

**Bridgend Crime & Disorder
Reduction Partnership**

Environmental Crime Action Plan

Report Produced by ENCAMS

October 2006

Bridgend Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership Environmental Crime Action Plan

Introduction

Criminal damage accounts for just under a quarter of all British Crime Survey (BCS) offences, and just over a fifth of recorded crime. The current PSA 1 target for the Home Office is to reduce crime by 15%, and further in high crime areas, by 2007/08. Reductions in criminal damage will be required to contribute to meeting this target.

The Home Office Anti-social Behaviour Unit in partnership with the Environmental Charities ENCAMS and Keep Wales Tidy have developed a programme of work to provide direct advisory support to a number of Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in addressing local priorities for driving down environmental crime as required by Public Service Agreement, PSA 1.

The following action plan recommendations have been produced to assist Bridgend CSP in achieving that objective. It is intended to give a range of strategic and operational practical suggestions to support the aims of the CDRP in improving their response to environmental crime and supporting the PSA 1 target.

In producing the action plan Encams and Keep Wales Tidy senior directors have;

- a) undertaken a desk top review of materials from the CSP

- b) undertaken a visit to Bridgend CSP on the 11th October 2006 to meet senior officers from a range of departments and other members of the CSP, which included discussions regarding the CSP on;
 - Where are we now, what are the local conditions?
 - Where do we want/need to be?
 - What else do needs to do to get there
 - Examples of learning and good practice / reference materials

Current Situation

The Bridgend Community Strategy 2005 – 2016 has the following two medium term cross-cutting themes in relation to Community Safety:

- To reduce the number of children and young people who are at risk of developing anti-social behaviour (including criminal) tendencies in their teenage years, because of family circumstances and / or living environment; and
- To strengthen community spirit and community resolve to challenge anti-social behaviour (including criminal acts), thereby creating an environment in which it is difficult for such behaviour to flourish.

One of the key local partnerships to deliver the Community Strategy is the Community Safety Partnership. This partnership, which meets under the Chairmanship of Inspector Tim Jones, Divisional Commander for Bridgend, South Wales Police, and has representatives from a number of departments of Bridgend County Borough Council, South Wales Police, the Probation Service, Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations and South Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

The partnership is co-ordinated by John Davies.

The partnership have developed the Crime and Disorder Strategy 2005 – 2008 which aims to reduce recorded crime by 17.5% by the end of March 2008.

In respect of Criminal Damage the Strategy highlights:

“Monitoring hot spots, targeting affected areas by Police and Police Community Safety Officers and Specials, providing high profile uniform presence including greater use of CCTV, closer liaison with Local Authority CCTV department, police monitoring of incidents, high visibility presence in retail outlets and bus stations, through use of Partnership Anti-social Behaviour Intervention Process, inclusive work with business community / Partnership to prevent and detect such offences and consequences of crime lessons.

Data provided by South Wales Police suggests the Bridgend area has seen a reduction of 15% in incidents of reported criminal damage between 2005 and 2006. A total of 1,770 incidents have been reported during 2006, with the equivalent figure for 2005 being 2,091.

Bridgend CSP Environmental Crime Action Plan

ISSUE	CURRENT INTERVENTION	GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES	TIME SCALE	LEAD AGENCIES
Collection and analysis of data	1. Data on Criminal Damage from a number of organisations is available however, there is no mechanism for collating this data and identifying problem areas and problem issues	1. Develop a process to collect data on criminal damage from all available sources. 2. Map the data 3. Use the map to identify problem areas and problem issues	1. November 2006 2. December 2006 3. December 2006	1. CSP Co-ordinator 2. CSP Co-ordinator 3. CSP Partnership
Reporting of Criminal Damage offences (over-reporting)	1. South Wales Police have detailed data on different types of Criminal Damage incidents reported. However, they are of the opinion that a number of these are domestic incidents, which are reported as crimes, to meet the needs of Housing Associations to have a crime number before undertaking any repairs to a property	1. Housing Associations to identify if there is another way of dealing with low level damage, that does not involve a need for a Crime number to be issued.	1. November 2006	1. Housing Associations

<p>Reporting of Criminal Damage offences (under-reporting)</p>	<p>1. Members of the CSP were of the opinion that there was significant under reporting of some Criminal Damage incidents, especially on issues such as graffiti. There was some concern that members of the partnership would be identified as missing their targets if there was a significant increase in the number of incidents reported, however, there is a benefit in getting a real figure of the number of incidents.</p>	<p>1. CSP members to encourage the public to report all incidents of Criminal Damage. This could be done through articles in the local press and Council publications</p>	<p>1. November 2006</p>	<p>1. CSP members and PR departments of relevant organisations.</p>
<p>Identify up to four 'hot spot' areas and seek to deal with these issues</p>	<p>1. CPS members were of the opinion that there were certain 'hot spot' areas that were the focus of criminal damage.</p>	<p>1. CSP members to analyse the data collected and identify four problem areas where criminal damage is a major problem.</p> <p>2. Develop and implement an action plan to deal with the problems in these areas over an identified timescale, for example three months. This action plan would use the resources of all partners.</p>	<p>1. December 2006</p> <p>2. January 2007 (develop plan), March 2007 (implement plan)</p>	<p>1. CSP members</p> <p>2. CSP Members and any other identified organisations</p>

		3. If successful, this model could be rolled out to other areas	3. After March 2007	3. CSP members and any other identified organisations.
Investigating the idea of 'Hits Squads'	1. Members of the partnership were aware of successful schemes operating in neighbouring Local Authorities where a Council 'hit squad' visits a ward three times a year and carries out all 'low level' repairs in the area.	1. Visit Caerphilly to investigate operation and funding of scheme. Report prepared for CSP to discuss. 2. If considered desirable and practical develop plans to implement idea	1. December 2006 2. From January 2007	1. CSP Co-ordinator and other members of CSP. 2. CSP
Graffiti	1. Graffiti was identified as a major problem across the authority.	1. Seek to encourage a community solution towards tackling graffiti by providing residents associations and other groups with Graffiti kits, to enable them to clean off graffiti as soon as it appears. 2. Develop a system to remove offensive graffiti from all land. Provide a free service if necessary. Identify means of	1. February 2007 2. January 2007	1. Bridgend County Borough Council 2. Bridgend County Borough Council

