

Welcome to the August edition of the Safer Ashfield Bulletin

The Safer Ashfield Bulletin is the new name for the ASB Bulletin. Following the positive feedback on the ASB Bulletin, we've decided to expand and provide even more updates and information on efforts to reduce not only anti-social behaviour but other crime types too, including domestic violence, and violent and acquisitive crime.

Respect for Ashfield Roadshows

Four roadshows are being held across the Ashfield District during August and early September. The aim of these events is to promote the work that is being done by all partner agencies to tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB). The roadshows provide the opportunity for people to talk to partners about their concerns and find out what is being done to address them. Over 300 ASB questionnaires have already been completed. A range of activities will also be on offer to children and young people.

The remaining roadshows will take place from 10am to 3pm on 28 August at Portland Square, Sutton-in-Ashfield and on 4 September at the Co-op car park (formerly Somerfield) in Selston.

Crackdown on littering

Ashfield District Council launched its first Litter Crackdown in Sutton-in-Ashfield during the week commencing 9 August.

During a two hour period, Community Protection Officers (CPOs) issued a total of 17 Fixed Penalty Notices, although many people were happy to take notice of advice from the officers and disposed of their rubbish responsibly.

Warnings issued to boy racers

Officers from Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottinghamshire Police are sending out warnings to car cruisers who use the area around Junction 27 of the M1 as a racing circuit.

Notices are being handed out to boy racers who congregate in the area on a Sunday night to warn them that they could face action.

The posters and leaflets warn that cameras are being installed in the area this summer and the Police will be carrying out regular patrols to tackle irresponsible car cruisers.

Community Payback

Community Payback is a punishment for offenders which involves tough, physical work on projects that benefit the community. In 2009/10 offenders completed approximately 44,000 hours in the Mansfield and Ashfield area – making the community a safer and more attractive place to be.

The scheme is run by Nottinghamshire Probation Trust who often work in partnership with other agencies.

Work that has been done in the Ashfield District includes:

- working with Ashfield District Council to tidy up and cut back planted areas and hedgerows in Brierley Park, Sutton-in-Ashfield
- painting two Community Shops in Hucknall for Ashfield Homes, and
- carrying out seasonal grass cutting at Annesley Church — making this part of the Byron tourist trail more pleasant for locals and visitors.

Community Payback also helps prevent the likelihood of re-offending by providing a chance to gain qualifications in practical subjects such as gardening, painting or decorating.

For more information, contact the Nottinghamshire Probation Trust's Community Payback team on 0115 8455123 or visit their website www.nottinghamshire-probation.co.uk

Successful fly-tipping prosecution

The owner of a tattoo studio in Sutton-in-Ashfield has been fined a total of £890.

Rory Langham of Fantasy Fineline Tattoo Studios, Outram Street, Sutton-in-Ashfield appeared at Mansfield Magistrates Court on 30 June 2010 charged with two offences. The first being that on or around 8 June 2009, he failed to take reasonable steps to secure that the transfer of commercial waste from his business premises, was to an authorised person. The second being that on 4 August 2009, he failed to comply with a notice served on him by Ashfield District Council Neighbourhood Enforcement Officers which required him to give information relevant to a fly-tipping incident which had occurred on Homewood Drive, Kirkby-in-Ashfield.

Dragons Den success

An exciting new project based at the Skegby Scout Hut and Quarrydale School is encouraging young people to engage in diversionary activities rather than hang about in their communities and perhaps get involved in ASB.

The Dragons Den Project initially involved local secondary schools in Ashfield who were asked to come up with a plan to reduce ASB in their area. The winning proposal

came from Quarrydale School for the development of diversionary activities linked to outreach work amongst young people.

The project, which runs at Skegby Scout Hut and Quarrydale Youth Centre, has been nominated for a Divisional Commendation by Nottinghamshire Police A Division which will be awarded on the 8 September.

Funding was provided by Ashfield Partnership Against Crime, Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottinghamshire Police Authority to buy equipment for the project and to ensure that it is available as frequently as possible — particularly on Fridays and at weekends.

Dragons Den will be run with Ashfield schools again in the autumn with a theme of Building Bridges across the Generations. For more information about the project, contact Adrian Dudley on 07880 500 572.

Domestic abuse outreach services

Nottinghamshire Women's Aid offers outreach services to women in the Ashfield District who have experienced or are currently experiencing domestic abuse. They currently run a regular weekly drop-in at Ashfield Voluntary Action in Sutton-in-Ashfield on Mondays from 10am to 12pm. The drop-in allows any woman affected by domestic abuse the opportunity to access one to one information, practical and emotional support, referral or signposting to relevant services.

The 12 week Freedom Programme has been delivered in Sutton-in-Ashfield at the Zion Centre in partnership with Summerhouse Children's Centre. This programme aims to raise women's awareness and increase knowledge of abuser and perpetrator behaviours, tactics and beliefs. It also assists women with recognising potential future abusers and illustrates the effects of domestic abuse on children.

Successful littering prosecution

A man from Sutton-in-Ashfield has been fined a total of £874.32 for dropping a cigarette butt onto the pavement. Lee Roberts was originally fined by Ashfield District Council for dropping the butt onto the path at Healdswood Recreational Ground in Skegby, Sutton-in-Ashfield on 20 January. After failure to pay the fine, Roberts was due to appear in Mansfield Magistrates Court on Wednesday 23 June, however, he failed to attend and the case proceeded without him. The magistrate ruled against Roberts and in his absence, imposed a fine of £525 plus costs which amounted to a total of £874.32.

Parenting support programmes

In July, 12 families in Hucknall and Kirkby-in-Ashfield successfully completed parenting and family programmes. As a result, they are communicating better with one another, the young people who were not attending school have had meetings to look at how they are going to start back, relationships between parents and their children have improved and parents' mental health has improved.

A Strengthening Families Programme has started at the Bunker youth centre which is attached to Sutton Centre College. The group runs from 10am to 1pm every Wednesday throughout the summer holidays and then from 3.30pm to 6.30pm when the schools are back. This is due to finish on 29 September 2010.

New Communications Officer

As of 5 July, Emma Sowter joined the team as Communications Officer for Ashfield Partnership Against Crime and Mansfield Partnership Against Crime. Emma will be based in Ashfield on Thursdays and Fridays and in Mansfield from Monday to Wednesday. Please contact Emma with any future articles or updates on 07943 095 830 or email e.sowter@ashfield-dc.gov.uk

The Safer Ashfield Bulletin forms part of a wider programme of communications activity under the Respect for Ashfield header. This is designed to encourage and promote respect for Ashfield by showing local people how organisations are working in partnership to tackle ASB across the district, and keeping them informed of current developments and achievements.

If you have any news which you would like to submit for a future issue of the Safer Ashfield Bulletin, please contact Emma Sowter (e.sowter@ashfield-dc.gov.uk) or telephone 07943 095 830.