

## **Grange Park Community Panel Meeting Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2010**

### **Attendees:**

PC Simon Reid – Police  
PCSO Charlotte Johnson – Police  
Mike Palmer – Neighbourhood Watch  
Eileen Palmer – Neighbourhood Watch  
Brenda Gerrish – Neighbourhood Watch  
Rosie Till – Grange Park  
Ben Smith – Northants Police Authority

### **Apologies**

Tony Walker – Parish Council Chairman  
Amanda Stansfield – Parish Council/Neighbourhood Watch  
Nigel Stansfield – Parish Council/Neighbourhood Watch  
Steve Cates – Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator.

### **1. Grange Park's New Safer Community Team (SCT) Officer PC 779 Simon Reid**

PC Simon Reid began the meeting by introducing himself to the Panel. PC Reid has been with the Force since 1989, and throughout his experience among other roles, he has worked on the Instant Response Team (IRT), which is dedicated to responding to emergency calls; and more recently has been a dedicated officer in Towcester Town SCT.

PC Reid has taken over from the previous officer PC Roger Smith who moved to Brackley SCT in the beginning of May.

For the last couple of weeks, PC Reid has been familiarising himself with his new area, and working alongside Grange Park's local PCSO, Charlotte Johnson.

PC Reid is keen on creating new contacts, and making a difference in Grange Park.

### **2. Crime Figures**

PC Reid spoke about the crime figures in Grange Park from April until June 2010, which are as follows:

Violent Offence: **2**  
Robbery: **1**  
Burglary Dwelling: **1**  
Theft from Motor Vehicle: **1**  
Theft/Handing: **1**  
Deception/Fraud: **1**  
Assault with injury: **1**

A total of 7 crimes, with a drop of 5 crimes from last year's period, which showed 12.

### **3. Operation Guardian – Serious Inquisitive Crime i.e. Burglary, Auto-crime, Robbery.**

PC Reid informed the panel of ongoing spates of 'Car Key Burglaries'. This is a term that is now being used for a burglary at a house where the sole reason for entering the premises is to steal the car keys for the vehicle. Over recent years car manufacturers have made vehicle security a priority with more and more sophisticated systems in place to stop the theft being able to take the car. The vehicles car keys have now become as valuable as the car.

It is very important that owners such vehicles are aware of this and take those extra precautions to limit the opportunity to the thief to get the keys.

The persons who want these vehicles are professionals, the vehicles are either stolen to order right down to the make, model, colour and even accessories or they are stolen to be used in other serious crimes. Owners need to consider where they park their vehicles either at work, at leisure or at night. Offenders cruise locations looking for the vehicles to target and even follow vehicles to their destination.

Here is some of the advice we suggest:

- Put your vehicle in the garage overnight
- On entering the house secure the door behind you
- Do not leave keys on open view at home or at work
- Keep all keys in a safe place, away from doors, letterboxes and windows where they can be seen. People have stolen keys without even entering the premises
- Use the security you already have, that is to say if you have a house alarm then use it.
- Look to update your house security. You have purchased an expensive car with good security now spend some money on the home
- Consider CCTV cameras or if you have them already are they fit for purpose

The most important advice but be if you are threatened with violence for your car keys is to hand them over do not put yourself at risk.

### **4. Anti-Social Behaviour**

Pc Reid spoke about anti-social behaviour that appears to be centred around Budgens Store and Foxfield Country Park.

PC Reid and PCSO Johnson organised a meeting with Budgens to speak of crime prevention measures they could put into place to help alleviate the problem.

One measure that was suggested was a Mosquito system. This acts as an anti-loitering measure to disperse groups of troublesome teenagers. This is an effective tool for dispersing groups who regularly congregate in a location and behave in an antisocial manner. This can put an end to the problem without confrontation.

The Mosquito system sends out a high-pitched noise that can only be heard by teenagers and young adults. The noise is quite uncomfortable to be around and youths are irritated by the noise.

Another suggestion was to place a gate at the entrance of the car park to stop unwanted vehicles causing a problem after the shops have shut.

Budgens have said they will be speaking to their head office.

## **5. Multi-use Games Area (MUGA)**

Whilst working on Towcester Town SCT, PC Reid spoke of the problems they had faced with youths congregating and causing antisocial behaviour (ASB) around the area. He stated the problems they were facing, mirrored that of Grange Park's, with youths gathering outside Waitrose Towcester and children's recreational areas.

Since Towcester Town installed a concrete skateboard area/Multi use area, the ASB had fallen. This has enabled the youth to have an area of their own, to meet friends in a safe area without causing a disruption for other residents.

The area is also easier to police, and youths can be moved away from shop doorways and monitored in a specific location.

This is something PC Reid and PCSO Johnson would like to see happen in Grange Park.

## **6. Plans for the next 3 months.**

PC Reid and PCSO Johnson spoke of plans they have for Grange Park in the next 3 months.

- Regular Surgeries, this enables residents to meet the local team and to discuss any issues they may be experiencing along with crime prevention advice. Interaction with the local community is vital and for the last couple of months the interaction data between the police and members of the community has been poor. Other partner agencies will also be invited and incorporated into the surgeries
- Speed Checks will be carried out throughout Grange Park.

## **7. Any Other Business**

Brenda Gerrish informed the group that drinking on the benches on the grassland behind the shops has improved. Although youths have been known to appear occasionally. There is however a certain individual who is seen to leave litter behind even though a bin is provided near by.

## **8. Police Authority**

Councillor Ben Smith from Northamptonshire's Police Authority attended the meeting. This gave the group a chance to ask any questions they may have. The Police Authority is an independent body set up to ensure you have an efficient and effective police service.

Made up of 17 people, the Police Authority decide on priorities and controls the budget for the local force by deciding how much local households should pay for policing within the overall council tax.

At present the force are struggling

However, May 2011 this all may change, and instead of a 17 person Police Authority there has been talks of a single Police Commissioner to oversee the role.

Councillor Smith informed the panel, the Police have been struggling to raise public confidence. This can affect the force in a number of ways, namely incidents are not reported, and intelligence is not passed. This is a vital tool for the police, and may be the missing piece to the jigsaw. It is now a police priority to raise the percentage in public confidence.

9. The next meeting is to be held at 7pm on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2010. Venue is yet to be confirmed. Details will be sent out in due course.

**New Priorities:**

It has been agreed by the Panel, to focus on the following on the Grange Park Beat:

1. Interaction within the community
2. Speeding
3. Youth facilities

If you wish to get in contact with your local SCT or discuss any other issues, please email PCSO 7010 Charlotte Johnson [charlotte.johnson2@northants.police.uk](mailto:charlotte.johnson2@northants.police.uk) or PC 779 Simon Reid [simon.reid@northants.police.uk](mailto:simon.reid@northants.police.uk)