		<p>recovering costs from private land-owners, where possible. This could be done using Youth Offending Teams or Community Payback schemes. Alternatively provide a fee based client service for private businesses.</p>		
		<p>3. Develop projects to work with young people to undertake community art projects</p>	<p>3. From January 2007 onwards</p>	<p>3. Bridgend County Borough Council and Youth organisations</p>
		<p>4. Encourage shops selling aerosol cans to adopt a voluntary code not to sell cans to anyone under 18.</p>	<p>4. December 2006</p>	<p>4. Trading Standards Officers</p>
		<p>5. Consider using post conviction ASBOs for individuals found guilty of other offences but who are suspected of graffiti and other criminal damage offences.</p>	<p>5. March 2007</p>	<p>5. Police</p>
		<p>6. Add graffiti clauses into post conviction ASBOs</p>	<p>6. March 2007</p>	<p>6. Police</p>

		for anyone found guilty of shoplifting graffiti materials.		
Community Wardens	1. Members of the partnership were aware of other authorities who employed Community Wardens. Valleys 2 Coast Housing Association employ one Community Warden. CSP members considered that Community Wardens who would be authorised to allocate FPNs and deal with incidents could provide an effective means of tackling criminal damage.	1. Arrange a visit to one or more Community Warden Schemes to investigate operation and funding of scheme. Report prepared for CSP to discuss. 2. If considered desirable and practical develop plans to implement idea	1. December 2006 2. From January 2007	1. CSP Co-ordinator and other members of CSP. 2. CSP
Environmental Reparation Scheme/ Community Payback	1. These schemes were already operating in the authority, however, there was a limited budget of £3,000 to operate the scheme which did impact on the capacity of the scheme.	1. Seek to identify ways of expanding this scheme. Possibly through working with voluntary organisations such as Keep Wales Tidy, BTCV or Groundwork	1. December 2006	1. Bridgend County Borough Council
Low fines for Environmental Crime	1. Most incidences of environmental crime are dealt with FPNs. However,	1. Local Authority Officers and Police to seek to make a presentation to local	1. December 2006	1. Bridgend County Borough Council and South Wales Police.

	when cases are heard by the courts, guilty verdicts lead to fines that do not reflect the true cost of the crime. In some cases the fines issued are around the sum of the FPN.	<p>magistrates to inform them of the true cost environmental crime.</p> <p>2. Invite magistrates to be represented on CSP</p>	2. November 2006	2. CSP
Community Impact Statements	1. There is a lack of understanding in the area of the impact and cost of environmental crime.	<p>1. Develop Community Impact Statements to highlight the impact of environmental crime. These could highlight businesses whose activities increase the likelihood of criminal damage and anti-social behaviour such as shops selling alcohol or fast food.</p> <p>2. Use available data to work out cost of environmental crime in the area. This could be used to inform magistrates and also to publicise the cost of crime in the local media.</p>	<p>1. January 2007</p> <p>2. January 2007</p>	<p>1. CSP Co-ordinator</p> <p>2. CSP Co-ordinator</p>
Shopping Trolleys	1. An accumulation of abandoned shopping trolleys	1. Work with shops to seek solution to the problems.	1. January 2007	1. Trading Standards Officers

	causes a problem in some areas.	<p>2. Investigate way of using new powers under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act to recover costs of clearing up abandoned shopping trolleys. Possibly use Community Payback Schemes or Youth Offending teams. This would help cover any costs associated with the scheme.</p>	2. March 2007	2. Bridgend County Borough Council
Alcohol Sales	1. CSP members considered that there was a close link between drunkenness and criminal damage. There were some initiatives run by Trading Standards Officers however, there was some concerns that licensing decisions by Council members did not support the reduction in criminal damage and anti-social behaviour.	<p>1. Develop a cross Authority approach towards issuing and revoking licences to sell alcohol. This would ensure that any establishment that could be identified as contributing towards an increase in criminal damage on a regular basis would lose its licence to sell alcohol.</p> <p>2. Develop a campaign to promote responsible behaviour towards the sale of alcohol by establishments that sell</p>	<p>1. March 2007</p> <p>2. December 2007</p>	<p>1. Bridgend County Borough Council (all relevant departments)</p> <p>2. CSP</p>

		<p>alcohol.</p> <p>3. Issue FPNs to the seller and licence when alcohol is sold to under age children. Larger retailers can not argue due diligence if premises have repeat FPNs. This approach requires persistence to help convince licensing panels.</p>	<p>3. November 2007</p>	<p>3. Police and Trading Standards Officers</p>
<p>Tackling Youth Nuisance</p>	<p>1. PACT meeting highlight issue of Youth Nuisance as a problem.</p>	<p>1. Identify opportunities to engage with young people and seek to get their opinions on youth nuisance and ways of tackling the issue. Possible contacts include the Youth Council and Youth Mayor and certain groups that would support young people from different backgrounds. Consideration given to arranging events and also to invite young people onto the partnership.</p> <p>2. Investigate additional</p>	<p>1. December 2006</p> <p>1. March 2007</p>	<p>1. CSP Co-ordinator</p> <p>1. CSP Co-ordinator</p>

		funding for more detached youth workers		
Expanding the Partnership	1. The partnership identified a few organisations that could contribute to the work of the partnership.	1. Seek to engage with the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Agency Wales; • Businesses • Young people (see above) Consider inviting representatives onto CSP	1. December 2007	1. CSP Co-ordinator (to make initial contact)
Make it easier for people to report incidents of criminal damage	1. Some initiatives already in operation	1. Publicise the 'Talk to Us' number and e-mail as a means of reporting criminal damage. 2. Implement service linked to 101 number if all Wales proposal to the Home Office for second phase funding is successful.	1. December 2006 2. During 2007	1. Bridgend County Borough Council 2. Bridgend County Borough Council
Publicising the work of the partnership	1. The partnership has undertaken some work to publicise the partnership	1. Publicise the partnership web site, when it goes on-line 2. Identify opportunities for press stories about the	1. November 2006 2. From October 2006	1. All partners 2. All partners

		work of the partnership		
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HOME OFFICE LINE IN THE USE OF 'MOSQUITOES'

We encourage local agencies to consider the full range of innovations and schemes and practices intended to reduce the crime fear of crime and anti-social behaviour. It is for local agencies to decide on the most appropriate interventions based on their knowledge of what works best locally and the Home Office do not promote or recommend any particular commercial product of venture above this.

Tackling anti-social behaviour is not about intolerance of different lifestyles. Young people want to hang around with their friends and often do so in public places - those spaces belong to them as much as anyone else. But when young people hanging around involves intimidation, abusing and swearing at passers-by, including other young people then this is not acceptable and should not be tolerated.

The use of any device which claims to disperse groups of young people should be treated with caution and if used should form part of an overall strategy to tackle the drivers of that anti-social behaviour.

Other examples of tools that may be appropriate to deal with individuals forming part of a group are:

- Acceptable Behaviour Contracts which are a written voluntary agreement between a person who has been involved in anti-social behaviour and one or more local agencies whose role it is to prevent such behaviour. The contract specifies a list of anti-social acts in which the person has been involved and which they agree not to continue.
- Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) are civil orders, similar to injunctions. They prohibit individuals from specific anti-social actions and are available for any person aged ten or over who has acted in an anti-social manner likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress and who is likely to do so again. Parenting Orders and Individual Support Orders can be attached to ASBOs. These orders help young people and parents to observe the prohibitions set out in the ASBO, and so avoid breach. They are also designed to tackle the underlying causes of their anti-social behaviour.
- Powers have also been given to the police to designate an area where there is persistent anti-social behaviour and a problem with groups causing intimidation and vandalism. In these areas the police will have a power to disperse groups where their presence or behaviour has resulted, or is likely to result, in a member of the public being intimidated, alarmed

or distressed. The groups can then be excluded from a specified area for up to 24 hours.

