



# **WIDNES BLUE LAMP REPORT January – March 2014 Q1**

**Sergeant 3815 Jackson**

**Widnes Neighbourhood Policing Unit**

## **Town Centre**

### **Our priorities this quarter have been:**

- Priority 1 - High visibility policing, crime prevention and community engagement
- Priority 2 - Retail crime and shoplifting offences
- Priority 3 - Anti-social behaviour

### ***You said:***

- 1) Meet the public with campaigns and promotions with partner agencies
- 2) Continue to target known shoplifters and deter others
- 3) Foot patrols to deter alcohol related and other ASB related incidents

### ***We did:***

The local Town Centre Police Community Support Officers conduct high visibility patrols in the town centre every day from 8am until all the business premises close. They focus on premises targeted by prolific offenders and work in partnership with the local CCTV – Shopwatch. They have been effective in deterring crime within the town centre and vigilant in identifying suspects and persons wanted on warrant. They attend all incidents of anti-social behaviour and deal with them effectively. They continually gather intelligence in the town and assist in incidents as described below:

### **Town Centre News**

On the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2014, a 24 year old female from the Merseyside area was detained for shoplifting at Morrison's and tried to stab security staff with a syringe.

Local Police Community Support Officers were at the store at the time and assisted in restraining and detaining the female. No-one was injured. The female was later charged with 6 offences including stabbing a customer with the syringe at another Morrison's store in Lancashire.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2014, a 26 year old female from the Riverside area was arrested and cautioned after committing a theft at ASDA.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2014, a 44 year old prolific male shoplifter of no fixed address from the Runcorn area was arrested and charged with a theft at Wilkinson's.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2014, two elderly males, aged 79 and 90 were victims of a pickpocket on a local bus. Vigilant work from the local PCSOs assisted in the arrest and charge of a 50 year old male from the Liverpool area. The male received a 3 year jail sentence.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2014, a 52 year old male from the Runcorn area was arrested and charged with a theft from Morrisons.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2014, a 20 year old female and a 19 year old male from the Merseyside area were arrested and charged with theft from Marks and Spencer. The couple were in company with a baby. The male also received a formal cannabis warning.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2014, Police Community Officers Stewart Wimbleton and Adam Coogan attended at Wetherspoons where a 44 year old male from the Runcorn area was believed to be selling razors. The officers detained the male until police officers arrived and searched the male. The search was negative. The officers also served a Section 27 notice on the male. Section 27 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006, gives officers a power to give an individual direction to leave the vicinity after being involved in alcohol related anti-social behaviour. If the male returned within the next 24 hours then he would be arrested.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2014, a 23 year old male from the Appleton area was arrested and charged following a theft at Wilkinsons. The male was also wanted in connection to another offence.

Vigilant Police Community Support Officer Stewart Wimbleton spotted a 41 year old female prolific shoplifter from the Ditton area in a River Island store who appeared to be about to commit an offence. The officer kept overt observations on the female until she eventually left the store empty handed. The female was also banned from the store.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2014, a 29 year old prolific offender from the Hough Green area was arrested and charged with theft from New Look and Marks and Spencer. The male made off from officers but was chased and detained on a local bus.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2014, a 32 year old male from the Farnworth area was pursued, arrested and charged for theft from B&Q. The male was sighted and detained by local PCSO paschal Sheeran.

A 38 year old prolific male shoplifter from the Kingsway area was remanded in custody for 6 months for shoplifting within the town.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2014, a 24 year old local prolific shoplifter from the Appleton area was arrested for a theft from Superdrug, theft from Morrison's and a breach of his anti-social behavioural order (ASBO).

## **Appleton, Kingsway and Riverside**

### ***You Said:***

- 1) Off-Road bikes around Stewards Avenue/King Georges Fields
- 2) Youths causing anti-social behaviour in Alice Court
- 3) Deal with alcohol related anti-social behaviour on West Bank Promenade

### ***We did:***

Over the past several months we have had numerous problems around King Georges Fields regarding off-road bikes and other anti-social behaviour. The anti-social behaviour has now decreased dramatically after an operation was put in place to combat the issues. Extra patrols were allocated to the areas, police officers and Police Community Support Officers were deployed on foot, in unmarked patrol cars and on off-road motorbikes. We also utilised the police marked Land Rover which has on and off road capability. A lot of youths in the area were stopped and spoken to and several vehicles were seized.

We have given lots of extra attention to Alice Court with Police Community Support Officers attending there on foot almost every day. We have hand delivered letters to all the local residents in the area to generate a full picture of the issues and to give advice on how to report matters. We have stop checked a number of local youths and submitted relevant notifications. These notifications go to our Community Safety Team who follow up with letters to the parents of any youths involved in anti-social behaviour.

