

## FOREWORD

Safer Neighbourhood Teams were launched in March this year and have been busy working hard in South Edinburgh. The SNT's are a working partnership between the City of Edinburgh Council and Lothian and Borders Police.

On a daily basis, police and council staff are out and about in communities and a strategic group meets each month to tackle longer term issues. Team leaders now meet formally every week to address other issues as they arise.

The next few weeks will see the formation of local priority setting groups within each council ward area. These will consist of community representatives and will decide upon a small number of local priorities for the police and council to tackle in that area.

These groups are a significant step forward in our efforts to make police and council even more accountable to the communities we serve.

If you, or a group you might be involved with would like to know more about these groups, please contact TAC talk for further details.

**Chief Inspector John Rae**

## Partner Profile:

### Brian Mills - Senior Environmental Warden

Senior Environmental Warden Brian Mills moved to the South Neighbourhood Office in June 2009. He has been a Warden for 4 Years starting in Baileyfield covering wards in the East of the city. Brian moved to the South West where he was made acting Senior and acted up to Team Leader for the Environmental Wardens for a year. He was confirmed as permanent Senior prior to his move to the South Office.



Brian has also served as a soldier in the Royal Engineers, worked for the Police as a communication officer and managed a team of detention officers contracted to the Immigration Service.

Brian said:

'I believe the Environmental Wardens are one of the essential services needed to keep Edinburgh a clean and safe city'.

'Working closely with the Safer Neighbourhood Teams and other council departments increases the efficiency and effectiveness of the team'.

## Summer Festivals

Over the month of August, Edinburgh's population is set to increase dramatically. To help tackle the corresponding increase in litter and antisocial behaviour, Lothian and Borders Police and the City of Edinburgh Council will be working closely to keep Edinburgh Clean and Safe. Operation Dactyl and Operation Artisan, both partnership run initiatives, will run during the Edinburgh Festival between the 2nd and 27th August 2010 and will include:

- Patrols by all partners from 07:30 – 02:00 to tackle/deter criminal and antisocial behaviour
- Licensing/Lease patrols – All Partners including night time Environmental Wardens and Night Noise Team Officers
- Regular meetings with events management, monitoring activity
- High Visibility patrols – Police and Environmental Wardens
- Spotter/Plain clothes patrols – Police and Community Safety
- Deployment of the Mobile CCTV Unit
- Flyposting/Graffiti patrols – Community Safety
- Park Ranger patrols



## TAC Actions

Since the end of April the TAC has carried out another 59 Actions making the total TAC actions 539; these new actions included a number of initiatives and operations across the South Neighbourhood area.

## Combat Bike Theft

Bicycle theft continues to be a problem in the South Edinburgh area. Thefts normally increase during the summer months and into the beginning of September when Collages and Universities start the next semester. Bikes are normally stolen because they were poorly secured and in some cases not even secured at all.



These easy opportunities attract thieves into your area, where they may turn their attentions towards the theft of other property items.

Many insurance policies do not provide adequate cover against the theft of certain bicycles. Therefore when thefts occur the owner is often liable for the full cost of replacement. Those policies, which do provide good cover, are often very expensive and have numerous conditions of use attached.

It is therefore more cost effective for you to ensure that your bike is properly secured in the first place.

- Secure your bike to a bike rack or other immovable object in a busy /well lit area. Thieves don't like to be watched whilst at work!
- Use a Gold rated "Soldsecure" endorsed Padlock & Chain or "D" Lock.
- Use two different kinds of lock (i.e. one Padlock & Chain together with a "D" Lock). This makes it much more difficult for the thief by increasing the number of tools required for the job.
- Remove valuable components such as lights, saddles and saddle packs.
- Change your routine; don't lock your bike in the same way or same place so thieves can't come back prepared.
- Consider tagging your cycle. "Datatag" claim that up to 63% of electronically tagged cycles are recovered.

### And Finally...

You should also photograph your bike, note its serial numbers and any distinguishing marks. This can assist the Police to recover your bike and in some cases capture those responsible for its theft.

For further advice please contact Lothian and Borders Police Crime Prevention Officer on: **0131 311 3131**

# Take Care of Your Belongings

Now that the holiday season is upon us, it is natural for people to relax and enjoy the warm weather. Unfortunately the summer also presents additional opportunities for criminals keen to exploit people who have momentarily lowered their guard.

By considering the following advice you will make it difficult for these criminals to operate. Some of this advice is equally relevant when you are away from home, on days out or indeed on your holidays.

## At Home

During warm weather, exercise care when leaving ground floor windows and doors open for ventilation. Even if you are at home, in the garden for instance, it is possible that an opportunistic criminal could sneak in unnoticed and steal from you. Never leave your home unoccupied with open/insecure windows or doors.

Don't leave unattended tools lying around the garden, secure them in your garage or shed. Ladders, spades and forks can all assist the thief gain entry into your home.

