



# Portswood & St Denys Safer Neighbourhood Team Newsletter



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## Welcome

Welcome to the November Portswood and St Denys Newsletter. The aim of our newsletter is to inform you about issues identified within your local neighbourhood. This newsletter is published every three months and reflects the community priorities set at our quarterly Community Priority Panel Meeting held at St Denys Community Centre. Panel Meetings consist of spokespeople from the community including councilors, head teachers, local organisers of Neighbourhood Watch and residents associations, licensee landlords and so on. We held our most recent meeting on

November 2009

Wednesday 7th October 2009. From this residents identified four priorities which can be viewed on page 4 of this newsletter:

### Previous identified priorities:

1. To continue youth engagement via the St Denys Youth and Junior Clubs.
2. To tackle anti-social behaviour and drug dealing and drug use in the areas surrounding St Denys Railway Stn.
3. To Implement a cycling initiative.
4. Engage in CREW week in Empress Road

*This newsletter updates you on the work we have done to deal with the priorities you identified in July 2009.*

## Youth Engagement & Community Events

**PRIORITY 1:** Over the last 6 months we have continued in our youth engagement projects through the junior, youth clubs and while on general patrol. We have been engaging with a lot of youths and this has helped reduce the number of anti-social behaviour in the St Denys area. To try and engage with the wider community we are enlisting the services of Polish PCSO Ewa Gunter. This will assist us in working closer with the Eastern European youths and their families in the St Denys Community.

In addition to the above we are in negotiations at present to bring the Big Red bus to St Denys on a fortnightly basis. The Big Red Bus is a mobile youth club in the form of a double decked bus. It has been stripped out

and kitted with all the latest computer gaming, tuck shop and karaoke fun. It will attend St Denys area one night every fortnight and is open for young people up to 16 years. We feel this is another great opportunity for youths to mix and engage with us and other authority figures in a positive manner.



Lots of fun at St Denys Community Fun Day



To report anti-social behaviour and neighbourhood issues, call 101.



In an emergency, dial 999.



## St Denys Community Fun Day

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2009 was the St Denys community fun day which was held on the river bank at Janaway Gardens. This event was planned by Police in partnership with the City Council bringing together different sectors of the community. We had both young and old resi-

dents assisting with the stalls, performing arts and preparing for the event together. The event also acted as a fundraiser for Countess Mountbatten Hospice and Simon Says which is a teen bereavement support service. On the day the community managed to raise over £750 with another £200 being generated for St Denys Community Centre. We would like to thank all of you who helped make the day happen and also to those who attended. Over 200 people attended in total. A lot of people gave up there afternoon to volunteer for the event so another big thank you goes to you



dents assisting with the stalls, performing arts and preparing

**Sports Coach**  
St Denys Community Centre now also has a new sports

coach and he will be running more programmes for the youths to take part in sporting and physical activities. This will cover a broad range of sports and will support the Junior and Senior Youth Clubs alongside the big red bus. This will again provide a positive friendly atmosphere for the youths to mix with each other as well as ourselves. There is also discussion of a Police vs. Public 5-a-side football tournament.

## Anti-Social Behaviour and Drug Taking

**PRIORITY 2:** In late 2008 and January 2009 we found an increase of drug related crime in the St Denys area. Naturally there were several complaints and increasing concern from local residents about possible drug dealing and the associated anti-social behaviour which emanated from it. Areas of concern included Priory Road, South Road, St Denys Train Station and Osborne Road South. After the recent October Panel Meeting residents identified Horseshoe

Bridge as another drug related area. To combat the problem we have introduced targeted patrols, made use of police powers, carried out plain clothes patrols and completed warrants on several premises. At time of writing a male is in custody after he was caught in the middle of a drugs deal by Police on Horseshoe Bridge. Since January's high peak in drug activity the statistics show that we have disrupted a lot of drug deals and made serious inroads into the problem. I am

pleased to say that St Denys is one of the safest areas in Southampton with low amounts of recorded drug activity and violent crime. St Denys Beat office is committed to keeping this status quo, however, we need you to inform us on any suspicious activity that you see. Please call us if you have any concerns or recent sightings and we will deal with problems quickly without putting you, the source of information, at risk.



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## Cycling Initiative

**PRIORITY 3:** We regularly patrol Portswood High Street and also host a beat surgery fortnightly on Portswood Broadway. After consulting with many residents it was highlighted that cycling on pavements was causing a lot of nuisance to pedestrians. There have been a lot of near miss accidents reported to us. It is an offence to cycle on the pavement. In January 2009 Portswood Neighbourhood Team implemented a cycling initiative to educate and enforce the law on cycling. Cycling on

the pavement is punishable by a **£30 fixed penalty notice**. As part of the initiative we placed *no cycling* tri-signs on the lampposts and patrolled the high street in numbers stopping all cyclists who were on the pavement. We have completed several operations and stopped well over 80 cyclists. These initiatives have an educational approach. At the station we have a data base of cyclists who we have had cause to stop. This data base will enable us to fairly issue FPN tickets after the warnings have been given.