USEFUL REFERENCE MATERIALS

QUICK REFERENCE CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 2005		
Crime and Disorder		
CNEA 2005 – April 2006 Part 1 Section 1	Responsible authorities must have regard to anti-social behaviour and environmental crime in Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategies.	Crime and Disorder Reduction Act s.6 Amended
CNEA 2005 – April 2006 Part 1 Section 2	Power to erect physical barriers and to make a Gating Order to restrict access to certain highways in which crime and anti-social behaviour are affecting the quality and safety of the local environment.	Highways Act 1980 (cl.22) s.6, new parts 8A, s. 129A-F
Vehicles		
CNEA 2005 – June 2005 Part 2 Section 3-9	Introduces two new offences – leaving two or more vehicles for sale on the road; repairing vehicles on the road - aimed at those who make a business of such activities. Fixed Penalty Notices set at £100 unless otherwise specified.	
CNEA 2005 – April 2006	Fixed Penalty Notices can be served for abandonment of a vehicle. Removal of	Refuse Disposal (Amenity) Act 1987 s.2-4 amended

Part 2 Sections 10-12	requirements for local authorities to serve Notice for vehicle on a road; or to wait for expiration of valid license before destroying an abandoned vehicle.	
CNEA 2005 – Oct 2005 Part 2 Sections 15-17	Removal of requirements - to serve Notice on illegally parked vehicle where parked on road; to attach Notice if the illegally parked vehicle fit for destruction. Allows for the removal of vehicles that do not display a valid license before the vehicle can be disposed of.	Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, s.99, 101 &103
Litter and refuse		
CNEA 2005 – June 2005 Part 3 Sections 18-19	Offence of dropping litter extended to water and private land. New prescriptions for issuing of Fixed Penalty Notice - penalty set at £75 unless otherwise specified.	Environmental Protection Act 1990, s.87 & 88 amended
CNEA 2005 – April 2006 Part 3 Sections 20-22	New power to issue Litter Clearing Notice for private land defaced with litter. Street Litter Control Notice applies to mobile vendors. Fixed Penalty Notices can be issued for non-compliance.	Environmental Protection Act 1990, s.90, 93 & 94 amended
CNEA 2005 – April 2006 Part 3 Section 23	Principal Litter Authorities have the power to designate areas, by Order, where the distribution of free printed material is an offence. Fixed Penalty Notices set at £75 unless otherwise specified.	Environmental Protection Act 1990, new section 94A

CNEA 2005 – June 2005 Part 3 Section 27	Meaning of litter is clarified to include cigarettes, cigars and chewing gum. It is an offence to discard such items.	Environmental Protection Act 1990, s. 87 & 88
Graffiti and other defacement		
CNEA 2005 – April 2006 Part 4 Section 28-30	Sets out prescriptions for issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices; to be set at £75 unless otherwise specified; Town and Parish Councils may also issue Fixed Penalty Notices.	Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003, new sections 43A-B, s.47 amended
CNEA 2005 – April 2006 Part 4 Section 31	Extension of Graffiti Removal Notice to apply to fly-posting and renamed as Defacement Removal Notice.	Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 s.48-52 amended
CNEA 2005 – June 2005 Part 4 Sections 33-34	Amends the 1990 Act so that a defendant must prove an advertisement was displayed without knowledge. A local authority may remove illegally displayed placards and posters and recharge costs of doing so.	Town & Country Planning Act 1990, s.225 amended
Waste		
CNEA 2005 – June 2005 Part 5 Sections 35-38	Removes defence of acting under employer's instructions in transporting waste illegally; amends certain regulations for transport of waste; provides enforcement powers to stop, search and seize vehicles; prescriptions for issuing Fixed Penalty Notices (set at £300 unless otherwise specified).	Control of Pollution (Amendment) Act 1989 s.1 and 5 amended and new sections 5A-C

<p>CNEA 2005 – Only s.40-41 June 2005, s.42-44 April 2006 Part 5 Sections 40-44</p>	<p>Removes defence of acting under employers instructions in depositing waste illegally; raises penalties on conviction for s.33 offences; requires the offender to pay for costs of investigation and clean-up costs; provides for the forfeiture of vehicles.</p>	<p>Environmental Protection Act 1990, s.33 amended and new sections 33A-C</p>
<p>CNEA 2005 – April 2006 Part 5 Sections 45-46</p>	<p>Details offences relating to documentation and enforcement measures including issuing of fixed penalty of £300 unless otherwise specified. Confers powers for the stop, search and seizure of vehicles being used in the commission of offences under sections 33 or 34.</p>	<p>Environmental Protection Act 1990, s.34 amended and new sections 34A-C</p>
<p>CNEA 2005 – Oct 2005 Part 5 Section 47-50</p>	<p>Provides for abolition of requirement to contract out waste disposal functions; detail of offences related to waste receptacles and related enforcement measures (fixed penalty set at £100 unless otherwise specified; ability to serve a Notice to have a land owner remove waste from land.</p>	<p>Environmental Protection Act 1990, repeals s.32; new sections 47ZA-B, 59ZA; amends s.52</p>
<p>CNEA 2005 – June 2005 Part 5 Section 54</p>	<p>Powers for regulations to be made to require developers and contractors of construction and demolition projects to produce Site Waste Development Plans with a view to reduce wastage, increase recycling and encourage regulatory compliance.</p>	

Dogs		
CNEA 2005 – April 2006 Part 6 Sections 55-58	Local authorities can make a Dog Control Order providing offences if certain conditions are not observed related to the handling of dogs in designated areas.	Repeals Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996
CNEA 2005 – April 2006 Part 6 Section 59-62	Enables Authorised Officers of Primary and Secondary Authorities to issue a Fixed Penalty Notice for offences of a Dog Control Order (£75 unless otherwise specified); allows Chief Police Officers to authorise other persons to issue Notices.	
CNEA 2005 – April 2006 Part 6 Sections 63-64	Makes a prescription to avoid cases where powers may overlap between authorities of different tiers; removes the ability to make Byelaws in relation to control of dogs, though existing Byelaws will remain in place until a Dog Control Order is made for the same land and the same offence.	
CNEA 2005 – April 2006 Part 6	Termination for police responsibility for stray dogs – this is now the remit of local authorities.	Dogs Act 1906, s.3 repealed

