

South Cluster Safer Neighbourhoods Newsletter - Bexley



Dear residents,

Well the summer is over and the nights are drawing in, so please consider your security and leaving lights on a timer. If you need more crime prevention advice, please contact your Safer Neighbourhood team who will be pleased to assist or try the Operation bumblebee website.

Please feel free to use the following poster on your door for the Halloween period if you don't want to take part.



Trick or Threat A5
7-15 .pdf

Crime wise, we are still relatively low but are having some rise in criminal damage across the cluster. I am encouraging staff to increase the Neighbourhood Watch areas on their wards, especially where criminal damage has been taking place. It is a difficult crime to prevent as it is often random, with no apparent gain. We have also had an increase in theft from motor vehicles on Blackfen and Lamborbey, Blendon and Penhill and Cray Meadows wards. Many of these have been unlocked vehicles, number plates being stolen or workmen leaving their vehicles unlocked whilst they work nearby. If you are having building work or gardening done, please can you let them know that this is occurring. Anti theft/tamper number plate screws are available from your team or from DIY stores like Halfords and B & Q.

We are also supporting the national campaign on standing together against hate crime, across the UK. We are using the [#we stand together](#) hashtag.

Lynda Letchford.

Cray Meadows

It's been another busy time on Cray Meadows.

The team continues to work hard in conjunction with the Bexley Community Safety team and local housing associations to tackle ongoing Anti-Social Behaviour problems on the ward. We have been successful in obtaining an injunction; are seeking another and also a notice of statutory possession in tackling problem tenants. Through joint partnership working we will continue to deal robustly with individuals who cause problems in our community.

We continue our Street a Week Campaign and are on target to visit every street on our ward throughout the calendar year.

We have undertaken several drugs warrants at addresses on the ward which have led to significant finds of both Class A and Class B drugs, further updates on the associated prosecutions will be released in the future.

Regretfully we are currently seeing an increase in both motor vehicle thefts and reports of items being stolen from within vehicles. Of particular note is the theft of number plates from vehicles; it is recommended that all number plates are affixed to vehicles using "tamper proof screws". The general advice as always is always ensure your vehicle is left locked and secured, even if you are only going to be away for a short period of time, do not leave any articles on display, particularly small electrical items such as sat navs, phones and tablets.

Crayford

The team have been busy sharing information and good practice with our colleagues in Kent as criminals do not abide by boundaries. This joint partnership working is going well and intelligence is being gained. The team located a missing 6 year old child recently and we were all relieved. They have carried out several speed check operations, reporting offenders and keeping the roads of Crayford safe. They carried out a high visibility operation at the beginning of September tackling crime and ASB, in particular at The Dell and Dale Road. This resulted in several stop searches. Separately, arrests for drug searches have also been made.

For those of you linked to the team on social media, you will have seen PC Gardiner's find of a de-activated 40mm grenade. The bomb disposal people attended and checked it out. It certainly livened up a Saturday morning.

During the summer they also carried out some youth engagement events in the retail park discouraging the use of nitrous oxide canisters. This also served as a crime prevention stand and was well attended.

Sidcup and Blendon & Penhill

Over the summer months the team worked on youth engagement by attending the "Lark in the Park" event which is organised by the New Generation Church. This was open to all children and provides entertainment for all ages. Crime prevention advice was well received.

A report had been made regarding a theft where at 3am a male had been seen running off with a lawnmower from a rear garden. Using their knowledge of the area a local man was arrested for the offence. Sgt McNally and his ward team detained a robbery suspect after he made off from police. Officers surrounded the area where the male had been seen running into. Sgt McNally retrieved the male from under a bush. The male was charged with theft offences. Sgt McNally, PCs Payn and Humberstone also found a cannabis factory in a house. Plants and equipment were seized that were over £90,000 in value.

The Sidcup/Blendon and Penhill team is now on twitter - please follow them for updates and news.

Longlands

Longlands Team have been working hard to reduce the number of burglaries on the ward compared to the same period last year. During the summer months local officers have conducted plain clothes patrols in areas which have historically seen a slight increase. High visibility patrols have also been utilised on other occasions in order to show a police presence at peak times. The same approach has been taken against Theft from Motor Vehicle offences. The tactic of utilising plain clothes officers in targeted areas of the ward has seen theft from motor vehicle offences reduced by almost 50% compared to the same period last year. Longlands is the only ward to have seen a reduction in criminal damage. The staff at Queen Mary's hospital have also been receiving crime prevention advice regarding their vehicles.

Blackfen and Lamborbeay

The team have been working on the ward priorities. Burglary patrols in plain clothes and uniform to deter and detect suspicious activity and crime. In relation to motor vehicle crime, patrols have been carried out, owners of cars have been alerted where their cars are unlocked and follow up visits have been undertaken for victims of crime. Arrests have been made for theft from motor vehicle. Traffic and speeding offences have been tackled by patrols and roadside checks and drivers have been reported for not wearing seat belts and using a mobile phone whilst driving. We have been targeting patrols in Oakley Drive as well after residents have raised concerns about ASB in the area. Stops have been carried out. We have also carried out street briefings. If you would like the team to come to your road, please ask.

St. Mary's Ward

The St Mary's Team have been out on the streets canvassing for new members of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and are glad to report that there has been an increase of 10% taking the Ward to over 60% coverage and it's still increasing! St Marys have also been focusing on crime prevention, working in partnership with officers from Safer Transport at various cycle marking surgeries. There are two other events planned for 3rd October at Albany Park Church and 10th October at Bexley Village Library. The Team have also been back at Beth's Grammar School property marking the students' new mobile phones & gadgets, upon their return from the summer holidays. Officers from St Mary's recently held a Cyber Crime & Fraud prevention talk with the Women's Group at the United Reform Church, which was very well received. Following up the other prevention work St Mary's have booked the Crime Prevention Bus which hopefully will be sited centrally in the Village between 13th and 14th November and will be on hand to offer crime prevention advice and property marking etc, the Team will confirm the exact location in due course.

The recent Ward Panel Meeting renewed the Wards Priorities, which are now:

- *Reduction Burglary
- *Vehicle Crime & Road Safety
- *Neighbourhood Watch

The Team have also been engaged in a pro active operation aimed at combating theft from builders vans parked in the Village. During the period of the operation no further offences have been reported.