

Community Safety News

The newsletter of the Burnley Community Safety Partnership

Issue 5 Summer 2004



Community Safety Partnership TV

Burnley's latest TV "station" went 'live at the end of May - with the aim of making the borough a safer place. The system was launched at a ceremony held at Turf Moor. Nick Ross of the BBC Crimewatch programme pushed the button to start the system watched by more than 100 people including Lord Tony Clarke.

Using the latest broadband technology, community safety advice and emergency information, as well as other information about local services, news, sport and weather is broadcast on 10 TV screens sited across Burnley town centre and outlying locations.

The venues are: Asda café, Gala Bingo, Burnley Borough Council benefits and taxation banking hall in Parker Lane, Tesco café, both McDonald's sites, Hospital Outpatients, Kath's Bus station café, Padiham medical centre and Brun House. These sites were chosen because they all have an audience that remain static for a few minutes or more.



The rolling programmes are up to 40 minutes long and, because it uses broadband technology rather than a CD rom or DVD system, the programme can be updated at ten minutes notice. This means the system can be used in emergencies, for example to help locate missing persons. As well as including information and advice aimed at reducing crime and the fear of crime, the programmes are being used to promote civic pride. The programmes also include information on the latest community safety initiatives such as the Operation Red Card crackdown on litter, dog fouling, fly tipping and other associated anti social behaviour.

The cost of setting up the system and running it for a year has been met through Home Office funding as well as contributions from the Council and the Community Safety Partnership. Further funding will be sought to continue the project into subsequent years if the initiative is judged a success.

The Community Safety Partnership will retain editorial control over the programmes through a co-ordination group. Anyone who has any suggestions regarding the content or would like an initiative shown on the screens should contact Anne Mullin on 477135

Town centre clamp down on begging...

Town centre agencies (Town Centre Management, Police, Charter Walk Shopping Centre, Burnley Community Safety Partnership) have launched a hard hitting poster campaign, funded by Burnley Community Safety Partnership, urging the public not to give money directly to beggars in the town centre as most of it is likely to be used to fund serious and potentially life threatening addictions to drugs such as heroin and crack cocaine.

The campaign is very direct and aims to highlight the link between begging and drug issues, and encourages the public to donate money only through official channels such as buying the 'Big Issue' magazine or by donating money in the donation box located in the Customer Service office of the shopping centre. The posters will be displayed around the town centre and will also feature on the new Community Safety TV screens.

Beggars in the town centre have been a problem for the last five years. There are six or seven regulars who can make up to £50 a day begging in the town centre.



This campaign is part of a series of initiatives to tackle anti-social behaviour in the town centre such as begging, shoplifting, litter, graffiti removal and fly posting.

One of the beggars has recently been served with an anti-social behaviour order that now excludes him from entering the town centre.

"The message is clear - if the public do not give them any money, they won't keep coming back" says Lisa Durkin, Town Centre manager.

We want the public to think and act on another level - change the way you give. If you really want to help the homeless, donate your money in legitimate ways to

registered charities, so you know your money will help them in a positive way and not just to feed a drug addiction.



Postal Scam

Lancashire County Council Trading Standards Service is warning residents to be on their guard for parcel collection cards that are being sent through the post.

The card states that the recipient has an overseas parcel waiting for delivery and is instructed to telephone 0906 661 0320 in order to arrange collection.

However, small print on the card states that the call is to a premium rate telephone number charged at £1.50 per minute and can last for up to seven minutes. The card is sent out by a business calling itself Parcel Plus.

Please let LCC Trading Standards know if you receive such a card on 01772 533536.

Operation Red Card

This initiative has been in full swing for over two months at the time of going to press. So far -

- 65 tonnes of rubbish have been cleared by the 'Rapid response crew'
- 9 community clean-ups have taken place
- two DVLA 'blitzes' have resulted in 29 untaxed or abandoned vehicles have been either removed or clamped
- 203 notices have been served on the owners of rubbish filled back yards
- 48 warning letters and 28 fixed penalty notices issued for dog fouling and littering
- work with schools & headteachers to address the problems of littering around schools
- The Fire Service has reported a 50% reduction in deliberate fires compared to the same period last year.



This is an excellent example of partnership working between Burnley Borough Council, Lancashire County Council, Fire Service, Police and other organisations to tackle "enviro-crime" across the borough. We still need your help. To report offenders ring the Red Card Hotline on 664518

Alleygating

You may have noticed as you travel around the borough that the first wave of alleygates are currently being installed.

This initiative follows on from a highly successful pilot scheme at the rear of Athol St South and the success of similar schemes in other parts of the country. It is an example of excellent partnership working between Burnley Borough Council, Lancashire County Council, Fire service, Police & local residents.

In total 43 Streets benefited from the scheme in the first wave which was paid for by the European Urban II, Building Safer Communities, and Elevate funding streams.

Alleygates are basically sets of lockable gates at the entrance to back streets. In the past the residents of these streets have been the victims of crime and anti social behaviour. The gates should deter this type of activity and allow the

residents to enjoy a better quality of life. This has definitely been the case in Athol St South. The residents have come together since the gates were erected and the back street has been transformed with new fencing and tarmac. Most now have flower displays outside their properties. There has not been any crime reported.

A further 20 streets are to be gated this year and, subject to funding, the scheme will be continued next year. This year's streets have already been selected. Any queries please contact Anne Mullin 477135.

FREE Fire Safety Advice

Action group activity

The Road Safety action group staged a •mock• road traffic accident at the end of June. The event was held on Padiham road near to George IV pub. Fire, Police and Ambulance service attended the simulation, which involved two vehicles and a group of cyclists. Actors from Accrington and Rossendale College and Habergham High School were •made-up• with fake injuries to act as casualties and they did an excellent job.

The only disappointment of the day was the air ambulance. They were scheduled to touch down on the nearby school playing fields but were called to an incident in

Rossendale while en-route.

The motive behind the exercise was to raise awareness of the dangers of excess speed, drink driving and not wearing seat belts.

The alcohol action group have also been busy recently - they held an awareness day in Burnley Town centre which incorporated a competition for secondary school children to design a mouse mat depicting the dangers of drinking

alcohol underage. The winning entry will be reproduced on mouse mats, which will be distributed to Burnley Schools. Entry forms for the competition can be obtained from Ian Potter 477273