Section 68		
Noise		
CNEA 2005 – April 2006 Part 7 Section 69-76	A local authority may designate Alarm Notification Areas. A Key-holders details must be registered with the local authority - failure to do so is an offence and a Fixed Penalty Notice can be issued of £75 unless otherwise specified.	
CNEA 2005 – April 2006 Part 7 Section 77-79	Provides powers for Authorised Officers to enter premises in Order to silence alarms causing a nuisance – Power of entry and Warrant to enter premises by force.	
CNEA 2005 – April 2006 Part 7 Sections 82-84	Extends the powers of a local authority to take action when noise nuisance occurs; provisions for Fixed Penalty Notices to be issued, the penalty fixed at £100 and £500 for residential noise and noise from licensed premises respectively; prescriptions for the spending of receipts.	Noise Act 1996, s.8-9 amended, new section 4A
CNEA 2005 – April 2006 Part 7 Section 86	A local authority may defer issuing an Abatement Notice in Order to take alternative steps to tackle a noise nuisance problem. If the noise is not	Environmental Protection Act 1990, s.80 amended

	abated within 7 days, the authority must proceed to issue an Abatement Notice.	
Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment		
CNEA 2005 – April 2006 Part 8 Sections 87-93	Raises the status of the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) to that of a statutory body and confers certain functions for that body to fulfil.	
Miscellaneous		
CNEA 2005 – April 2006 Part 9 Sections 96-97	Prescriptions for how higher and lower tier authorities can use receipts from Fixed Penalty Notices.	
CNEA 2005 – April 2006 Part 9 Sections 99-100	Enables a local authority to charge for the removal, storage and disposal of shopping and luggage trolleys.	Environmental Protection Act 1990, schedule 4 amended
CNEA 2005 – April 2006 Part 9 Sections 101-103	Amendments to Environmental Protection Act 1990 in respect of statutory nuisances – insects and lighting; defence of “best practicable means to prevent” is removed in most cases.	Environmental Protection Act 1990, s.79, 80 & 82 amended

CNEA 2005 – s.104 April, s.105 June 2005 Part 9 Sections 104-105	Provision for lodging an appeal in respect of a Remediation Notice; penalties are increased for offences relating to pollution.	Environmental Protection Act 1990, s.78L amended
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Case Studies and Useful Information

The Safety Zone - Rhondda Cynon Taf

The Rhondda Cynon Taf Community Safety Partnership run the Safety Zone based on the Treforest Industrial Estate. The Safety Zone is a mock up village based in a 10,000 square foot factory unit, designed to bring everyday safety education to the community of South Wales. The scenarios are life like, hands on and offer education on everyday situations from trespassing on railway tracks, to purchasing age restricted items in the local shop. Other displays include a police station with attached cell, farmyard, forestry, electricity sub station, building site and safety house to name a few. All the scenarios have been designed to accommodate people of all ages and abilities, the centre can be used as an interactive safety training session for the very young, teenagers and the elderly and vulnerable. All scenarios can be adapted to accommodate the target audience.

One example is the South Wales Fire and Rescue Service 'set', where visitors can explore a kitchen and bedroom scene to uncover potential fire risks, and find out about the importance of having a smoke alarm. The house also has a smoke machine, giving a realistic insight into how to escape from a building in the event of a fire.

Funding for the Safety Zone was secured from the Welsh Assembly Government and the Home Office but more than 50 partner organisations offer support by developing their own part of the village and providing staff to give the presentations. These partners include: South Wales Police, South Wales Fire and Rescue, the Health and Safety Executive, British Transport Police, Forestry Commission, Drug Agencies, Western Power Distribution, Network Rail, Stagecoach, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr, Caerphilly and the Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Councils.

Community Wardens

Caerphilly County Borough Council

The Caerphilly Community safety Unity employ a team of Community Safety Wardens designed to work closely with Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers to tackle crime and anti social behaviour. The aim is that the high profile patrolling acts as a deterrent on anti social behaviour, provides reassurance for the community and are seen as being approachable and responsive to situations that arise, due to their high profile presence within the community.

There are eight Community Safety Wardens, both male and female, who are a valuable addition to the existing Community Safety Unit.

The Wardens are not a substitute for the Police nor are they intended to replace, duplicate or replicate any existing Warden or Ranger Scheme. The Wardens will complement existing services and work closely with them to ensure a co-ordinated response to situations and help create a safer community.

The Community Safety Wardens:

- Provide a visible, uniformed presence on the streets, parks, playgrounds and estates.
- Develop community spirit by being approachable and responsive.
- Provide a high profile patrolling presence and deterrent on anti-social behaviour.
- Provide reassurance for the community.
- Report environmental issues e.g. fly tipping, dog fouling and litter.
- Report suspicious behaviour to the Police and other enforcement agencies.
- Support vulnerable residents of all ages.
- Act as the eyes and ears of the community by spotting, investigating and reporting incidents, including acting as professional witnesses.

The Community Safety Wardens have recently received accreditation from the Chief Constable of the South Wales Police as part of the Community Safety Accreditation Service. The service is designed to improve information sharing and closer links between the police and partner organisations in order to enhance their service to the community. This accreditation means that wardens are now able to issue fixed penalty notices for a variety of offences.

For more information contact: e-mail: saferrccb@caerphilly.gov.uk or telephone: 01443 864374

Newport City Council

Newport City Council residents suffering from anti-social behaviour can contact the Community Safety Wardens for any of the following issues:

- Nuisance by young people in the streets
- Complaints about noise
- Environmental nuisances such as fly tipping and dumped rubbish
- Complaints about vehicles and neighbour disputes, including nuisance from pets

Callers can elect to remain **anonymous**. Community Safety Wardens will accept calls in the strictest confidence and all calls will be dealt with sympathetically. No one will call door to door, and the perpetrators will not be told who has complained.

Community Safety Wardens operate 1:00 pm to 12:00 midnight, 365 days a year and can issue fixed penalty notices for the following three offences:

- Dropping Litter

- Dog Fouling
- Riding a Bicycle on the Pavement.

There is no specific age limit, but for juveniles the Wardens would usually attempt to issue the notice in the presence of their parents.

The penalty (currently £75) is not a fine, which assumes guilt, but an option for the offender to pay in order to avoid going to court which could result in a heavier fine as well as a criminal record. An alleged offender has the right to appeal and can refuse to pay with the alternative option of appearing in court. Details are on the notice that is issued at the time. Payment of the penalty is also explained on the form.

Community Safety Wardens do not deal with incidents in Newport City Centre which are dealt with by the City Centre Ranger Service. Criminal Activity, such as violence, threats or damage to property should be reported to Gwent Police on (01633) 244999.

Any calls that cannot be satisfactorily dealt with immediately will be referred to other Council officers or the Police for follow-up action. Subject to the prior agreement of the caller, Wardens will contact them by telephone, by letter or in person to keep them informed of progress.

Callers will not normally have to go to court; the vast majority of cases are resolved before any court action. In extreme cases witnesses may be called, and if the Council believes a caller may be of help they will be asked for their assistance. However, callers are under no obligation and can refuse to attend. For further information contact: the Council's Community Safety Warden Service on

(01633) 222944 or write to:
 Community Safety Wardens
 Newport City Council
 Civic Centre
 Newport
 NP20 4UR
 Telephone: (01633) 222944
 Email: community.safetywardens@newport.gov.uk

Merthyr Tydfil

Community Safety Wardens aim to improve the quality of life in residential areas. Some of the ways in which Wardens can do this include:

- Providing an additional uniformed presence on the streets
- Acting as the “eyes and ears” of the community
- Reporting environmental issues or maintenance problems to the Local Authority
- Visiting vulnerable residents and victims of crime to offer assistance and support
- Taking referrals for Safer Merthyr Tydfil's Homesafe scheme

- Undertaking specific community projects, particularly environmental and youth projects.

10 Wardens and 3 Warden Supervisors are based in Community Safety Advice Centres in Penydarren, Gurnos, Bedlinog, and Gellideg are supported by the Project Manager and two administrative staff.