Ask neighbours to keep an eye on your home when you are away on holiday and you can return the favour when they are away. Leave them a phone number where you can be contacted if possible.



## On the Move

When parking your car always secure it, activate the alarm and do not leave the windows open.

Do not leave valuables on display within your vehicle. Mobile telephones, designer sunglasses, ipods, laptops and satellite navigation systems are all at risk.

Satellite Navigations – Always remove any marks from the windscreen. If a criminal thinks you have a Sat Nav they may break into your vehicle to see if you have hidden it inside.

Park your car in a busy, well overlooked and well lit area. Car parks, which display the blue Park Mark sign, have higher levels of security. The list of Park Mark Approved Car Parks throughout Britain can be found on [www.securedcarparks.com](http://www.securedcarparks.com)

## Out and About

Avoid taking valuables out with you that you don't need.

Keep an eye on your possessions when out and about. Ideally do not leave items unattended, however if you nip to the toilet or to get something ask someone you trust to keep an eye on them.



Lothian and Borders Police ask people to remain alert but above all enjoy the Summer and Festival Season in Edinburgh.

# Safer Neighbourhood Team - Priorities Update

Two Safer Neighbourhood groups have been developed in line with the South Central Neighbourhood Partnership to deliver community priorities for the Safer Neighbourhood Teams. Community priorities will be looked into and action taken in partnership with Services for Communities, Community Safety Teams. South Central have now had their first priority setting meetings with Meadows Morningside taking place on the 26 July and Southside Newington on the 27 July. At these meetings, and to give the process a rolling start, priorities were identified through partnership analysis. They were then presented and discussed before being set as the respective Groups priorities.

The Priorities are:

### Meadows Morningside - Ward 10

1. Traffic issues around James Gillespies High School
2. Alcohol fuelled violence and anti-social behaviour in Bruntfield Links
3. The increased incidence of begging in Morningside

### Southside Newington - Ward 15

1. Antisocial Behaviour associated with drinking in the 3 Squares area of Southside
2. Alcohol fuelled violence and anti-social behaviour in the Meadows
3. Antisocial behaviour in the Rankin Drive area associated with youths

The next Safer Neighbourhood Group meetings:

**Meadows Morningside:** 25 October 2010 - Venue & time TBC  
**Southside Newington:** 26 October 2010 - Venue & time TBC

# Environment

Throughout August the South Neighbourhood Environmental Wardens will be working on a daily basis with the City Centre Wardens, the Safer Neighbourhood Teams and all the other partners who are working to make the Festival a safe, clean and fun event for everyone. They will be patrolling the City Centre and South side to present a high visibility presence to give reassurance to residents and visitors alike.



Between May and June 2010, South Environmental Wardens have undertaken the following:

- 473 enforcement actions
- 27 Trade Waste Inspections
- 69 Fixed Penalty Notices
- 33 Abandoned Vehicles
- 220 complaints

# POLICE / COMMUNITY SAFETY

## Operation Dactyl

Safer Neighbourhood Team officers and Community Safety staff are engaged in an ongoing response to youth related incidents in the Bruntsfield, Marchmont and Meadows areas. The focus is on using a combination of plain-clothes officers and high visibility uniform patrols in an effort to disrupt and reduce instances of antisocial behaviour with the focus on underage drinking. A robust approach is taken with any alcohol found confiscated and follow up enquiry done.



## Operation Artisan

This is a multi-agency approach to ensuring that the Edinburgh Festival venues in and around George Square, Bristo Square and the Meadows are given significant Police attention during the month of August. A dedicated team of Police officers will respond to this increase in demand on our service and we will be working in partnership with Services for Communities. This operation has been very successful over the last few years.

## Neighbours see a rapid end to their woes

In July the Sheriff Court granted a court order for persistent anti-social behaviour resulting in the subjects of the order being ejected from their residence in the Southside area. This came after an extended period of intensive work by the City of Edinburgh Councils, Community Safety Team in partnership with neighbours, police and local support agencies. Due to the sensitivity of the case, the order was carried out later that day. The eviction brings with it some respite to the long suffering neighbours.

## CCTV

Portable CCTV Units will be installed in the Nicolson Square area to augment the current work being carried out to prevent and detect drink and drug fuelled antisocial and criminal behaviour in the area. This is part of the Partnership led '3 Squares' initiative that is taking place during the summer months.



## Action on Drugs

On Friday 9 July 2010, Mark Richardson from an address in South Edinburgh, appeared at Edinburgh High Court, where he admitted being involved in various drugs offences committed between April and December last year. This included the preparation of 7kg of crack cocaine, with a street value of £700,000 within a private residence in December 2009.

This is the largest seizure of crack cocaine within the Lothian and Borders Police Force area, and one of the biggest recoveries of the Class A drug in Scotland.

