

**Marie Huggett - HPC**

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**From:** Suffolk Police [donotreply@suffolkneighbourhoodwatch.co.uk]  
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## CRIME PREVENTION PANEL — Newsletter —

### Suffolk Police Crime Prevention Newsletter

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#### **Winter 2006 - Eastern Area**

#### **Welcome.....**

to the latest edition of the Eastern Area Suffolk Crime Prevention Panel Newsletter, which provides a brief insight of Panel activity across the county.

Please note the author of the Newsletter is reliant upon articles from Panels, so if you have something that you wish to share with colleagues across the county send an E Mail to [julie.dennis@suffolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:julie.dennis@suffolk.pnn.police.uk)

#### **WOODBIDGE & DISTRICT CRIME PREVENTION PANEL Skateboard Park**

The Skatepark was discussed at the last meeting. Suffolk Coastal District Council have been contacted requesting an update for the Panel on the status of the skatepark project, and to confirm the money is still ring-fenced, but no response has yet been received.

The Panel had planned to buy concrete seats with metal bars as these can be combined for skating. It was also reported that although the funds raised by the panel were still in place, it had also been discovered that a Team Shelter was stored at Ufford Park depot. It would appear this had no specific owner and if none was found then it would be put up for sale and the monies from this be put towards the funds for the skateboard park. The panel agreed that this was sensible. Clearly this shelter had not been purchased with the funds raised by the panel as the funds were still in place and SCDC had advised previously that no shelter had been purchased for the skateboard park. The panel have been advised that the skateboard park would be built behind the swimming pool but due to spiralling costs £50,000 was still needed.

It was concluded that the skatepark will still go ahead at the same location and the panel money still be used for seating.

The Panel were asked if they would give permission for the funds to be moved from the District Council account to the Town Council account, as the rate of interest is 5½%. The panel put to a

vote and it was agreed – but has requested a letter confirming the transaction from the Woodbridge Town clerk when it has been completed and a provision that any unused money would be returned to the crime prevention panel.

## **CRIME UPDATE**

Criminal damage problem within Woodbridge, has seen a significant reduction in the past year.

The theft of motor vehicles was up 28% over the last year, it has been recognised that offenders will try door handles, the thefts could have been prevented had the owners been more vigilant.

There has been a reduction in the theft of pedal bikes, the majority of the bikes stolen has been left unsecured.

Woodbridge police are issuing shed alarms free of charge to all victims of shed burglary and to the people in adjoining houses.

## **PANEL ACTIVITIES**

The cycle campaign has been very successful along with the Lights on Timers and Sheduction. Keith Bartlett, Crime Prevention Officer thanks all the people involved in the panel activities.

Funding had been found for lighting for pedal cycles. If a young person is seen without lights they will be stopped by the police, and will be given a warning. A letter will be sent to their home and if they were to take the letter to the police station they could claim a free set of lights. If they are seen again without lights a fixed penalty will be issued if they are over 16.

## **Proposed New Activities**

Alan Osborne, Eastern Area Partnership Manager has advised that the posts of Community Watch Liaison Officers in Eastern Area will be disbanded. The work they currently undertake, especially in relation to Neighbourhood Watch would be taken on by PCSO's within the Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT's), these teams should be in place by Mar/Apr 2007. It is a possibility the Crime Prevention Panels would not continue in their present structure and members be encouraged to move over to work more closely with the SNT's.

Insp Ian Farthing, Sector Commander, advised that the CPP's maybe in the future phased out. Keith Bartlett suggested that if this was to happen there could be a meeting once or twice a year at Kesgrave to discuss funds etc. Keith and Ian suggested that it made sense for current panel members to link in with the SNT in their local area.

There is concern over what would happen to the funding from the CPP if the panel were to be phased out, Keith said this matter would be discussed and decided in the New Year when the situation regarding CPP's became clearer.

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING –**

Thursday, 8th February 2007 at 12.30 p.m. This will be held at Kesgrave High School.

## **LEISTON AND DISTRICT CRIME PREVENTION PANEL**

### **Youth Panel report**

The following issues have emerged:

- Graffiti and vandalism in Leiston. A graffiti wall had been suggested as a possible means of diverting graffiti away from other areas. It was agreed that Leiston Town Council would need to be involved in this but concern was expressed that there were issues around graffiti artists transporting their materials to the wall
- Would like greater visible police presence in Leiston
- It was possible that younger teenagers felt threatened by older teenagers

It was suggested that the police pod could be used with panel members' support for an event to address the third issue.