We have increased our patrols in the area of West Bank promenade and work closely with the local business premises. We continue to provide reassurance with our high visibility policing of the area. We have stopped local youths in the area to gather intelligence and locate the source of the alcohol provided.

## **COP STARS**

In January, Police Community Support Officer's Caroline Griffiths and Maggie Sumner have given 4 presentations to Year 5 & 6 pupils at West Bank, Simms Cross, St. Gerards and Halebank Primary schools. This month, the presentations have been about anti-social Behaviour. The programme encourages the children to get to know their local PCSO's and improve their confidence in policing, encourages them to be safe, to get involved in community activities, to care for their local area and engage with their neighbourhood policing team.



PCSO Caroline Griffiths and PCSO Maggie Sumner

The focus in February for Cop Stars is Internet Safety & Cyberbullying. Both Maggie and Caroline have been into several schools speaking to the children and giving them a presentation which includes a Q&A sessions plus watching a video

- 10 February 2014, St. Gerards Primary Cop Stars (Internet Safety & Bullying)
- 11 February 2014, Farnworth Primary presentation on Internet Safety & Bullying
- 13 February 2014, Hale Village Primary presentation on Internet Safety & Cyberbullying
- 14 February – Halebank Primary Cop Stars (Internet Safety & Bullying)
- 25 February 2014, West Bank Primary Cop Stars (Internet Safety & Bullying)
- 26 February 2014, Simms Cross Primary Cop Stars (Internet Safety & Bullying)

In March 2014, Caroline and Maggie also attended at All Saints School, All Saints Infants (Reception Class) and Ashley School, Broadheath to speak to the children about 'The Role of the Police' and a 'Good Citizen' which included a presentation (asking the children what vehicles we used, what animals help the Police, good strangers & bad strangers were some on the topics). The children were able to try on police hats, body armour, police jackets and see handcuffs. They also were able to sit in a patrol vehicle which they really enjoyed.

PCSO Caroline Griffiths said, "The presentations were well received, the children enjoyed the day especially when trying the hats on. It also led to some interesting questions!"

PCSO Griffiths also added that due to the success of the 'Cop Stars' presentations they are receiving more requests from other local schools and these will continue until June 2015.

### **Birchfield, Broadheath and Hough Green**

#### ***You said:***

- 1) Anti social behaviour around the shops on Bechers and the Park.
- 2) Shoplifting/anti-social behaviour Morrison's Stores, Queensbury way
- 3) Vehicles taking a short cut across the land that links Heathfield Park to Cornerhouse Lane
- 4) Speeding Prescott Road and Hough Green Road

#### ***We did:***

High visibility policing and targeting of offenders has seen a decrease in anti social behaviour in the Bechers area. Whilst anti-social behaviour has decreased it does not mean the problem has gone. Extra attention and reassurance will continue in this area and work with partner agencies such as the Addaction team to engage with youths in the area and assist in diverting them from this area and from the issues they may cause.

Morrison's on Queensbury way has had an increase in shoplifting. There has been an increase in anti social behaviour outside of the store with youths congregating. The area has been given extra attention by foot and mobile police patrols to deter youths congregating who can be intimidating to customers offering reassurance and preventing anti social behaviour. Both the Co Op stores have been visited regularly giving a high visibility deterrent. Liasion with the management of the stores has assisted in making it more difficult for offenders to commit offences.

Over the past 12 months or so there have been reports of vehicles taking a short cut across a piece of land that links Heathfield Park to Cornerhouse Lane. These vehicles have reportedly been involved in a couple of near misses with members of the public who were walking on their own, with a dog or a small child.

Police Community Officer Paschal Sheeran sent a detailed email to Councillor Sandra Baker about this issue requesting bollards to be put in place, in order to prevent the vehicles cutting through.

Halton Borough Council staff Mick Noon and Joanne Brussels then responded to this request. Halton Borough Council have just finished installing bollards at the Cornerhouse Lane side of the piece of land.



The area before the bollards were erected.



The area after the bollards were erected

During this period Police Community Support Officer Paul Mines conducted speed enforcement in the following areas:

- Prescot Road to Widnes
- Hough Green Road to Upton Rocks.

No offending drivers were detected at the times we carried out the enforcement but we will continue to conduct them.

### ***Hough Green, Broadheath and Birchfield news***

On the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2014, Cheshire Police received two reports of a male on an off-road motorbike who had 'clipped' another vehicle and drove off. With the assistance of air support ( police helicopter) the officers on the ground were directed to the location of the offender. The offender was arrested for dangerous driving, failing to stop after a traffic accident, no insurance and no licence.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2014, an off road motorbike was seized at St Michaels View after two male made off.