Richardson was also behind two other multi-kilo quantities of cocaine, which were trafficked into Edinburgh, and linked to thousands of pounds of cash which was believed to be drugs money. The long running inquiry, which spanned two years, also resulted in the arrest of 66 people and the recovery of 40.8kg of Class A drugs including cocaine, heroin and crack cocaine, with the potential street value of £2,040,000.

To date, 14 people have been convicted and sentenced to a total of 44 years, while proceedings are still ongoing in relation to others.



# Community Intelligence

Make a difference  
towards a  
safer community

Help us stop the sale of alcohol to children.

Lothian and Borders Police are carrying out test purchasing operations throughout the South Central area. Since January 2010 thirty shops have been tested and so far none have failed. We want local communities to help by reporting shops that sell or may be selling alcohol to children. We are very fortunate in our area that the police receive strong support from its traders and this strong partnership is paying off.

Please contact us with any information

Police: 0131 311 3131

Community Safety: 0131 529 5151

email: [southteam@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:southteam@edinburgh.gov.uk)

or CRIMESTOPPERS free and in confidence on 0800 555 111.

## Roads

Works are nearing completion on the reconstruction of the second set of steps in the Dumbiedykes Estate. This project was proposed and prioritised by the South Central Neighbourhood Partnership as part their allocated £100K Roads Capital funding for 2010/11.

Since the 1st April, 3651 potholes/defects have been identified in the South Neighbourhood area. 93.3% of the locations were made-safe within 3 working days. In the same period, our patching squad have carried out more substantial hot repairs to 395 of these locations.

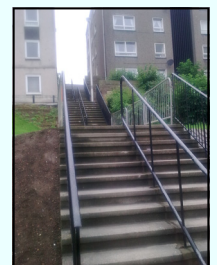
Our road marking renewal programme re-commenced during April and is working through the priority list of road marking identified over the winter, such as stop lines, give ways and disabled parking places. This squad will continue through the summer taking advantage of the better weather for such works.



Before

## COMPLETED WORK:

**Dumbiedykes**  
Stair reconstruction  
Completion 2010



After

Effective partnership working within the South Central Neighbourhood area during April - July 2010, has resulted in:

- 20% overall reduction in crime compared to the same period in 2009
- 8% reduction in youth calls compared to the same period in 2009
- 79 drug offences have been detected since May 2010

# Contacts

## South Neighbourhood Office

40 Captains Road,  
EH17 8QT  
Tel: 0131 529 5151

## Police

Force Control Centre: 0131 311 3131

## EMERGENCY: 999



Call anonymously with information about crime

## Antisocial Behaviour Helpline

Help and advice 24 hours a day  
Tel: 0131 529 7050

## Community Safety Night Noise Team:

Assistance with noise issues 24 hours a day  
Tel: 0131 311 3131

## Environmental Services:

For all things relating to roads, litter and open spaces  
Tel: 0131 529 3030

## Environmental Wardens:

For trade waste, illegal dumping and dog fouling issues  
Tel: 0131 529 5204

## Lothian and Borders Police

*Liberton Gilmerton*  
Howdenhall Police Station  
Inspector Alun Williams  
Tel: 0131 311 3131

## *South Central*

St Leonard's Police Station  
Inspector Andrew McLaughlin  
Tel: 0131 311 3131

## Services for Communities:

Local Community Safety Manager  
Kathy Evans : 0131 529 5106

Neighbourhood Manager  
Susan Bruce : 0131 529 5151

## Children and Families

Andrew McWhirter  
40 Captains Road  
EH17 8QF  
Tel: 0131 529 5337

## Lothian & Borders Fire & Rescue Service

Michael Partington: 0131 228 2401

## Victim Support

5 Nicolson Square  
Edinburgh  
EH8 9BH  
Tel: 0131 668 2556

## CLARENCE

To report any road defects  
Tel: 0800 232323

## Central Monitoring Facility (CCTV)

Tel: 0131 469 3910

# On the World Wide Web

For more information on Neighbourhood Partnerships please visit:

[www.edinburghnp.org.uk](http://www.edinburghnp.org.uk)

For more information on local services please visit the partners websites at:

[www.lothian.fire-uk.org](http://www.lothian.fire-uk.org)

[www.edinburgh.gov.uk](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk)

[www.lbp.police.uk](http://www.lbp.police.uk)



# TAC Talk-back

We are committed to improving our customer service and information provision and are looking for your views on this newsletter. This is why we would like to ask you to spend a little of your valuable time in completing this form and sending it to us at the following address:

**Talk-back  
Community Safety  
40 Captains Road  
Edinburgh  
EH17 8QF**

Or if you prefer you could send us an email at:

[Gareth.Thomas@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Gareth.Thomas@edinburgh.gov.uk)

What kind of information would you like to see more of?

Which is your favourite part of the TAC Talk?

## Do you think we are missing something?

(Please use the section below for suggestions or any other comment on the TAC Talk)