



NEWSLETTER

November 2003

Anti Social Behaviour & Criminal Damage

Following on from several complaints regarding the playing of football on Holden Street car park a need has been identified for an alternative site where young people can play safely. St Michaels and St Johns school have been approached for permission to site an all weather pitch within the grounds of the school. Although this has been talked about for several months without progress it is still potentially one of the best solutions to juvenile nuisance in Holden Street/Brotherton Meadow area of Clitheroe.

A One Day Count of Anti Social Behaviour took place on 10th September 2003 instigated by the Home Office. 312 letters were sent out to organisations throughout the Borough requesting that on that Wednesday they noted the numbers of incidents. The incidents to be recorded ranged from animal related problems and litter to drug/substance misuse and prostitution. Of the 312 sent out, 131 incidents were recorded. Home Office totals received amounted to 66,107 reports of anti social behaviour made between midnight on Tuesday and midnight on Wednesday. This equates to one report every 2 seconds!

Mytton Fold was the venue for an event called 'Streetwise' which took place the first week of July. This initiative aims to keep Year 6 pupils (top year at Primary School) safe during the summer holidays, this group is identified as most at risk of injury during this period. Several agencies attended; Fire and Rescue, United Utilities, Northern Rural Partnership, Blackburn Rovers, PCT and Ribble Valley Crime and Disorder Partnership. The Partnership funded the venue when previously identified funding fell through. There are currently plans to repeat Streetwise in 2004, at a venue to be announced, once the evaluation has been completed. Funding for this event will be shared amongst participating partners.

The Quality of Life Officer (John Barber) ran a 'SPOOKS' event during half term, which involved a football tournament at both Longridge and Clitheroe on each day of the holidays culminating in a penalty shoot out competition on the Friday the winner, received a football. Disappointingly only 75 youngsters attended the event, but the event will probably be run at the next half term in February with more publicity and more agencies involved to organise the week. Peter Fletcher provided coaching on three of the days and we are indebted to him for his help.

Property Crime

A bid has been submitted for an enhancement to the existing Automatic Number Plate Recognition System (ANPR), which will enable dedicated CCTV cameras to monitor vehicles coming into the town, compare them against Police records and highlight vehicles, which the Police are interested in. This enhancement will monitor full time.

The Partnership have written a letter to the Home Office and the Magistrates Bench regarding the inadequate penalties given out to those breaching Anti Social Behaviour Orders, the Chair of the Magistrates bench is raising the issue at their next meeting.

Violent Crime

The Partnership has encouraged Hyndburn and Ribble Valley Outreach Team (HARV) to bid to RVBC for money to provide a half-time worker for the area, it is hoped that with support from the Partnership the post can be mainstream funded.

All Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership's (CDRP's) have been awarded £3,500 for domestic violence issues. Talks are ongoing with Hyndburn CDRP about 'pooling' resources to fund some research into domestic violence. If money is available next year this could be put towards funding a part-time Outreach Worker for Ribble Valley.

November sees the launch of an anti-bullying campaign in schools aimed at Year 7's, talks will take place in all secondary schools.

This group may amalgamate with the Anti Social Behaviour and Criminal Damage Group.

Youth Intervention

Talks are ongoing to lessen the number of meetings, which seem to duplicate work, especially in the area of young people. Joining up several groups would encourage better Partnership working.

Despite many attempts to establish a One Stop Shop in Clitheroe for young people, the price of property has been prohibitive. The 'What Now?' information bus is to be used, hopefully on a permanent basis to take information around the Ribble Valley. The state of the art vehicle has Internet access and can be used as a cyber café.

The Partnership has provided funding for a feasibility study into a Leisure Card. The idea is that anyone could be a referring agent for a young person to get a Card. The card would provide a discount for example for sports or arts and their usage could be tracked. The target groups could be any chosen e.g. young people, overweight people, key stage 2 children etc. The card could kick-start a young persons interest in a sport/hobby that they had previously not been able to try.

