

teamwork

Keeping our Community Safe

Safer South Derbyshire Partnership

Area 5 (Newhall & Midway) Safer Neighbourhoods newsletter



A SAFE PLACE TO LIVE

South Derbyshire is one of the safest areas in England and Wales to live, according to the latest Home Office figures.

In a table listing 381 crime and disorder reduction partnership (CDRP) areas, South Derbyshire

was 64th lowest, with a rate of 32 British Crime Survey comparator crimes recorded per 1,000 residents between April 2007 and the end of March this year. The average rate for England and Wales as a whole was 54 crimes per 1,000 residents.

The table uses figures for seven key offences, including violence against the person, sexual offences, domestic burglary and theft of motor vehicle.

During 2007/08 there were just six domestic burglaries per 1,000 South Derbyshire residents, a massive drop of 27% on the previous year, and there was a similarly significant fall in the number of sexual offences, down by 29%.

Chris Smith, Safer Communities Manager, said: "We hope that the residents of South Derbyshire feel reassured by these figures.

"They show that the level of crime in South Derbyshire continues to fall and all Partnership members, which include the police and District Council, are delighted."

April this year saw the Partnership produce its strategy for 2008 – 2011 and among its four key priorities is reducing fear of crime.

Over the three years of its previous strategy (2005 – 08) the Partnership helped reduce Domestic Burglary rates by 45%, Theft of Vehicles by 21%, Theft from Vehicles by 21% and Violent Crime by 6%.

The next Area 5 Safer Neighbourhoods meeting is at 6:30pm on Wednesday, December 3 at The Old Post

We hope to see you there!

Effective actions at targeted property

In the last meeting residents raised concerns about anti-social behaviour at a DCC owned property in Salisbury Drive around an empty house.

Young people were entering the garden and had caused damage to the windows, kicked down and set fire to the rear fence and regularly climbed on the roof and hurled bottles.

Following the meeting a site visit involving the Safer South Derbyshire Partnership, residents, the police and Councillor Pat Murray. It was reported that a new fence had been ordered by DCC to help address the problems, but as there was a delay in this being installed several other actions were taken.

A covert CCTV camera was installed to monitor the garden and a group of trees and a park bench behind the garden fence where the young people would congregate were removed, The local police and PCSO increased patrols in the area and regular contact was made between the Partnership Staff, Councillor Murray, the Police and the local residents.

In the three weeks between the meeting and the fence being completed there was only one report of a bottle being thrown and this was not from within the Garden. CCTV footage shows young people used the garden twice and this was as a thoroughway rather than as a place to congregate. The fence has now been completed and the problems appear to have been eradicated.



Young people from Newhall were among those who went to watch a thought-provoking play that takes the audience on a night out in the park with four teenagers.

Called **Tight**, the play was staged in Maurice Lea Park as part of the Partnership's work to raise awareness about issues related to drinking alcohol.

The action stopped at four points to get the audience to discuss how the characters were behaving and what might happen to them.

And comments from the young people watching, who were offered places through organisations such as Youth Services and Connexions, suggest that it did get them thinking about issues surrounding drinking alcohol.

September 2008

Teams supported

Derbyshire County Youth Services youth workers, from their area base in Swadlincote, organised football coaching and two tournament days for young people in partnership with South Derbyshire District Council and Derby County Football Club.

The coaching led up to a football tournament during a school holiday period involving 12 teams from across the district. Four of the teams were from the Newhall and Midway area.

The project was funded, for the most part, from the Youth Opportunity fund but an additional £500 was required to support the cost of coaching and the transport of teams from Newhall and Midway.

The project was designed to help reduce anti-social behaviour and substance misuse by providing positive activities for young people. It also proved successful in building relationships between young people in the community and with organisations including the police.

The total cost of the project was £4,200 and the Safer Neighbourhoods fund put £500 towards it to ensure young people from Newhall and Midway could take part.

The other projects to have benefited from Safer Neighbourhoods funding in Area 5 are window guards for St John's Church Newhall (pictured) and help in funding CCTV for Newhall Methodist Church.

The Safer Neighbourhoods Fund is a small grants programme that aims to give local people the opportunity to initiate and develop projects to make their community safer.

The Safer South Derbyshire Partnership recognises that local people are crucial to the development of safer neighbourhoods and is looking to encourage worthwhile projects that will help reduce crime and the fear of crime in local communities.

We particularly encourage projects that help with our priority issues for 2008 to 2011 - violent crime, criminal damage and anti-social behaviour, fear of crime and acquisitive crime.

The Safer Neighbourhoods Fund for the whole of the District is £30,000 per year, which equates to £5,000 per Neighbourhoods area.

Application forms are available on the SDDC website www.south-derby.gov.uk and from the Partnership.



Group prompts thought about impact of crime

The idea for an unusual project to raise awareness of the ways in which crime affects people came from the Swadlincote District 50+ Forum, which wanted to set up a debate group involving 13 year old students from William Allitt School, its own members and representatives from organisations such as the police, fire & rescue service, PCT and Citizens' Advice.

Money was required to cover costs including newspapers, magazines, films to provoke debate and visual materials for use in discussion.

Safer Neighbourhoods fund money of £400 was added to the 50+ Forum's own funds to ensure the project could be set up and run.

Issues covered so far have included sport, eco towns, drugs and alcohol and murder and death.

The Forum says that the group is helping to break down barriers between the generations and is raising awareness among young people of the impact of crime and anti-social behaviour on their community and the world beyond.

Useful contact numbers



Safer South Derbyshire Partnership - 01283 595924

ASB helpline - 01283 595795

Crimestoppers - 0800 555 111

Police Non Emergency number - 0845 123 33 33

Next Step (against domestic abuse) - 01283 229 854

Victim Support - 01332 349 956

Youth Information Shop - 01283 217666