Contact details:
2 Talbot Square
Penydarren
Merthyr Tydfil
CF47 9LP
Tel/Fax: (01685) 388100
wardens@smt.org.uk

Community Safety Accreditation Scheme – Cardiff Council

Launched in October 2004, Cardiff's Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) enables relevant public and private sector workers to use specific police powers to tackle issues relating to anti-social behaviour and lower-level crime.

Led by South Wales Police and the Community Safety Partnership, the scheme has so far enabled council staff such as Park Rangers, Harbour Authority Wardens and Cardiff Bus Inspectors to get involved. Security staff at the National Assembly for Wales and University Hospital of Wales have also been accredited.

This type of scheme was introduced under the Police Reform Act 2002. It enables Chief police officers to accredit employees of organisations who contribute towards community safety.

The scheme improves links between relevant agencies such as the police and local authority, as well as improving the level of information and intelligence that is required to deal with offenders of anti-social behaviour.

The CSAS was recently recognised in a Home Office report, as a good example of neighbourhood policing. See

http://www.policereform.gov.uk/docs/neighbourhood_police.pdf and http://www.policereform.gov.uk/docs/accreditation_schemes.html for more details.

For more information: E-mail: info@cardiffcommunitysafety.co.uk

Melin Action Area Project – Neath Port Talbot

The exciting Melin Community Action Project was launched on 1st April 2006. Appointed as Co-ordinator James Muir is leading the Welsh Assembly Government initiative to address the issues of fear of crime and make the Melin a safer place to live in and visit.

The one year project is designed to engage the community and many other organisations and agencies to work together to address anti-social behaviour

issues such as fly tipping, abandoned vehicles, criminal damage, graffiti and improve security for vulnerable residents.

At the rubbish amnesty on May 16th local community police officers, members of the Melicryddan Community Conference, Safer Neath Port Talbot, Keep Wales Tidy and local residents cleared six tonnes of rubbish from Meadow Road. A further three rubbish amnesties have been arranged for the Neath East area by Keep Wales Tidy, the Communities First Organisation NEAT and the Melin Action Area Project Co-ordinator.

In order for the project to be deemed a success the Co-ordinator has to build relationships with other agencies and organisations and engage the residents in the action of shaping their community for the better.

If you want to help in future projects please contact the Melin Advice Centre on 01639 683259

The Safer Trafford Partnership Priorities Database

Background

All statutory and voluntary agencies have an obligation to consider Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 in all aspects of their work. The Safer Trafford Partnership recognised that a multi-agency approach was to be the way ahead in addressing issues around crime, disorder and drugs. They set about finding a system of tracking actions and interventions undertaken by all partners.

It was agreed that all actions undertaken should be co-ordinated by one administrator. This would ensure that an accurate up-to-date system could be managed efficiently, and would reduce duplication around crime reduction methods.

The Partnership Support Team carried out research into various systems, including the police SARA system, and eventually purchased a web-based database entitled www.thesafetyproject.com from funds granted via the Executive Partnership Group from the Building Safer Communities Fund. The advantage to this system being that anybody with internet access would be able to access the information held, thereby encouraging the sharing of information.

How does it work

Trafford's Strategic Assessment identified a number of priorities within the Borough, some of which are area specific and some wide-spread throughout the borough.

All of these priorities are shown on the database, each with the area groups listed beneath. They are –

1. Safer Stretford Area
2. Safer Altrincham Area
3. Safer Urmston Area
4. Safer Sale Area
5. Victims & Witnesses Group
6. Offenders Tasking and Co-ordinating Group.

The Strategic Assessment also identified the local priorities for each area. Each area group was asked to focus on their identified priorities and to develop interventions and actions in order to reduce crime and disorder. The action would then be entered onto the database under the relevant priority and the relevant area group.

Each action may involve a number of partners with a number of tasks. These would also be entered onto the database, along with deadlines and the name of the person responsible for the task.

At the monthly area meetings, the database administrator requests updates from project leaders, and updates the database with any new information.

The deadlines are monitored using a 'traffic-light' system – i.e. overdue projects show red, projects within 30-days of the deadline show orange, and completed projects show blue. Finished projects only show as 'green' once the administrator has verified that all tasks are complete.

Outcomes

All area groups are focused on their own priorities, ensuring available funds are allocated in line with local needs.

Monthly updates are required from all project leaders – resulting in accountability and consistency

Instant at-a-glance information around crime, disorder and drugs problems/actions/solutions/results in any (or all) areas of Trafford.

Printable reports which can be used for updating and informing meetings on performance – can be produced specifically in relation to either the priority, the area or the person tasked. Can also be produced to show an overall picture of all priorities in all areas.

A co-ordinated multi-agency approach to crime reduction and problem solving.

Instant access to information for all partners (it is envisaged that public access may be granted at a later date, thereby offering community reassurance and addressing fear of crime issues).

To establish a feeling of 'ownership' for all partners around crime, disorder and drugs issues within Trafford.

For More Information:

Val White
Trafford Community & Partnership Support Team
Direct Dial: 0161 856 7668
Internal extension: 67668
Mobile: 07795 811589
E-mail: valery.white@gmp.pnn.police.uk

Graffiti

St Helens – Graffiti Tagging Scheme

St Helens have a reporting system for graffiti tagging with the Police that seemed to be working well.

Contact is Pam Cunningham 01744 456449, PamelaCunningham@sthelens.gov.uk.

London Borough of Southwark - ‘Shop them and Stop them’

As part of an awareness-raising scheme, the London Borough of Southwark aimed to bring envirocrimes, including graffiti, to the attention of their communities. In highlighting the incidence of graffiti, Southwark Council’s enforcement team wanted to emphasise the impact it had on the environment. Adopting a zero tolerance approach, the council’s ultimate ambition was to create a cleaner, safer and greener borough. The ‘Shop Them and Stop Them’ campaign was set up to encourage and reward informants for information used to convict prominent taggers.

By launching a poster campaign against the three worst graffiti taggers, the campaign reinforced the council’s zero tolerance approach to envirocrime. The council had also developed a graffiti tag database whereby officers photographed tags and entered them onto the database. The data collected was then used to take action against the culprits and could also feed into future targeted campaigning.

Of the three taggers targeted, the council received a name and address for one of the suspects highlighted by the poster campaign. Information was also given about another of the taggers.

The London Borough of Southwark now aims to work closely with neighbouring councils and British Transport Police, to further pursue taggers by sharing information and using enforcement techniques coherently.

This campaign has won national awards for innovation and good practice.

