

**BELLSHILL & DISTRICT
LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP
POLICE REPORT**



**STRATHCLYDE
POLICE**

August 2006

Introduction

Strathclyde Police is committed to reducing crime and disorder in our local communities, and is actively engaged in a Multi -Agency approach to address local issues at source, to improve the quality of life of residents and visitors alike, providing safer streets, schools, recreational and working environments.

Recent months have seen many successes, one of which is the highly successful Sub Divisional "Quality of Life Unit" that investigates all Vandalism and issues at licensed premises. Resultantly, Bellshill Sub Division has the highest detection rate in the Strathclyde Police area for the crime of Vandalism, which currently stands at 32.2% compared to the Force average of 19.2%. This has been achieved by thorough investigation all reports of malicious damage, and by identifying new damage that would otherwise have gone unreported. Invaluable intelligence information has also been gleaned in relation to those individuals within the community who continually graffiti, and those who are involved in gangs and their respective markings or "Tags". This information has assisted in identifying and prosecuting offenders. The Quality of Life Unit have also worked closely with North Lanarkshire Council Environmental Department which has enabled the more offensive graffiti to be safely removed at the earliest opportunity.

The allocation of Regeneration Funding from North Lanarkshire Council has increased the number of patrols which can be undertaken in particular areas and enabled additional police initiatives to be put in place to tackle such issues as alcohol abuse, and youth disorder with some very successful youth diversionary schemes.

Throughout the Bellshill Sub-Division the main issue which generates the highest demand on policing resources is that of youth disorder. There are particular areas within each ward which are periodically subject to youths congregating and generally causing annoyance, and as such those listed under "On going police Issues" are listed at this time only to give an indication of the extent of the problem and not as a definitive guide to all disorder.

Whilst this report gives a very brief overview of each ward area, it is important that the Strategic aspect to this meeting is not lost by looking at retrospective issues, and to that end I would like to propose that the following two areas be considered for further discussion at this forum from the Local Area Partnership perspective with a view to developing a way forward.

Strategic Issues

- Planning Policy – Construction of play parks in residential areas.

This can be a highly emotive issue, as some form of play provision must be provided for children and teenagers whilst balancing the need for residents to go about their lives unhindered by the anti-social behaviour aspects of a small proportion of youths.

- Provision of Youth Diversion Schemes

Whilst there are many success stories regarding the provision of youths clubs and other diversionary activities, it has become apparent that the majority, if not all of these activities take place on Weekdays with occasional activities being planned for a Friday evening. There is a need to examine how the capacity of voluntary organisations as well as council led activities can be expanded or directed to increase such provision on Friday and particularly Saturday evenings.

- Quad Bikes and Trail Bikes

There continues to be numerous complaints regarding the illegal use of trail/quad bikes in Bellshill Sub Division. Whilst efforts continue to detect offenders, realistically officers on foot and pedal cycles are not best placed to undertake this task alone, and generally high profile policing only deters offenders whilst officers are in the immediate vicinity. The use of police off-road motorcyclists and the police helicopter can assist in detecting offenders – however there is a high demand for these services throughout the Force area, and once again they are only a deterrent whilst actually operating in the area. There is obviously room for further debate on how we along with our partner agencies can best address this issue at a strategic level.

Ward 21 Tannochside

On Going Police Issues

General youth disorder particularly in the area of the shopping precinct area at Old Edinburgh Road.

On Going Initiatives

Regular patrols of the area by both core shift and community officers. Community officers in partnership with the NLC Community wardens have arranged a half day when they will be working together within the ward and will have a mobile police office to allow residents to pass on their concerns and ideas.

Ward 22 Fallside

On Going Police Issues

Youths drinking in the various lanes between residential properties.

On going Initiatives

An area which is subject of attention by the Quality of Life Unit Officers, who also operate in plain clothes to detect offenders

Ward 23 Viewpark

On Going Police Issues

Youth disorder and vandalism.

On going Initiatives

There continues to be regular patrols of the area of the area by both core shifts and community officers. Community officers in partnership with the NLC Community wardens have arranged day when they will be working together within the ward and will have a mobile police office to allow residents to pass on their concerns and ideas.

Ward 24 North Bellshill

On Going Police Issues

Youths consuming alcohol in the common closes of Rockburn Crescent, Bellshill.

On going Initiatives

An area which is subject of attention by the Quality of Life Unit Officers, who also operate in plain clothes to detect offenders.

Incidents of Note

In response to numerous complaints from the residents of the flats at Flannigan Grove, Bellshill regarding persons making holes in the wooden fencing to make a short cut into the nearby garage shop, contact was made with the garage owners who have now constructed a metal fence preventing the access through the flats.

Ward 25 Orbiston

On Going Police Issues

Youth disorder in the area, particularly associated with youths coming and going from the "Bing" area.

On going Initiatives

A crime/incident analysis is underway by our Divisional Intelligence Unit in an effort to commence a long term policing action to address disorder issues which are prevalent throughout the area.

The area has also been subject of several reports to partner agencies and several improvements to the area are being considered such as the provision of better lighting to the Bing area.

Ward 26 Mossend West & Thorndean

On Going Police Issues

Complaints of Youth Disorder and Anti-Social behaviour in the Thorndean area.

On going Initiatives

An in depth analysis is underway in respect of the current disorder and anti-social behaviour in the Thorndean area, and in particular Milnwood (Sandy) Park. Once again a large area which borders the Orbiston area. The Jewel Scheme area will also be incorporated in the analysis of the Orbiston area (Ward 25) being conducted by our

Divisional Intelligence Unit and will form part of the long term action that will be raised when this analysis is complete.

Ward 27 Holytown

On Going Police Issues

Youth disorder at the footbridge over the A723 between Shirrel Road and Law Drive. Use of off road bikes on the playing field and ground between Keir Hardie Sports Centre and Eurocentral.

On going Initiatives

Road Policing Department Off road motorcyclists have patrolled the area to discourage the use of bikes in the area. Known owners of bikes have been visited at their homes to inform them of the legalities and penalties of using off road bikes. Regular patrols in the area of the footbridge to discourage youths gathering.

Ward 28 Mossend East & New Stevenston North

On Going Police Issues

Complaints regarding youths drinking and adults using the swing park at Kirklee Road, Bellshill

On going Initiatives

Community Officers for the area providing regular patrols of the park at Kirklee Road.

Ward 29 Newarthill

On Going Police Issues

Youth disorder and vandalism.

On going Initiatives

Regular patrols are being carried out by core shift and community officers. Enquiries are ongoing in particular into the recent disorder in Silverburn Crescent and Armour Place, Newarthill.

Ward 30 Hattonrigg

On Going Police Issues

Youth disorder

On going Initiatives

There continues to be regular patrols of the area by both core shift and community officers. The community officer in partnership with NLC Community Wardens discussed local issues with residents recently when the mobile police office was set up in the Ward.

Bellshill Juniors and YMCA have agreed to get together along with the police and Community wardens to start a football league at Bellshill Juniors Football ground. A portable 5 a side football pitch from the NLC will be pitched on the car park/football park on Hattonrigg Rd Bellshill. A skate rink will be utilised and placed at the ground for youths who do not wish to take part in football. Although sited within Ward 30 the initiative will benefit all the youths for the area and will run for approximately 10 weeks, taking place on a Friday evening.