

COMMUNITY WARDEN'S REPORT 2009-2010

There has been another reduction in reports of crime and anti-social behaviour in Staplehurst, I consider this a reflection of both local trends and the effectiveness of the local policing team. However, I have observed an increase in youth congregation in particular at the Parade area. This has resulted in increased littering and street drinking. As a result we have been working with Environmental Enforcement and Trading Standards to tackle these issues. In July 2009 I witnessed a local young man littering at The Parade area, this has recently resulted in a court appearance and a £215 fine carried out by environmental Enforcement who have also been sending covert patrols to the area. The amount of litter has decreased since then, though I am aware that it is a persistent problem.

Trading Standards have approached us in order to tackle under age sales of alcohol and street drinking. They have visited the area many times to conduct test sales and train retail staff. We are asking residents to complete a questionnaire which will help give us an idea on the views of the community and also raise the prospect of a 'control zone', which is a specified no street drinking area.

Although there is a reduction of youth crime and ASB, I can't help but find a correlation between increased numbers of youth congregation and a decrease in youth provision aimed at these groups in the village.

Projects remain a large proportion of my work, a summary of these are:

- Free shed alarm fitting and advice in response to a period of increased shed/outbuilding burglaries.
- Bluff/beat the bogeyman talks to advise elderly or vulnerable people.
- The annual regional football competition that was held in Hawkhurst, this year's event will be also include multiple sports and will be at Angley School on 31st July, so I will hope to have a good representation from Staplehurst again.
- Holiday Watch- Taking details of properties while empty and 'keeping an eye' on them while on duty.
- Regular litter picks.

Parking remains a PACT priority, last year I issued 18 police parking notices to advise drivers of illegal parking, and sent details to Parking Services for enforcement. I have requested regular patrols from KCC Parking Services for enforcement. I am a regular presence at the school for this issue also.

Dog fouling remains a concern for residents, in January I caught a persistent early morning regular offender and complaints from residents has dropped.

I consider the last year in Staplehurst a success in many ways, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Staplehurst Parish Council for their support.

Chris Lomax, KCC Community Warden, Staplehurst
07811271254

www.kent.gov.uk/communitywardens