For further information, please contact:

Andrew Chandler
Street Improvement Team
T: 020 7525 2402
E: andrew.chandler@southwark.gov.uk

Southampton City Council - Anti-Graffiti Kits

Southampton City Council have purchased more than 200 kits in partnership with community groups, wardens, local businesses, youth offending teams / Probation Service & Crime Concern. City Council Trainers have been trained to a high level by Nordic accredited trainers, they then carry out the required training for the kit users. Kits are issued to groups, organisations & individuals as required, with kits being replenished by the local authority when necessary. Anti graffiti forums are held to discuss problems and solutions regarding graffiti issues. Anti Graffiti Kit removal projects are often linked in with other council departments and methods e.g. paint out and pressure washer removal to create the best overall effect possible with the available resources. Over the past three years a substantial amount of graffiti has been removed using the anti graffiti kits, thereby enhancing the local living environment. The use of the kits has resulted in a reduction of apathy towards graffiti, has demonstrated that the local authority cares about the community and the living environment. The kits have helped to achieve the following results:

- Increased Community Spirit;
- Created areas of 'Self Policing' against graffiti;
- Extensive positive media coverage both locally and nationally;
- Encouraged similar projects in other local authorities;

The Nordic Anti Graffiti Kit is an easily carried, plastic toolbox size product which contains the necessary equipment and environmentally / user-friendly solutions to remove graffiti and chewing gum by hand. This means it is ideal for use by all front line council employees including wardens and caretakers plus schools, community groups, businesses and offenders on community service. The kit can be safely and successfully used with minimal amount of training to remove small areas of graffiti from a wide range of surfaces. The cost for up to 9 kits is £70.90 each and for 10+ kits is £63.45 each.

For further information please contact:

Nordic Pioneer Limited
Unit 47D, Alliance Industrial Estate
Dodsworth Street
Darlington
Co Durham
DL1 2NG
E: sales@nordicenviro.co.uk
T: 01325 464880

Graffiti in public areas - Northumberland Youth Offending Service

Graffiti on walls around public parks was proving to be a nuisance and the local Council had problems keeping the walls clean. The Youth Offending Service decided to use offenders to clean and maintain the wall to keep it clear of graffiti.

The local Council purchased the engineered siloxane anti-graffiti coating from Urban Hygiene and our reparation workers applied the product to the wall, following brief training from the suppliers.

The operation was a huge success and since coating the wall, there have been no instances of graffiti being put on the wall. The operation was carried out from May to September 2003 and, although it was difficult to assess, it was estimated to be around £1500. Labour was free (reparation) apart from supervision.

For further information please contact:

John Millican,
Northumberland YOT,
Riverside Centre,
North Seaton Industrial Estate,
Ashington,
NE63 0YB
T: 01670 852225.

City of Westminster Council - Working Together Initiative

This document relates to the Working Together Initiative between City of Westminster – BT and NTL – Nordic. Relating to the protection of Street Furniture.

Graffiti and Fly- Posting are illegal, anti-social activities that create a negative impression of an area and contribute to people's fear of crime. City of Westminster Council Environment and Leisure department Anti Graffiti and Fly-Posting Unit (AGFU) are tasked with alleviating this. AGFU have Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA) targets set that involve the removal of any reported fly-posting. One area that is persistently affected by graffiti and fly-posting is street furniture. Council owned street furniture is maintained and protected by AGFU, who deploy contractors to remove both Graffiti and Fly-Posting from affected areas and properties. Importantly, communications & utility cabinets are the responsibility of the statutory undertakers / owners. Other means of resolution include protection, enforcement, education and joint initiatives.

HOME OFFICE BACKGROUND

Under the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 twelve Local Authorities are currently piloting new powers allowing them to serve a 'graffiti removal notice' on the owners of street furniture, statutory undertakers and educational institutions whose property is defaced with graffiti. If the owner does not remove the graffiti within 28 days, the Local Authority can enter the land/property concerned, clean it and reclaim their costs from the owner.

SECTIONS 48/49 OF ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ACT 2003

In brief, this act empowers local authorities to serve notice on the owner of any property affected by graffiti or fly-posting. The notice requires the owners to remove the graffiti or fly-posting within 28 days of the notice being served; and, where the owner fails to comply, the local authority can execute the work and seek recovery of expenses from the person in receipt of that notice.

The Anti-Graffiti and Fly-Posting Unit (AGFU) have been assisting the Home Office in a pilot of these powers in conjunction with 11 other authorities throughout England.

There are also other Acts that can be utilised for enforcement and compliance purposes, examples being but not limited to –The Town and Country Planning Act 1990, with associated amendments, and The Highways Act 1980.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

All parties should work in constructive partnership to remove graffiti and fly-posting to minimise the need for removal notices. Notices should be a last resort.

SCOPE

With the above general principles and the legislation in mind, City of Westminster AGFU representative established and made contact with the relevant concerned parties. The purpose of this initially being to open dialogue in relation to adopting partnership initiatives. City of Westminster representative held separate meetings with BT & NTL and Nordic in relation to street furniture, at these meetings various issues pertaining to all parties were discussed. The focus being maintained that all parties should endeavour to work in constructive partnership.

It was established at these meetings that joint partnership initiatives were clearly attainable and thought to be in the interests of all.

SUMMARY

During the meetings various issues and concerns were discussed, including methods, specifications and costs.

AGFU representative explained that works of a protective nature had successfully been carried out for some time within the City of Westminster, and that various contractors, products and methods had been investigated. The Best Value of these in terms of quality, durability and cost had proven to be the 'Nordic' method in relation to prevention of graffiti & fly-posting.

BT & NTL stated that they were aware of 'Nordic' and the methods had approval for usage on their respective street furniture. At this point agreements were made in relation to the required works being undertaken within the City of Westminster on a 50/50, shared cost basis. Works commenced in October 2004.

EVALUATION

All works completed by 'Nordic' to date have been undertaken in a professional manner and to a high standard. Since the works commenced the amounts of affected Street furniture has also decreased noticeably. The AGFU department believes that this initiative has already shown considerable benefits to all concerned parties, and the amenity of the surrounding areas.

TELEWEST / BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL

Telewest has recently entered into a partnership agreement with Bristol City and Nordic Pioneer Ltd. implementing a staged program to have Nordic apply their Anti Graffiti / Anti Fly Poster system to Telewest street cabinets in the Bristol City area.

The Nordic system provides a cost effective and sustainable solution to prevent the application and ease removal of graffiti and fly posters.

Once the Nordic system is applied, the coating causes graffiti and fly posters to either not adhere at all or allow them to be removed easily and quickly with the minimum amount of time, effort and materials.

This means no damage caused by constant over painting, which can block up locks and jam hinges and no need for the use of pressure washers that could cause irreparable damage.

Neal J Walshe
Delivery Support Manager

Project Cleantrax – working with Network Rail, Birmingham City Council, Centro, Central Trains and British Transport Police

Network Rail community relations team was approached by Birmingham City Council regarding anti-social behaviour at stations and surrounding areas. The council has an initiative to clear and reduce acts of litter and graffiti throughout the Midlands. Station areas have been targeted because of the high numbers of passing public. There is often 24-hour use and high visibility of anti-social issues by local people and those visiting the city.

The overall aim of the project is to take a trial area and use a multi-agency approach to clear litter and graffiti, putting in measures to prevent future problems. It is hoped that the overall success of the trial will lead to further funding in 2005, enabling the project to be extended to other stations throughout the area.