These actions from the Portswood SNT officers enable us to monitor the work and reinforce this community priority. We have stopped many cyclists on the footpaths. They range from teenagers right through to the elderly.



## CREW: Crime Reduction Environment

**PRIORITY 4:** Crime Reduction Environment Week (CREW) is an initiative run by the City Council run in conjunction with the Safer Neighbourhoods team. They occur all across the city and we have had one in Empress Road in April. The aim of the week is to decide on a designated area and improve the quality of life for residents. This includes extra patrols by police dealing with anti-social behaviour and priority problems, cleaning the streets, cutting back overgrown green areas, cleaning drains, solving any environmental issues and generally improving the appearance of the area. Southampton City Council had many of their agencies in attendance including the Street Cleansing Team, Environmental Health Officers, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinators and Neighbourhood

Wardens. We worked in partnership with the council agencies throughout the Empress Crew week and during the week we achieved the following things:

- We managed to clean up the area including cutting back trees and foliage in the alleyway at the Mount Pleasant End. By doing this we were able to get light through the cutway and reduce its attraction for prostitution and drug taking.
- The posts and railings were repainted.
- All of the roads were swept and sparkled.
- Environmental Health Officers visited all the businesses on Empress Road to make sure that their trade waste agreements were in order. They also ensured that businesses were operating at best practise to

ensure the safety and well being of staff and the public.

- Community payback were also in Empress Road during the week and assisted with all of the clean up operations. Community pay back are those who have offended and are on community service. They put hours of work back into the community.



In 2008 CREW removed 50 tonnes of rubbish and cleaned 195 square metres of graffiti from Southampton's streets



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## Community Focus

**Fly tipping and graffiti:** Residents are telling us that there is an increase in fly tipping and graffiti in the area. From experience we find that areas that become overgrown attract criminal activity including, fly tipping, drug dealing and burglary. The quicker we can get areas cleaned up and back in use by the public then there is less of a chance that crime will occur.



Footpath behind 68-100 Portswood Rd, which has recently been cleared

From our patrols this information has been corroborated with serious fly tipping sites identified in the footpaths behind 68-100 Portswood Road, Westridge Road and Empress Road. Police, in conjunction with the Environmental Agency and Community Payback Scheme we have or are in the process of clearing the overgrown green

foliage and debris from these areas. The affect is quite profound and can be seen in photographs in this Newsletter. Community Payback is a scheme run by the Probation Service and involves people who have been convicted and given Community Service as a punishment. They wear brightly coloured overalls and can regularly be seen in Southampton at work. If you are a victim of crime then feel assured that this type of work really benefits the community.

### E-mail Harvesting

It's very likely if you are reading this you will have already given us your e-mail address. If you know of people who might wish to receive this newsletter in future please ask them to contact us at Portswood Police station. Our neighbourhood's team mailbox is;

**portswood.snt@hampshire.pnn.police.uk**

Alternatively if you know of somebody who does not need a paper copy they can still contact us at the Police station and we'll send them one.

## PCSO of the Year

We are pleased to announce that your local Police Community Support Officer, **Colette Craddock** has recently been awarded the coveted 'PCSO of the Year Award' for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary. This came as a result of all of her hard work and determination to help local residents and engage with youths in the area. Colette has been instrumental in establishing several residents groups and also the Junior Youth Club. Colette has also been a key figure in arranging community events such as the Fun Day.



Colette will be attending a gala evening in London where she could win the national award. We are all proud to have Colette on our team and in your local area as her determination to improve life in the community is endless.

### St Denys Community Priorities (Oct 2009 – Jan 2010)

- (1) Seek resolution to traffic concerns regarding the development of the bus depot in Empress Road.
- (2) Investigate incidents of 'fly tipping' and graffiti across the St Denys area.
- (3) Increased police patrols to respond to drug misuse within Priory Road, Adelaide Road and Horseshoe Bridge.
- (4) Directed police patrols in and around Bevois Valley, educate and deal with those students who engage in alcohol fuelled rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour as they leave and make their way home from late night licensed premises.

You can read more about your local Safer Neighbourhoods team by visiting [www.hampshire.police.uk](http://www.hampshire.police.uk)

and using the clickable maps or postcode search to find our latest updates.

In an emergency call 999. Call 101 if it's a non emergency, this number can be used for general contact with the police and to report crime.



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