Steve Barrett, Crime Reduction Officer has expressed the desire that the youth panel should become involved in the High Sheriff's Award. A possible project could be a storyboard about why it is better to do good things rather than bad things, i.e. the school has a criminal damage problem, so a video highlighting the pointless nature of criminal damage may be a good project for the Youth Panel.

### **Crime Update**

Total crimes for the period 20/09/2006 to 29/11/2006

*Figures in brackets are for the corresponding period in 2005.*

Leiston 104 (99)  
Framlingham 40 (60)  
Aldeburgh 25 (28)  
Saxmundham 42 (74)

### **Secretary's Report**

Steve Barrett reported that he had 7,000 postcards for distribution to shops in the Leiston and Beccles sectors. These would be given out to customers to warn them about leaving Christmas presents in vehicles and on view in their homes.

Steve highlighted the need to reduce shed-related crime and promote the use of shed alarms. He went on to point out that packets of seeds with a shed alarm promotion message on the packet were available. It was agreed to distribute these seeds and key fobs during morning sessions at local supermarkets - dates to be advised.

Steve also reported that a £300 grant had been received to provide oak containers to hold/distribute car crime leaflets in forest areas. Acting Sergeant Mike Upson has inspired the idea.

The next Lowbiza dance will be held on 9th February and would have the theme of "Relationships and sexual health". A grant had been received to decorate the hall. The assistance of panel members is requested.

### **Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 24th January 2007, 12.30 pm at Leiston High School.

### **Halesworth Crime Prevention Panel Correspondence.**

Ken Thomas has tendered his resignation from the Panel. The Panel thank Ken for the sterling service and support given by him to HCPP, especially when the Panel was threatened with being

disbanded. It was unanimously agreed that a tankard will be presented to Ken in appreciation of his services to the Panel.

Inspector Tim Powell had been invited by Waveney M.P. Bob Blizzard to meet the Prime Minister at No. 10 Downing Street, in recognition of his outstanding work in the Beccles Sector and the Waveney area of Suffolk (regretfully, the current situation in Ipswich has prevented Inspector Powell from taking up the invitation).

### **Secretary's Report.**

"Sheduction" event at Beccles Tescos, 6th. Dec. This had gone very well, with good media coverage and excellent sales (410 packs) Colin Down, Community Watch Liaison Officer, is retiring and it was agreed that the Panel's appreciation of his excellent work be minuted. His work will be taken over by "Safer Neighbourhood" teams in April 2007.

### **Crime Update.**

During the period April to November 2006 the Beccles Sector has a 7% reduction in reported crime compared to the same period in 2005 (82 less offences) A detection rate of 46.2% is being achieved compared to 45.6% for the same period last year.

A reduction in reported crime for violence against the person, burglary dwelling and criminal damage offences. An increase in offences of theft from motor vehicles, burglary other buildings and cycle thefts.

In Halesworth Town there has been a reduction in reported crime - 55 less crimes this year compared to 2005.

A series of theft of charity boxes is occurring within the Beccles Sector with offences at Beccles, Wangford and Southwold. The same offender is suspected to have committed like offences in Saxmundham and Stowmarket. The offender has been captured on CCTV and the image has been passed to the media for publication in an effort to identify the offender who is male, white aged about 60 years.

The Sector cycle campaign continues to target persons using cycles without lights and riding on footpaths and also to check cycles in an effort to locate some of the outstanding stolen cycles. Letters are being sent to the parents of juvenile offenders.

The Sector had lost staff to assist with the murder investigations in the Ipswich area, which were attracting considerable media coverage.

### **Beccles main panel update.**

Beccles Members have been active at outdoor events – Bungay Christmas Fayre, and at Tesco Supermarket helping with the "Sheduction " Campaign.

### **Projects.**

#### 4 Towns Bus.

Youth attendance at weekends has been good, especially in Halesworth. With CRB checks carried out for three volunteers and the possibility of additional drivers being available it is hoped to have a back-up team in 2007.

Footway lighting progress and Saxon Way mural - nothing new to report.

"Graffiti Wall".

In view of the negative connotations of the name of the project it has been agreed that "Al fresco art wall and refuge" would be more acceptable. Alastair is to be congratulated in winning an Awards for All award of £4700 which, with Cllr. Wendy's grant of £1000 and £150 donated from the 2005 Halesworth Civic service, provides a total of £5850 for the project.

**Date of Next meeting.**

13th. Feb 2007. 7.30 pm. Conference Room, Halesworth Police Station.

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