The seized motorbike

On the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2014, a male was sighted by officers riding a suspected stolen mountain bike in the area. The bike was dumped on King George playing fields and the male made off. A 15 year old male from the Broadheath area was later arrested.

A Driver Engagement Day in partnership with Cheshire Fire and Rescue took place on the 7<sup>th</sup> February at St Basils Club, Hough Green Road. Police Community Support Officer Colin Marples also took part. The aim of the event is to identify drivers committing an offence, e.g speeding, no seatbelt, using a mobile phone and engage with them. Members of the public are given the opportunity to watch a short video in relation to the offence they have committed to educate rather than prosecute.

A further Driver Engagment Day took place on the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at the playing fields car park, Prescot Road/ Hough Green Road. Police Community Support Officers Paschal Sheeran and Kathryn Waite took part

## **Farnworth and Halton View**

### ***You said:***

- 1) Fly Tipping Factory Lane
- 2) Traffic issues at end of school time around the local schools
- 3) Derby Road speeding & Traffic issues regarding parking near to the Co-Op store.
- 4) Anti-social behaviour – St Pius church

### ***We did:***

Police Community Support Officer for the area Steven Hill has patrolled the area on a regular basis over the last month and has come across the fly tipping of tyres twice. Police Community Support Officer Hill has arranged for these tyres to be removed on both occasions and is currently making enquiries into who is responsible for this ongoing problem. Residents are being encouraged to contact Cheshire Police or Halton Borough Council if they have any further information.

Parking offences continue to be a problem around the local schools especially at the end of school time. Those highlighted are Moorfield Primary School and St.John Fisher Primary School

Local Police Community Support Officers, Steven Hill & Chris Blakemore continue to patrol the schools at key times in an attempt to deter illegal parking and deal with any accordingly. The officers have also linked in with the local schools, working together to solve the problem by sending letters to parents.

**Officers will be issuing fixed penalty notices where appropriate**

Derby Road there were complaints from motorists regarding the parking of vehicles. Vehicles were parking on the corner outside the shops, which is an offence as the double yellow lines are clearly visible. Police Community Support Officer Steven Hill distributed leaflets to residents in the area regarding these complaints along with foot patrolling the area at key times.

Derby Road parking problems are a lot quieter since the junction was changed by the council. Advisories have been given recently and the problem remains a quiet one currently, however still a priority. **Officers will issue fixed penalty tickets where appropriate.**

St.Pius Church patrols have proven fruitful in recent weeks with stop checks. The hut from inside the grounds has also been removed leading to a huge decrease in activity here.

## **Farnworth and Halton View news**

Bridewell Court has been supported their charity events by Widnes Police. Police Community Support Officer Hill and the property officer manager have donated various items throughout the year to help raise money for the nominated charities.

## **Ditton/Hale Bank and Hale Village**

### ***You said:***

- 1) Speeding Ramsbrook Lane and Hale Road
- 2) Antisocial behaviour in the Ditton area – Queens Avenue
- 3) car crime issues – Hale Village

### ***We did:***

During this quarter Police Community Support Officer Stephen Marnick carried out a speed assessment with members of the public on Hale Road and Ditchfield road to help deter motorists from committing offences

PCSO Marnick has also carried out speed enforcement on:

11<sup>th</sup> February 2014 - Speed enforcement Ramsbrook Lane - 2 drivers prosecuted

11<sup>th</sup> February 2014 - Speed enforcement Halegate Rd - 4 drivers prosecuted

26<sup>th</sup> February 2014 - Speed enforcement Ramsbrook Lane – 1 driver prosecuted



Speed Enforcement initiatives can identify a variety of offences as well as being a deterrent to motorists.

Police Community Support Officer for the area Maggie Sumner has patrolled numerous times across the area including Queens Avenue and Lodge Road. Reports of problems at Queens Avenue shops have reduced due to high visibility foot and mobile patrols. A visible presence continues to deter any offences and offer reassurance to the residents, the shop and their customers

The number of vehicle crime-related incidents has reduced since Police Community Support Officer Stephen Marnick in partnership with Halton Borough Council, designed and erected signs to help prevent incidents of car crime in Hale village.



### ***Ditton and Hale news***

Positive feedback was received by PCSO Marnick from the Hale Village parish council meeting in February regarding the use of the ANPR – Automated Number Plate Recognition system. The system reads registration plates and highlights any issues with the vehicle or occupants

Crime prevention action by PCSO Marnick in the Edinburgh Road area resulted in leaflets being posted through residents doors regarding door step callers. Cheshire Police do receive calls of bogus callers and the advice is simple –be cautious, check ID and do not let anyone in that you are not 100% happy with. If in any doubt – ring the police

Police Community Support Officer Stephen Marnick has assisted elderly residents in the area with smoke alarms and Age UK visits