Network Rail, Birmingham City Council, Centro, Central Trains and the British Transport Police (BTP) initially met to discuss station areas in general and an agreement was reached to take Northfield station and Kings Norton station in the West Midlands area as a trial exercise. The choice of these stations was based on:

- the presence of litter and graffiti and its proximity to the public;
- the number of repeat instances of littering and graffiti;
- the cost to each authority if they continued to address the issues in a reactive way, compared with the approximate cost of the exercise and overall future costs of prevention;
- the Environment Manager (Network Rail) had created an assessment form giving each station area a score for all anti-social issues and the two stations with the
- highest scores were chosen;
- a thorough site inspection was undertaken by the working group which met again to suggest ways in which each authority could contribute to the common goal.

Northfield Station

Birmingham City Council (in partnership with BTP) installed temporary CCTV cameras at Northfield station as an anti-graffiti measure. Both parties then completed three nights' surveillance work at the station. Network Rail installed additional steel fencing to prevent trespass. Central Trains carried out thorough graffiti removal ahead of the surveillance work to measure any new graffiti incidents. As a direct result of the surveillance, two youths were apprehended vandalising or spraying graffiti on the station walls and subway area. The local authority took details of tag names and approached local schools to deter further incidents. Possible Anti- Social Behaviour Orders are being pursued. Local shop owners have been contacted regarding selling aerosol paint to

underage youths. Since the surveillance operation there have been no major incidents of graffiti reported.

Kings Norton Station

Birmingham City Council is to issue fixed penalty notices for litter dropping at the station. Central Trains completed additional litter clearance throughout the station area. Network Rail felled trees close to the footbridge area where local youths tended to gather – and Centro provided additional lighting to the bridge area to deter loitering and anti-social behaviour.

A multi-agency litter pick was held at the station on 14 January 2005, and there was media coverage to promote the scheme. A local MP attended the event. This project has taken minimal time – approximately five meetings (one site meeting). Network Rail has used the council's minor works contract which is separate to the area maintainer, to ensure a speedy response. The project started in September 2004 and ran until March 2005, but is possibly ongoing, as it is hoped to use part of their budget for 2005/06 for this programme.

For further information, please contact:

Pam Gillman
Community Relations Manager
Network Rail
The Mailbox
100 Wharfside Street
Birmingham
B1 1RT
T: 0121 345 3095

Graffiti Pledges – London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

Businesses large and small are being encouraged to join a borough-wide alliance against graffiti. The Council remove graffiti from private properties and from small businesses (fewer than nine staff nationally) free of charge. As part of this process businesses sign an Anti-graffiti pledge. Graffiti is removed from large business (more than nine staff nationally) for an annual fee of £120 or, if they prefer, with a one off removal fee.

http://www.richmond.gov.uk/press_office/business_pride/anti_graffiti_alliance.htm

Tackling Night Time Local Environmental Quality

Newcastle City Council

Newcastle is a large and vibrant city with a nightlife to match. Over recent years, its night time economy has grown, placing greater demands on the city's cleansing and environmental protection services. Particular problems included fast food litter and the greasy deposits and staining resulting from it, flyposting, street urination and graffiti. Although these problems were the result of night time activity, they also had an impact on the day time environment.

Newcastle's Neighbourhood Services Directorate reacted to the night time local environmental quality problems that resulted from Newcastle being a '24-hour city', by

redistributing the workforce to cover the new peaks in activity. In addition to this, Newcastle City Council passed a Private Members' Bill to create the City of Newcastle upon Tyne Act 2000 – an Act to better control street trading, for the registration of door supervisors and second-hand goods dealers and for controlling the distribution of free literature in the city.

Cleansing regime

In order to deliver an appropriate cleansing regime, the city is split into three areas: city centre, east and west, and the regime is broken down as follows:

City centre

- One Compact Sweeping Machine sweeps off-street car parks;
- Early shift operates with seven staff, running through to 4.30pm;
- Day shift operates with seven staff, running through to 6.15pm;
- Late shift operates with six staff, running through to 8.30pm (four of the late shift staff have a Tuesday through to Saturday working week);
- Power-washing shift runs through to 8am, four nights per week (Sunday pm to Thursday am);
- Main night shift operates with 9 staff, running through to 7am (it is likely that the hours of this shift will move forward to finish at 8am, because of the extension of opening hours into the night/all night. This will give more time to clear up when areas are quieter);
- Weekends have an 8am to 7.30pm shift, with 11 staff on each shift.

East and west

- Early shift of mechanical sweepers and gully cleaning vehicles, running through to 2.30pm;
- Day shift of primarily transit teams, but also graffiti teams, running through to 3.45pm;
- Late shift, as per early shift, but in addition, missed bin collections, fly-tipping, etc. running through to 10.30pm.

Shifts are eight hours, apart from the night time power-wash shift who work four nights from 7pm to 7am Sunday to Thursday.

The principles of this regime are:

- Variable shift patterns to try to peak at the right time;
- A move towards weekend working as part of the normal working week, with days off mid week;
- Double shifting of vehicles/equipment wherever possible to maximise utilisation;
- Staff dedicated to an area, be it city centre or wards, to encourage ownership;
- Ward based service delivery outside the city centre.

The City of Newcastle upon Tyne Act 2000:

The Act is broken down into the following sections:

- Street trading – this element of the legislation gives powers of seizure and forfeiture.

- Registration of door supervisors – all persons employed on licensed premises within Newcastle as a door supervisor must hold a valid current registration from the council.
- Distribution of free literature – this covers leafleting. Newcastle City Council has designated areas for the distribution of free literature. Organisations wishing to distribute free literature are required to gain permission from the council, to do so in the designated areas and to pick up dropped or discarded leaflets within 50m.

In addition to the above, Newcastle City Council has also taken the following action to help control the night time local environmental quality:

Fast food litter

The council tries to encourage managers of fast food outlets to reduce the litter outside their premises, and it currently operates Tidy Business Standards.

Alcohol free zones

Drinking restrictions are in place in the city centre and nearby suburb of Jesmond. It is an offence in these areas to fail to hand over an open drinking vessel to the police (although the act of drinking in public is not in itself an offence). Operators there have invested in their properties and their frontages, which has helped to improve local environmental quality.

Events

Problems with glass bottles and glasses at events have been tackled by serving drinks in plastic containers. Ticketed entry at events has also been adopted; both these actions have been very successful.

Contract waste

The council currently operates both a day and night shift for removing contract waste and has a separate collection for glass.

Partnerships

The council works in partnership with the local police to identify priority areas for a police presence. Police officers are located in hotspot areas in order to deter acts of anti-social behaviour. They consult the City Centre Panel and City Centre Manager to ensure that they look after business interests, and residents' groups to ensure that they are aware of the needs of the local community. They have tried to engage with local businesses, such as licensees, hoteliers and retailers.

Cross-departmental working

The council encourages cross-departmental working, especially with the cleansing and planning teams. They aim to design to maintain, that is to design street furniture with its cleansing in mind. Newcastle City Council recommends that other local authorities think about their cleansing schemes first, before altering or installing street furniture, as often paving/other surfaces are not suitable for a high-powered and rigorous cleansing regime.

Transport

To disperse revellers as soon as possible after they spill out onto the streets, the council has a large number of taxi ranks, with a large number of taxis. There are still long queues for taxis, however, as this is the main form of transport for the revellers. There are also two night bus services after midnight. Problems with late buses elsewhere have discouraged people from using them in Newcastle.

