



## **Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership**

**Notes of a Meeting of the Safer Derbyshire Dales Community Safety Panel held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2008 at 10.00 am in the Committee Room, Town Hall, Matlock**

### **PRESENT:**

Muriel Wilshaw (Tideswell 2000) – In the Chair

Paul Hawker (Derbyshire Fire and Rescue), Councillor Peter Slack (Middleton Parish Council), Derek Rouse (Cromford Parish Council), Jo Dales (Derbyshire Police), Sarah Brassington (Derbyshire Police), Lynda Dickens (Victim Support), Debbie White (Victim Support), Nigel Fry (Derbyshire Police), Amy Embling (DDDC), David Parker (Derbyshire Dales CSP), Erin Bower (DCC), Lesley Tierney (Guinness Northern Counties), Laura Harris (Guinness Northern Counties), Susan Smith (Matlock Town Council), Gary Williams (Rodsley & Yeaveley PC), Royd Alderson (Foolow Parish Meeting), Kath Potter (DALC), Kevin Lowe (Tideswell Safer Neighbourhoods Team), Martin Jones (Matlock Safer Neighbourhoods Team), Ian Hyde (Wirksworth Safer Neighbourhoods Team), Sue Lester (Wirksworth Safer Neighbourhoods Team), Steve Capes (DDDC), Roger Flint (Derbyshire Police) Mike Ratcliffe (Wirksworth Town Council), Karen Cooper (Derbyshire Dales CSP) and Christine Laver (DDDC)

### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Martin Mullins (Derbyshire Police), Dick Hargreaves (Derbyshire Police), Bill Land (Calver Parish Council), Cliff Lewer (Snelston PC), Claire Gamble (Wardlow PC), Tony Dales (Derbyshire Police), Eileen Glanville (Mappleton PC), Julie Hirst (Derbyshire County PCT), Eileen Tierney (Licensing, DDDC), Shelagh Wray (Derbyshire Probation Service), PCSO Briggs, PCSO Teare, PCSO Rowbottom, PC Wetton, Richard Harris (British Transport Police) and Malcolm Mayfield (Derbyshire Dales CSP)

### **33/07 – CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION**

The Chairman welcomed everyone and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss how the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership could encourage people to help themselves avoid being victims of acquisitive crime.

### **34/07 – HELPING TO PREVENT ACQUISITIVE CRIME**

Steve Capes, Head of Organisational Development at Derbyshire Dales District Council gave a presentation that defined acquisitive crime as burglary and theft and confirmed that Derbyshire Dales experienced comparatively low levels of these types of crime. He highlighted a number of areas in which the Partnership could contribute to raising public awareness in an effort to further reduce these rates. These included

- 60% of items stolen had been left outside, unsecured or unattended.

- Whilst the secured car parks scheme had greatly reduced theft from parked vehicles there was still an issue in relation to things left on show in parked cars, particularly on-street.
- Most burglaries were from detached houses and took place during the day via rear doors or ground floor windows. Increased security and measures to improve visibility from the street/neighbouring properties could help to address this problem.
- The Handyvan scheme was available to help vulnerable persons install additional security measures.
- Promotion of increased awareness of distraction burglary techniques and other crime prevention measures – Liberation Day was a major factor in achieving this.

Steve Capes noted that the current economic downturn and release of previous offenders were risk factors to be considered in this area of work.

The target for the whole of Derbyshire was a further 3% reduction acquisitive crime over the next 3 years.

Nigel Fry, Crime Prevention Officer for High Peak, highlighted a number means of crime prevention that could be promoted by the Partnership. These included:

- Surveys of burgled properties to assess the reason(s) why it was targeted and to suggest changes that could avoid a recurrence, including defensive planting, increased visibility, strong doors with five lever locks, door bars, spy holes, window locks and lighting.
- Sheds were another area of concern, particularly if they were in poor repair. Padlocks and shed alarms were recommended.
- Property marking – UV pen, smart water
- Tools, ladders and other things left outside to be secured.
- Raise awareness of possibility of oil theft from tanks – suppliers could provide more security
- Activity monitors
- Use of the Ringmaster system to alert the public to current threats
- Wider publicity for equipment available from Police, possibly through DALC newsletter to parish councils

### **35/07 – FEEDBACK FROM WORKSHOPS**

Feedback from the two focus groups is attached.

