

teamwork

Keeping our Community Safe

Safer South Derbyshire Partnership

Safer Neighbourhoods newsletter

Group gives teenagers

a say



Activities go down a treat

A series of activities organised by the Youth of Hatton group using Safer Neighbourhood funding have proved successful with the entire community.

Members of the group made decisions about what activities should be run and, together with other members of the community, have played important roles in the actual planning and preparation.

Among the events staged have been a family film screening, at Heathfields School which was run with the help of school PTA, and a charity football match.

The film was a sell-out event and the football saw a police team, which included Safer Communities Manager Chris Smith, take on and beat local youngsters. Money raised by a raffle and tombola is going to a teenage cancer charity chosen by the Youth group.

Commenting on the events, Safer Neighbourhoods Officer Sarah Dagley said: "The diversionary activities have given the young people worthwhile things to do and have proved popular with the whole community. We are very pleased to have been able to support the group in this very positive work."

Twenty young people from Years 9 and 10 at John Port School have been selected to take part in the Safer Neighbourhoods Youth project, run by Partnership Safer Neighbourhoods Officer Sarah Dagley with PC James Bateman and PCSO Karen Hyde and in conjunction with the school.

The project has been set up as a pilot after evaluation of the Partnership's Safer Neighbourhood meetings revealed that very few young people attend them – even though those aged 18 to 24 are the most likely age group to be a victim of crime.

The new group is meeting bi-monthly and its members are looking at issues in their own communities, considering ways of tackling them, suggesting who they think should be involved and what costs might be incurred in delivering a solution.

So far the group has looked at underage drinking, graffiti and ASB around Hilton Village Hall, all of which have affected the area in the past year.

Commenting on the group, Wendy Smith, Assistant Head at John Port School, said: "We believe that the project will aid Community Cohesion in that it will be

of benefit to both the young people involved and the communities in which they live and spend their leisure time"

The possibility of allowing the group to apply for funding from the Partnership to help turn their ideas into reality is being considered and the Partnership says that if the group works well it will look at setting up similar groups in other South Derbyshire schools.

Sarah Dagley said: "Young people are often the ones accused of being responsible for crime and yet they are the ones most likely to be a victim of crime.

"With this in mind it makes sense to get the thoughts and ideas of young people on how to deal with specific issues and perceptions."

CAPACITY AUDIENCE

A capacity audience packed Bretby Conference Centre at the end of May for what an extremely successful South Derbyshire Liberation Day 2009.

Almost 600 people, including many from Etwall, Findern, Melboume, Stenson Fields and Willington, attended the Safer South Derbyshire Partnership's event, which provided people aged 50 and over with the opportunity to visit dozens of exhibitors that offer services and goods to them, to enjoy live entertainment and to chat with experts about safety, health and well-being.

Organisations that exhibited at the event included Careline, Get Active in the Forest, Neighbourhood Watch, SDDC Housing Advice, Derbyshire Criminal Justice Board, South Derbyshire CVS and Victim Support and many of them reported an excellent response.

Burton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust signed up over 100 new members and Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service collected 70



referrals for Home Fire Safety Checks. The Safer South Derbyshire Partnership's own stall handed out dozens of security items and answered questions about property protection and anti-social behaviour. In the afternoon The Rat Pack Vegas Spectacular Show, complete with Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis provided upbeat entertainment, which got the audience singing and dancing.

June 2009

CAMPAIGN RAISES THE AGE LIMIT

Pubs and off-licenses throughout South Derbyshire are being asked by the Safer South Derbyshire Partnership to introduce Challenge 25, and are being told that spot visits will be operating to check if they are implementing it.

Challenge 25, which replaces the Challenge 21 scheme, will force all those over 18 but under 25 to carry photo ID if they wish to buy alcohol.

As well as helping cut under-age sales, the new threshold should help prevent the offence of proxy purchase – where young adults buy alcohol on behalf of underage friends.