Complaints from local residents

Complaints from local residents regarding the night time local environmental quality were increasing. These included complaints from new residents in the city centre and Grainger Town areas about the noise from the machinery being used to cleanse the streets. The engines of power-washers are heavily silenced and the machinery has been re-routed to minimise the problem. People want their streets to be clean, and the council has a duty to cleanse them, but unfortunately there is no ideal time that suits everyone for this to be done.

The introduction and implementation of the above actions have helped to control many issues and have helped improve local environmental quality for those who visit, live or work in Newcastle. Costs have not risen dramatically although employing people on various shifts is an increased cost. Enforcement officers currently do not work nights when a lot of the promotions are taking place via leafleting, etc.

The revised cleansing schedule was introduced in 2001 and like the other initiatives, is ongoing. The City of Newcastle upon Tyne Act 2000 was implemented in 2001 and is also ongoing.

The Licensing Act will have an impact on the city council's ability to exercise greater control over licensed premises. A draft document is available on the council's response.

The Grainger Town Charter has had an impact and, as a result, an increased resource is in place, for example dedicated staff and the power-wash team. In addition a firm has been contracted to polish the stainless steel and glass street furniture and bins on a weekly basis.

There is a Rapid Response team who add to core cleansing, grounds and highway services, by removing flyposting, graffiti and rubbish, carrying out minor paint jobs and power-washing staining proactively in response to calls via the Envirocall centre. The team is also establishing a rapport with city centre users.

The city council is considering the application of new powers under the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 with regard to various activities including flyposting and graffiti, pending the outcome of the consultation.

For further details, please contact:

Mark Lamb
Service Development Manager
Neighbourhood Services Directorate
Environmental Services
Rothbury Terrace Depot
Heaton
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE6 5DE

T: 0191 278 3040
E: mark.lamb@newcastle.gov.uk

WORKING WITH THE FIRE SERVICE

Reducing Arson on the Fairyland Estate - Neath Port Talbot

The estate through relatively small, has over the years, been synonymous with high levels of arson. The reasons for this are complex and have had far reaching effects that have impacted on day to day life on the estate.

A local resident told me of a fairly typical chain of events:

'Rubbish on the estate was causing many problems. Fairyland had a high turnover of tenants who when they left their properties would leave their sheds full of rubbish and larger items of unwanted household items. The sheds were then broken into and the contents and any left over paint would be strewn all over the estate. When new tenants arrived some innovative young people would offer their services to remove the rubbish and burn it. This imaginative enterprise was also well used by some other residents as an easy way to get rid of waste. The cost was a small amount of money and a can of petrol. The rubbish was then taken to the local burning sites at the bottom of the estate; the young people sniffed the petrol, lit the fire and could then buy drugs from the proceeds from all their crime and disorder'.

Now an active group of residents are committed to developing positive environmental projects to improve the estate. Over the past 18 months, regular community clean ups with Keep Wales Tidy¹ has given the residents the confidence to work in partnership with other organisations to make positive changes. By working in partnership to remove flytipped waste and prevent further tipping² the call-out rate for non accidental rubbish fires has decreased on the estate by 70% (see fire statistics overleaf).

The local authority, in response to local needs, now empties the sheds when properties become vacant and have abolished the £5 collection fee for large unwanted household items. The residents have formed a tenants association and are keen to continue working with Keep Wales Tidy to further the positive regeneration of the estate.

The estate has seen a dramatic transformation with the residents turning the once-no go area into a place where there is a waiting list for properties. The residents have also recently won 1st prize in Keep Wales Tidy's 'TIDY WALES AWARDS' for their efforts.

There is still much work to be done and while the results achieved have been remarkable, issues around fly tipping and better ways of achieving effective and sustainable waste disposal need to be addressed.

Year	Total No. Of Fires	No. Of Non Accidental Fires	No. Of Rubbish Fires
2003/2004	21	15	10

¹ 10 community flytip clearances have been held resulting in the removal of 30 tonnes of waste

² Organising waste amnesties (free skips) so residents can dispose of waste easily and at no cost

2004/2005	11	6	3
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In **2003/2004**, 71% of fires were non accidental, of these 67% were non-accidental rubbish fires.

In **2004/2005**, 54% of fires were non accidental, of these 50% were non-accidental rubbish fires.

From April 1st 2003 to March 31st 2005 there has been:

- o 48% reduction in the total number of fires.
- o 60% reduction in the number of non-accidental fires.

70% reduction in the number of non-accidental rubbish fires.

For more information contact Mari Shufflebotham, Communities First Co-ordinator Fairyland, Brynbryddan & Penllyn, Tel 01639 894606, or

Alan Powis, Keep Wales Tidy Flytipping Officer, Tel: 01792 845736 – alan.powis@keepwalestidy.org

FACE, FACE+ and Arson Programmes for Young Offenders

The FACE Scheme has been in operation since January 1998 and is a programmed learning package of 'Fire Awareness Child Education' for 3-11 year olds. The FACE plus scheme was introduced in March 2001 in response to a need to further the scheme into the 10-16 year age group for a 'Programmed Learning Under Supervision'. The Arson Programme for Young Offenders targets the 16-18 year age groups and works in partnership with the Youth Justice Trust.

The schemes are delivered by specially trained Fire Service staff together with a member of the local Youth Offending Team; the FACE+ scheme is only implemented following a caution being given on a court appearance by a defendant.

The Programme is designed for children who have developed an undesirable affinity to play with fire. The programme provides Fire Education, delivered through a structured programme in partnership with the child's parent or guardian. The objective is to educate, primarily the child and secondly the parent/guardian to the dangers and responsibilities of fires and fire setting consequences.

Young Firefighters

Young Firefighters Associations (YFAs) are uniformed youth organisations run by the Fire and Rescue Service which provide fire safety training, physical activities and a disciplined environment for young people aged between 11-16 years. These associations are modelled on

firefighter training regimes, which were developed to combat anti-social and antagonistic behaviour by young people towards firefighters on operational duty. Members are intentionally recruited from lower socio-economic areas.

There are currently four schemes operating in Greater Manchester :

- Broughton
- Moss Side
- Farnworth
- Hyde

The schemes were set up in areas that were specifically targeted due to their location, the areas of greatest need and evidence of attacks on firefighters in each individual station area.

Learn not to Burn Programme

These programmes are designed for operational personnel for use in schools and are targeted at Key Stage 1 to 3. The Learn Not to Burn initiative is a series of workbooks and can be used without the need for a fire officer to be in attendance. They cover many aspects of fire from cause to prevention to the correct action to take when a fire occurs. They are designed to provide teachers with a resource that can be incorporated into the National Curriculum and provide pupils with an understanding of fire safety.

Materials in the packs are designed to suit the needs of a particular group. There are 3 books covering the key stages and copies of the workbook have been supplied to every infant, junior and secondary school in the County.

Adopt a Watch Programme

The Adopt a Watch scheme was designed to promote better relations between schools and firefighters. Each of the four 'watches' or shifts makes contact with a local school and establishes links with a class within the key stage target group. Regular visits are made and the school children are made aware of the firefighter role within the community and are given basic fire safety advice.