

teamwork

Keeping our Community Safe

Safer South Derbyshire Partnership

Area 4 (Central) 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 Central area Safer Neighbourhoods meeting is at 6:30pm on Monday, December 8 at Woodville Infants School

We hope to see you there!

Park play has drink message

A thought-provoking play that takes the audience on a night out with two 14-year-old girls and a pair of 16-year-old lads was staged in Maurice Lea Park at the end of July as part of the Safer South Derbyshire Partnership's work to raise awareness among young people about issues related to drinking alcohol.

Called *Tight*, the action of the play is set in a park and our performance used the bandstand as its very effective backdrop.

The action stopped at four points during the performance to encourage members of the audience to discuss what was happening, how the characters were behaving and what might happen to them.

And comments made by the young people watching, who were offered places through organisations that provide services to young people such as Youth Services and Connexions, suggest that it did get them thinking about issues sur-



rounding drinking alcohol.

As well as the performance, young people visiting the park were treated to non-alcoholic cocktails made and served by Safer South Derbyshire Partnership team members, had a chance to try fruit taken along by South Derbyshire District Council's Healthy Lifestyle Officer and joined in activities provided by the district's Sportsmobile staff.

Ten NHWs in the area

Since the last Safer Neighbourhoods meeting two new Neighbourhood Watch schemes have been formed in Area 4.

They are on Regent Street, Church Gresley and South Street, Woodville. This brings the total number of active NHW schemes in Area 4 to ten.

Neighbourhood Watch can work very effectively in reducing the opportunity for crime and the fear of crime and can influence how funding is spent on crime reduction projects.

Working together through Neighbourhood Watch, residents can also benefit from an improved community spirit and a sense of 'togetherness'.

September 2008

Residents set switch-off time

Consultation with young people carried out by the Youth Service highlighted the need for lighting at the popular Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) in Maurice Lea Memorial Park, Church Gresley.

The young people consulted rejected plans for a new MUGA at Woodhouse Skate Park in favour of the lighting at Maurice Lea, emphasising its importance to them.

The floodlighting would enable them to use the MUGA after school throughout the year rather than just during the summer months when the evenings are light.

The installation of lighting would also mean there would be new opportunities for use of the facility by Youth Services, Youth Engagement Through Sport (YETS) and the Community Sports Coach programme.

Planning permission for the lighting had to be gained and consultation for this purpose with local residents resulted in the condition that the lights are switched off at 9pm.

The total cost of the lighting was £12,000. Derbyshire County Council provided £10,000 and the remaining £2,000 was awarded by the Safer South Derbyshire Partnership's Safer Neighbourhoods fund.

The project was delivered by South Derbyshire District Council with Groundwork Derby and Derbyshire acting as the project manager for the design, specification and



installation.

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, which 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 Neighbourhood area.

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

Reassurance for bowlers

Young people gathering are not necessarily doing anything wrong, but they can very occasionally prevent other people from doing the things they want to and this was the situation at the Indoor Bowling Centre in Gresley Old Hall.

Hundreds of people use the centre but the crowd of young people gathering around the building they needed to get into was sometimes so large bowlers went home rather than going through it.

A solution was needed that would keep the youngsters away from the entrance to the building at the times when the club was open, and after much investigation and discussion it was decided that the use of a mosquito device was best.

Gresley Old Hall Welfare Centre applied to Safer Neighbourhoods funds for £500 towards the scheme and was granted the money.

The device is only used when staff at the centre feel there is an issue with young people gathering. Staff say that the fact that centre users know it is there acts as a reassurance for them.

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