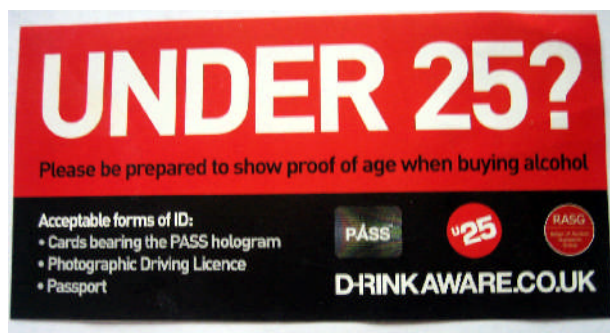
The new signage makes it clear that under-25s must expect to be challenged to prove their age. The literature shows what forms of ID can be used and spells out the heavy fines which could follow for those caught breaking the law.

Around 150 packs containing badges, posters and pens have been put together by the Partnership and are being delivered to pubs

and off-licence premises by visits from the district's licensing team and PCSOs as well as by post.

In the letter accompanying the pack, licensees are also being asked to check forms of identification provided by young people very carefully, as, the letter says: "We have had reports of fake ID being used in the area."

Sarah Dagley, Safer Neighbourhoods Officer with the Partnership who has written the letter, says: "We had a reasonable response when we approached licensed premises last year with the Challenge 21 scheme and we are hoping to see a wider acceptance of the new scheme, which is being backed by the Retail of Alcohol Standards Group (RASG).



"Checks will be made on an on-going basis by members of the Safer South Derbyshire Partnership's Violence, Alcohol harm and Licensing (VAL) group which include the Police, South Derbyshire District Council licensing officers and Trading Standards, to ensure that alcohol is not being sold to anyone under 18 or to those buying it on behalf of underage drinkers."

No cheers for PubWatch!

Licensees in Melbourne are being criticised for their lack of support for a PubWatch group by the Partnership's Violence, Alcohol harm and Licensing (VAL) group.

The decision to try to set up the group in Melbourne was made by the Safer South Derbyshire Partnership after repeated comments at Safer Neighbourhood meetings about alcohol-related anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the town.

Test purchase operations in the area have also suggested that training, support and information-sharing would be of benefit to licensed premises.

But letters have been sent out and personal visits to premises made to try to get one going but without success.

Safer Communities Manager Chris Smith says: "We have looked at the issues in Melbourne and looked at various ways of tackling them. We decided that PubWatch would be one of the tools we could use effectively but despite many attempts we have not succeeded in getting this off the ground. It is very disappointing, we really do feel that the licensees and the area in which they are based would benefit, but we cannot force them to form a group if they are not interested."

SEPTEMBER MEETINGS

The next round of Safer Neighbourhood meetings, taking place in September, is planned as follows:

North West Area 1: Etwall - Hilton - Hatton - Burnaston - Egginton - Foston - Scropton - Church Broughton
6:30pm, Wednesday 9th September at the Hatton Centre

Mercia Area 2: Willington - Findern - Repton - Newton Solney - Twyford - Bretby - Stenson Fields
6:30pm, Wednesday 2nd September at Willington Village Hall

North East Area 3: Melbourne - Aston - Weston - Shardlow - Thulston - Elvaston - Barrow on Trent - Smisby
7:00pm, Tuesday 8th September at Shardlow Village Hall

Library visits go well

Members of the Safer South Derbyshire support team toured the district at the end of April to chat with residents, offer advice and answer community safety questions as part of Community Safety Week in Derbyshire County Council libraries.

Throughout the week bookmarks, information leaflets and property marking kits were handed out.

Team visits included ones to Etwall and to Melbourne where Fire and Rescue staff also took part.

Useful contact numbers

Safer South Derbyshire Partnership - 01283 595924

ASB helpline - 01283 595795

Crimestoppers - 0800 555 111

Police Non Emergency number - 0345 123 33 33

Next Step (against domestic abuse) - 01283 229 854

Victim Support - 01629 825864

Youth Information Shop - 01283 217666

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