

teamwork

Keeping our Community Safe

Safer South Derbyshire Partnership

Area 2 (Mercia) 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 Mercia area Safer Neighbourhoods meeting is at 6:30pm on Tuesday, December 2 at Repton Village Hall

We hope to see you there!

More than 85 speeders in six weeks

Volunteers monitoring drivers' speeds in Repton and Milton have caught dozens of drivers exceeding the speed limit and say they are very pleased with the way their Community SpeedWatch project is going.

Residents in Repton and Milton had requested that they be given the opportunity to use the equipment at the Safer South Derbyshire Partnership's Safer Neighbourhoods meetings in the area and following appropriate training for the volunteers it was introduced early in July.

The camera operators make a note of the registration number, model and time of any vehicle they record exceeding the speed limit and these details are passed to the police. As a result they are sent a warning letter from Derbyshire Constabulary telling them what has happened and advising them further action could be taken.

From July 4 to August 7, 86 letters had



been sent out.

Carl Bilson, one of the volunteers taking part said: "The volunteers are pleased with the outcome so far. It is clear that seeing the blue and white signs and the yellow-vested volunteers reminds people to watch their speed.

"Whilst, unfortunately, the effect is transitory, with speeds increasing again once

the volunteers pack up for the day, it is hoped that the scheme has made all drivers mindful of the village speed limits.

"Interestingly, very few of those who have been caught speeding are from Repton, and this highlights the problem of the huge amount of traffic travelling through Repton because there is no sensible alternative route."

Andy Wright, Partnership Sergeant with Safer South Derbyshire, said: "We are pleased that the villagers are finding their work is having an impact on the speed at which vehicles travel through their area.

"We believe that a regular reminder over a three-month period can educate drivers about the speed limit and we hope this proves to be the case in Repton and Milton."

SpeedWatch will continue in Repton and Milton until the end of September.

September 2008

Milton club benefits from SN funding

The Krav Maga club meets on a weekly basis in the village hall in Milton to provide members with martial arts training.

Krav Maga is a modern and practical style of self-defence that the club says helps to make people feel safer and provides everyone with a positive activity. Its members range in age from 16 to 65.

The training provided deals with real life scenarios and helps people increase their personal safety.

To enable the club to cater for a growing membership it applied to the Safer South Derbyshire Partnership for Safer Neighbourhoods funding to help buy new equipment.

Shields, punch pads, shin guards, hand and feet protection, gym mats have been purchased with the

help of the £1,800 that was awarded.

The club says the equipment has made a huge difference and membership continues to grow, helping to reduce fear of crime, anti-social behaviour and violent crime.

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 Neighbourhoods area.

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

ed from Safer Neighbourhoods funding in the Mercia Safer Neighbourhoods area are Repton play equipment, lighting for The Pastures, Repton and rural positive activities in Willington, Findern and Repton.

Station demolished

An old pumping station building located on the bank of the River Trent at the end of Trent Lane in Newton Solney had been causing concern for some time.

The Parish Council had tried to establish ownership, but without success. Residents in the area were concerned that the 10 ft by 20ft structure with a flat concrete roof was a danger to children playing in the area and a potential "hiding hole" for drug takers and other law breakers.



The unsightly appearance of the building (above) also made residents and visitors to the area feel unsafe in an area of outstanding natural beauty.

The Safer South Derbyshire Partnership agreed to pay half towards the cost of demolishing the pumping station and removing the debris in an environmentally acceptable way.

Following the removal of the pumping station the Parish Council says that the area is safer and no longer offers a potential location for anti-social behaviour. They feel that the whole village and anyone visiting the area has benefited.

Other projects to have benefit-

Canal Watch

Completion of the Mercia Marina, between Willington and Findern, is just days away.

Co-inciding with the opening will be the launch of Canal Watch, which in effect is a Neighbourhood Watch scheme for those with boats based around the new marina.

The scheme has been created as a result of partnership working involving Safer South Derbyshire, the Police, Mercia Marina, SDDC and British Waterways.

Application packs for Canal Watch will largely be web-based, with the address being made public at the time of the official launch. Watch the local press and Safer South Derbyshire website for details.

The Police will have a room at Mercia Marina which will not be permanently staffed but they say residents will be welcome to call in if they see a police vehicle outside.

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