### **32/07 – FUTURE MEETINGS**

- 11 September 2008
- 4 December 2008
- 5 March 2009

All at 10.00am in the Committee Room, Town Hall, Matlock

**Meeting closed 12.30pm**

## Flip chart notes from Community Safety Panel workshop – 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2008

### **Vehicle Crime**

The following were suggested as positive ways of helping to prevent vehicle crime:

- Putting messages on the letter that is sent to residents with their car parking permit - highlight the message in different text
- Advertising at petrol stations and super market car parks on lampposts in car parks etc.
- Trolley collecting staff / car park patrolling staff to display stickers on people's vehicles who have left valuable items on display to raise awareness that they done so
- Involve the Probation Service to educate offenders
- Raise awareness about travelling criminals so even though people may think it's a safe area to live in i.e. residents aren't committing the crime, travelling criminals are
- 'Nothing in, nothing out' scheme – stickers to display on vehicles that there are no valuables in the vehicle
- Mobile CCTV in hot spot areas
- Advertise 'Operation Python' more
- Make better use of Parish Councils for getting messages to residents and advertise services that are available through Parish Councils and Safer Neighbourhood Teams
- Publicity campaigns in local press
- Police / PCSO's visiting residents, particularly older people to provide advice and information
- Posting notes through residents' doors to make them aware that they have left valuables on display
- Talking signs in car parks that remind people to lock their car
- Give information on car crime trends happening particularly during the summer / Christmas seasons through ringmaster
- Use various media particularly radio for getting messages across
- Give crime prevention talks at seminars / events
- Use Parish Newsletters, Dales Matters Newsletter and parking tickets for crime prevention messages
- Use shop watch and pub watch i.e. beer mats for messages
- Stalls at villages fares with crime prevention advice
- Give advice particularly to owners of older vehicles that are more likely to be broken into

## Notes from the Burglary group

### How can people protect themselves?

- By increasing community cohesion and use other agencies / councils to encourage people to inform others about crime prevention advice
- Crime prevention advice to be given to housing officers to pass onto their tenants
- Lighting is key – makes properties look occupied
- Making properties look secure – dummy box's, dog sounds etc
- Educating people into letting their neighbours know when they are on holiday so their neighbours can look out for odd behaviour – if possible use the neighbours to make the home look occupied – eg putting bins out, parking cars in drive, drawing curtains etc
- Education of the public through schemes such as the footprint scheme
- Prison sentences have been higher for criminals recently
- Break-ins aren't always for the property in the house – so educate people about where they shouldn't leave their car keys and purses at night
- Education to people about having a phone in the bed room

### How do you get people to take notice of the advice that is on offer to them?

- Advise people of the consequences of being a victim of a burglary – eg insurance premiums, etc
- Attitudes need to change – many people have the –'It will never happened to me attitude'
- Better communication of the advice which is on offer from the police to people before they become a victim
- Try and get the police Crime Prevention Officer to work in partnership with the housing associations to work on an estate/area with them offering advice
- PCSO's to receive more CP training to be able to offer better advice of what the police can do
- Better youth education over the consequences of being a victim of burglary eg making sure they lock the doors when in the property on their own
- Many younger people live in a credit society and aren't as concerned about crime as older people
- Better regulations on cold calling etc – better than signs and zones
- Education to people over peddlers licences – what they should look like – and to ask for one
- Credit card crime has reduced since Chip and Pin, but not so much in other parts of Europe as they don't have chip and pin
- Most Burglars are more scared than you -you know your house they don't – making a noise up stairs would be enough to scare most of them off, and minimise what they can take by hiding car key, jewellery and money etc