

# teamwork

## Keeping our Community Safe

Safer South Derbyshire Partnership

### Area 6 (South) Safer Neighbourhoods newsletter



**The next South area Safer Neighbourhoods meeting is at 6:30pm on Thursday, December 11 at Netherseal Village Hall. We hope to see you there!**

## 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 64<sup>th</sup> 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%.

## Vans become even handier!

Following the discussion at the June Safer Neighbourhoods Area 6 meeting about services available to older people, an announcement has been made that the Safer Homes scheme in South Derbyshire is being expanded and extended.

The original scheme was set up by the Safer South Derbyshire Partnership four years ago, to install safety and security measures such as door and window locks in the homes of vulnerable people.

And now, thanks to a successful joint bid by all the district and borough councils to the Regional Housing Board, a contribution from Derbyshire County Council and the involvement of other partners, a second "handy van" has been introduced.

As well as the security services offered by the existing van, the new van also carries out fire safety checks, fits smoke alarms, and installs items such as grab rails, all with the aim of helping people remain safe and mobile within their own homes.



In terms of everyone's home security, it is worth checking ahead of the dark nights that your doors and windows are secure and you have timer light switches if your property is often empty after dark.

Timer switches can be used to turn lights on when you are out and are also good for switching on electrical items like radios which create noise within a property.

## Order in place

Just days before the last Area 6 Safer Neighbourhoods meeting South Derbyshire Councillors approved the introduction of a designated public place order (DPPO) giving Police the power to confiscate any alcohol or alcohol containers from individuals in the Linton Road, Cedar Road and Besses Crescent areas of Castle Gresley.

Signage about the Order and paid for by the Safer South Derbyshire Partnership is now in place, allowing Police to use the powers of the DPPO.

The Order does not mean it is an offence to consume alcohol within the designated area, but if a police officer requests that someone in the area stop drinking and hand over the alcohol and they fail to do so, they are breaking the law.

September 2008

# Lights and camera action



Overseal Village Hall had been subjected to a number of vandal attacks resulting in broken windows, graffiti, door locks being jammed, door handles ripped off and gutters and downspouts torn down.

Fire doors installed on a Friday had the outer skin broken on Sunday and the inner skin smashed on Monday.

The cost of the damage ran into hundreds of pounds.

Overseal Parish Council felt that CCTV coverage and improved lighting to the car park would have a significant impact on the anti-social behaviour and criminal damage in the area and asked Safer Neighbourhoods for £2,500 towards the total £4,673 that the equipment and its installation would cost.

People attending the Area 6 Safer Neighbourhoods meeting thought this was a good idea and felt that it would benefit the whole village and not just the site of the village hall.

The security equipment has now been installed and does appear to be having the desired effect of preventing criminal damage and anti-social behaviour.

People in the area have been reassured too.

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 South Derbyshire District Council website [www.south-derbys.gov.uk](http://www.south-derbys.gov.uk) and from the Partnership.

## Platform for young people

The U-Magz project was an idea that came out of the Area 6 Safer Neighbourhoods meetings.

The project aimed to create a website for young people in the area which would provide them with a platform to air their views on local issues and eventually could be used to provide information and messages to the young people.

Derbyshire Youth Service gave £1,000 for the project and Safer Neighbourhoods funding provided the same amount.

A group was created under the leadership of a youth worker and with an IT software consultant. Also attending the weekly meetings were the two PCSOs for the area and this has led to good relationships between them and young people in the area.

The project has also encouraged young people to attend Safer Neighbourhoods meetings, ensuring that there is a good cross-section of the community involved in discussions and decision making.

## 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**