial reduction of 23.3.% and house burglaries fell by 8.26%. On our neighbourhood area, opportunist vehicle crime, where mostly Sat Nav equipment and laptops are stolen, again accounted for approximately half of recorded crime.

## OPERATIONS, INITIATIVES, LOCAL ISSUES AND NEWS

**POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS** – We are delighted to welcome two Police Community Support Officers to our team. They will provide a valuable and additional visible presence in our communities. They will also be able to offer reassurance and help with issues in our communities.

**ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR** is frequently highlighted as a concern to our communities. Previously, large groups of youths had been congregating in areas particularly around the One-stop in Knowle High Street, Knowle Park and Jobs Close. Police initiatives in those areas included high visibility patrols, plain clothes patrols, the use of a drugs dog and working with partner agencies particularly Solihull council and Arden School. In March at Arden School the police led a week of multi-agency activities around the issues and consequences of drugs, crime and anti-social behaviour. It is of note, that, recently the youths have been less conspicuous. There have been fewer calls about the youths and incidents of criminal damage have reduced. The neighbourhood team will continue to monitor the situation closely and the areas will still be patrolled by a dedicated anti-social behaviour patrol every Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings. This resource will be tasked to patrol areas of local concern and is in addition to our neighbourhood resources. Our Special Constables also provide additional resources, usually on Friday evenings, and they are also tasked to conduct high visibility patrols to the areas they are most needed.

**TRAFFIC ISSUES** – Inconsiderate and illegal parking and speeding motorists continue to be highlighted by community members as a problem. At present we are researching the possibility of introducing 'Speed watch', a community approach to speeding whereby community volunteers can assist by carrying out speed checks with hand held radar type devices in areas that are a concern. Although this type of check would not be evidential in court, a warning type letter would be sent by the Police to the speeding driver. WPC Sharon Williams is taking the lead on this initiative and is trying to source funding for the scheme.

### **POLICE SURGERIES**

Police surgeries continue to be held with forthcoming dates as follow:

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Monday 4 June 2007 Monday 2 July 2007	1000-1200	KNOWLE Library High Street, Knowle.
Tuesday 5 June 2007 Tuesday 3 July 2007	1000-1200	DORRIDGE Community Police Station – Forest Court car park.
Wednesday 9 May 2007 Wednesday 6 June 2007 Wednesday 4 July 2007	1100 - 1200	Cheswick Green Post Office, Cheswick Way, Cheswick Green.
Thursday 10 May 2007 Thursday 7 June 2007 Thursday 5 July 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 COUNTS**

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.

Thank you for your continued support and good luck to all of you running in forthcoming fun runs.

*Ann Strachan*

