

# teamwork

## Keeping our Community Safe

Safer South Derbyshire Partnership

### Area 3 (North East) 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 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%.

**The next North East area Safer Neighbourhoods meeting is at 6:30pm on Tuesday, December 9 at Barrow Village Hall We hope to see you there!**

## Parking checks made at school

At the last Area 3 Safer Neighbourhoods meeting concerns were raised about parking on the road opposite the Junior and Infant schools in Melbourne.

It was pointed out that there are zig-zag lines down one side and the question was asked if a few tickets could be issued to help get the message about safe parking across.

PC Oliver has made enquiries at Police HQ about the zig-zag lines and has been told that these are advisory and not enforceable. He also made some visits to the school to observe the situation and to talk to parents about the need to park in ways that do not put children at risk.

Concerns about an increase in ASB in the Potter Street area of Melbourne were also raised. Patrols have been increased in the areas that were mentioned.

The Athenaeum is also helping. It has introduced its own form of anti-social behaviour contract, whereby any young person found to be involved in acts of anti-social behaviour in the Potter Street area is excluded from the club for a number of weeks.

The club says that it is there for young people to use, but at the same time it asks young people to respect its neighbours and the building when they visit.

**A SIGN OF GOOD PRACTICE ... new signs (right) reminding people not to leave items in their vehicles have been erected in several car parks in the area. Sites used by visitors as well as local residents have been selected as these are the types most often targeted by would-be offenders. It's always best to leave valuables out of sight in your vehicle and where possible to remove them completely.**



September 2008

# Footage praised



Aston on Trent Parish Council had worked with residents, voluntary groups, Neighbourhood Watch, parents and the police to look at an issue of young people gathering at various points in the village and subjecting residents and property to abusive and anti-social behaviour.

While some of the approaches dealt with some of the issues, a decision was eventually taken to install a small CCTV camera to monitor key areas in the village and to reassure residents and deter and reduce anti-social behaviour.

The Parish applied for £2,000 from the Safer Neighbourhoods Fund to put towards the total cost of £8,500 and was successful.

The high-resolution pan-tilt-zoom camera has been installed and can be remotely controlled by broadband to focus on a specific incident. It is centrally controlled by radio signal.

The Parish Council says that initially young people were not convinced that the camera could be used, but several pieces of footage have been passed to the police for follow-up action and the effectiveness of the camera appears to be being strengthened.

Reports about the way in which the camera has helped are sent to a quarterly village newsletter to keep residents reassured that it is being used to keep them safe.

Police have also praised the quality of the system and the footage that it provides.

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 local people are crucial to the development of safer neighbourhoods and is looking to encourage worthwhile proj-

ects, that will help reduce crime and the fear of crime.

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 South Derbyshire District is £30,000 per year, £5,000 per 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.

## Smart response is reassuring

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) co-ordinators in Ticknall applied for funding for SmartWater kits for use in properties which included older people's almshouses.

SmartWater is invisible to the naked eye but glows under ultra-violet light and is impossible to remove entirely. It is a forensically coded liquid with similar properties to DNA. It is used in properties and on items that might be stolen and means property can be linked without question to its owner and criminals to the crime scene.

Stickers saying that SmartWater has been used in the properties concerned are used to deter any would-be offenders.

The NHW co-ordinators showed householders how to apply the SmartWater and homes with a total of 46 residents benefited. Kits for empty properties have been retained for use when they become occupied.

Although it will take some time to see if burglary has been eradicated by installation of SmartWater protection the NHW group says the action, for which Safer Neighbourhoods funding provided £500, has had an immediate and very positive impact on fear of crime in the area.

## 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**