The Youth & Community Service and young people are working to produce a DVD for young people around drugs issues. The aim is for the young people to produce a DVD containing several 'real life' scenarios around drugs and alcohol, both legal and

illegal substance use and abuse. This will then be used as an educational tool to work with other groups of young people, both in schools, youth groups and detached settings.

Substance Abuse

A drug raid took place at two premises in the Ribble Valley on Monday 3rd November; two people were arrested on suspicion of dealing Class A drugs. These raids took place in response to intelligence received from the local community.

The Community Alcohol Service ran an Alcohol Awareness Session, all members of the Working Groups were invited, and the session was well attended.

The Drugs and Alcohol Roadshow visited Sabden and Longridge. The Sabden visit was at the request of concerned parents, yet no one attended, since this seems to be the norm changes have been made to the times and venues of the Road Show and even the vehicle! Clitheroe Market was visited on Saturday 25th October using the What Now? bus in an attempt to take the information to the people and not the other way round. This visit proved to be popular; more are planned.

With the appointment of Lisa Harvey as Clitheroe and Special Priorities Worker, it was decided to replace her with three part-time drugs workers. Interviews were held 15/16th October and three new workers have been appointed. This will give much greater flexibility to Drug Education in Ribble Valley and will enable Hot Spot areas to be targeted.

Road Safety

It has become very clear in recent months that there is widespread public concern about the speed of traffic in the villages and rural areas of the Ribble Valley. Nigel Williams, the Police Community Support Officer who staffs the mobile police office, consistently reports issues about speeding as the number one topic being mentioned as he visits the rural communities.

Past experience suggests that in many cases, the perception of vehicle speed is much higher than the reality. Enforcement in some villages has resulted in many local people being prosecuted!

In order to explore the issue further Inspector Ford has been in negotiation with Lancashire Partnership for Road Safety (who operate the fixed speed cameras and oversee enforcement and 'community concern' sites across the county); and the Road Safety working group of the Crime and Disorder Partnership. The first stage will be that Nigel will carry out speed checks in various villages, which he visits. These will be supplemented by other checks, carried out at different times of day. He will maintain records to log the data about vehicles in the area. This data will be supplied to the respective Parish Council, and to Lancashire County Council.

After a period of gathering information, we will then be able to say if there is a problem, and if so, where and when. Enforcement action, by both local officers and the Road Policing Unit will take place in appropriate cases.

Meanwhile, we already know that there are specific problems with some drivers, who drive at speed through the town centres of Clitheroe, Longridge and Whalley – particularly at night, knowing that there is little speed enforcement. Local officers will target them, with robust enforcement being the norm. To avoid allegations of unfairness or lack of consistency, neither activity will occur on existing speed enforcement sites, or community concern sites (where normal enforcement will continue).

Lancashire County Council have requested that districts put forward proposed schemes to be included in Phase 4 of their 20mph Zones Programme. In response to that letter, Ribble Valley have confirmed that schemes submitted for previous phases but not yet implemented are to be carried forward for further consideration. These include the following:

- Knowsley Road, Wilpshire
- Harwood Avenue/Haugh Avenue, Simonstone
- The Rydings/The Dales, Langho
- Durham Road Estate, Wilpshire
- Snodworth Road, Langho
- Warwick Road/Moorland Crescent, Clitheroe
- Moorland Road/Moorland Crescent, Clitheroe
- Woodlands Drive, Whalley

One of the criteria for the proposals is that there are schools within the boundaries of the proposed zones. All the areas listed above do not contain a school although there are schools just outside the boundaries of 4 areas.

Consequently, a further seven areas have been submitted to Lancashire County Council for consideration, all of which contain a school within the boundary. The areas are as follows:

- Barnacre Road/Hesketh Road, Longridge
- St Mary's Close, Longridge
- Church Lane/The Sands, Whalley
- Tennyson Avenue/Fort Street area, Read
- Queen's Road/Brownlow Street, Clitheroe
- Princess Avenue/Longsight Road, Clitheroe
- Eastham Street/Ribblesdale Avenue, Clitheroe

All of the above schemes, and those submitted by other districts, will be considered by LCC and, from these submissions, a list of proposals to be implemented will be drawn up. It is anticipated that a decision will be made in January/February 2004.



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