

TAKEnote

Bermondsey Community Council



Notes from the meeting on Wednesday September 7 2005
 Aylwin Girls School,
 55 Southwark Park Road, SE16 3TZ

Issue no. 3

southwark.gov.uk/communitycouncil

Crime and community safety special

- Latest on crime and anti-social behaviour in Bermondsey from Jonathon Toy, Southwark Council's head of community safety
- Youth and crime prevention projects
- Housing talk to us about how they're tackling anti-social behaviour
- You tell us what you think

"Report more crime" says head of community safety

In October 2003, a petition was handed to Bermondsey Community Council about the death of a 13 year old local boy, killed by a speeding motorcyclist on Rolls Road. Since then Southwark council has looked at many ways to get motorcyclists to reduce their speed.

While it's clear from what you say that many motorbike incidents occur on a daily basis, between April and July 2005 only two motorbike incidents were reported to the council's anti-social behaviour unit.

"Without you reporting these incidents", Jonathon Toy, head of community safety emphasised: "problems can't be identified and resources cannot be directed to the right place. Without your help, it's difficult to get information about criminals to bring them to justice."

Locking points, which are being installed around the borough, and vehicle marking are just two of many solutions.

A project has been set up to combat nuisance caused by young car and motorbike drivers in the area. The motor project@Bermondsey gives young people a place to learn about cars, motorbikes and

their engines. The youngsters also do fun activities such as scrambling, quad biking and riding motorbikes, safely. Since the project opened in April seven students have received certificates of achievement.

Also encouraging, is that in Bermondsey crime rates have dropped by two percent in the first quarter of 2004-5. This compares with a borough-wide increase of one percent. Violent crime however remains a concern. Jonathon Toy said that more work would be done in the main 'hotspots' – the Old Kent Road and Coopers Road. The council is also forging closer links with Bede House to support their domestic violence initiatives. And anti-bullying and gang related programmes should help reduce violent crime.

The Four Squares is a hotspot for deliberate fires, but arson on the Four Squares has reduced recently as a result of interventions by the Council and the fire services, and more community liaison.

The launch of the new 'Together Action Zone' (TAZ) aims to improve the quality of life for residents by coordinating the work of emergency services, victim support, the council, schools, health services and the voluntary sector. Our local TAZ will be reporting to the community council regularly.



To report an ASB incident call the dedicated 'It's Your Call' hotline on 020 7525 5777

To find out where the motorcycle locking points are, visit the Bermondsey Community Council web page. Click on 'community council', then 'agendas and minutes', then 'reports' under the details for the September 7 meeting: www.southwark.gov.uk/YourCommunity/Bermondsey



Wardens scheme to be extended across the borough

Community wardens are a visible presence in Southwark and act as the eyes and ears of the community. They work closely with the police, particularly in providing intelligence. It was announced at the meeting that the wardens' scheme will be extended to include the whole of Bermondsey from November.

To find out more about wardens in Bermondsey visit your local blue beat office in Blue Market Square, speak to a warden on patrol or call 020 7232 1470

Policing in Bermondsey

On Astley Cooper Estate steps are being taken to resolve illegal residents squatting and using the premises to take and sell drugs, and for other criminal activity such as prostitution.

Progress is being made on youth anti-social behaviour (ASB) on Avondale Square with police holding surgeries every three weeks and regular meetings with estate managers. They are also making themselves more visible and working closely with the police community support officers (PSCOs).

Young people and crime in Bermondsey

The Southwark Alliance and South Bermondsey Partnership are running several projects to give young people more to do and provide them with more information on issues that concern them. These range from funding outings to drama workshops, the motor project @ Bermondsey, and information on teenage pregnancy and sexual health. Crime prevention work is happening through drugs education in schools, fun days on estates and anti-bullying programmes.

To find out more contact:

- For central Bermondsey: Jenny Couper, 020 7064 1556, email jenny.couper@southwark.gov.uk
- For south Bermondsey: Bimal Kotecha, 020 7525 1761, email bimal.kotecha@southwark.gov.uk
- For west Bermondsey: Matthew Rees, 020 7525 4929, email matthew.rees@southwark.gov.uk

Housing and anti-social behaviour

The council's housing department is working with Southwark anti-social behaviour unit (Sasbu) to tackle ASB. The housing community support team is experienced in dealing with hate crimes, such as racial harassment, domestic violence and homophobic abuse.

Staff are being trained to issue fixed penalty notices (FPNs) for graffiti, flytipping and dog fouling and these will be issued from November.

Housing have set standards meaning they must set up a case file within two days, arrange an interview within 24 hours where violence is involved, make an appointment to visit you within 10 days and review the case after 28 days. Referrals to Sasbu should take place five days after the case is reviewed and normally both parties are interviewed to check the facts.

The Four Squares will soon have entry phones and CCTV installed. Door entry systems will be installed on nine other blocks, and play areas are planned for particular estates.

Housing is contacting tenants and resident associations (TRAs) about using halls for young people and are also looking into donating second hand computers.

Contact Leigh Richman, acting area housing manager, on 020 7525 2626 or email leigh.richman@southwark.gov.uk

What you said...

People were concerned about duplication of services and felt resources could be better used.

Residents from Dartford, Hartley and Fairby House complained about faulty lifts and windows. Cllr Flannery acknowledged that lift failure and vandalism were concerns and assured residents that repairs would happen soon.

Four Squares residents are too frightened to attend TRA meetings because of gangs. Cllr Flannery will conduct a 'walkabout' in the autumn with the chair of the TRA and council staff.

Jonathon Toy said he is chairing a gangs, guns and knives forum at the Greater London Assembly (GLA). This aims to increase knowledge about gangs to see how they might be best tackled in London. Locally, a fortnightly gangs meeting takes place which residents can attend.

Feedback was that this community safety meeting was helpful and felt that it should be held twice a year.

If you would like to discuss the problem of gangs, the next fortnightly meetings to address this issue are on October 4 and 18 2005, at 5pm at the Science & Technology Centre, Wilson Road, London, SE5. (Meeting subject to change) To find out more contact Rod McIntyre on 020 7232 6790 or 07901 685882

Your next Bermondsey meeting is on Monday October 3 2005, from 7pm at Aylwin Girls School, 55 Southwark Park Road, SE16 3TZ

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