



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE ELMBRIDGE

ELMBRIDGE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

8TH SEPTEMBER 2008

KEY ISSUE

To receive an update from the Elmbridge Community Safety Partnership (statutorily known as the Crime and Disorder Partnership) on its work, which is partly funded by SCC contributions.

SUMMARY

This report seeks to inform the Committee of the activities of the Partnership for the first five months of 2008/9.

It invites members to make representations on the key community safety issues they are aware of for Elmbridge in their capacity as elected members.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Elmbridge) is asked to:

- (i) Make representations on community safety issues to help shape the refresh of the Partnership Plan for 2009/10.
- (ii) Note the activities of the Elmbridge Community Safety Partnership between April – August 2008.

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Elmbridge Community Safety Partnership (statutorily known as the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership) has a duty to produce a three-year Community Safety Partnership Plan for 2008 - 2011. The Partnership undertook a Strategic Assessment and produced its Partnership Plan, which was launched at a public meeting on the 18th June 2008.

The Partnership Plan has six priorities, in three overarching strands identified through the Strategic Assessment and public consultation. The priorities are:

- Reduce Crime / Reduce the Fear of Crime
- Reduce Substance Misuse / Reduce Violent Crime (including domestic abuse)
- Reduce Anti Social behaviour / Provide Positive Youth Diversion.

The Partnership Plan currently consists of 46 actions across the six priorities and this report is submitted to inform the Local Area Committee of the progress being made.

The Partnership is also required to conduct a Strategic Assessment each year and to update its Partnership Plan as necessary. That work is currently taking place.

- 1.2 In a similar approach to that which we adopted for our first Strategic Assessment, recently produced guidance suggests that Assessments should not solely focus on hard crime statistics but should recognise the importance of qualitative community data to inform priorities for the Partnership over the coming year. Once the Partnership has completed its Assessment, it will be combined with the partner data (including that from Surrey Police) to give an accurate picture of crime, disorder and community safety issues across the Borough.

In its role as a statutory partner of the Community Safety Partnership, Surrey County Council is required to feed in to the Strategic Assessment.

The Partnership is in the process of liaising with Heads of Division to get an understanding of community safety issues that affect their work as well as any data they collect which may highlight a community safety issue.

The Local Committee will have an understanding of community safety issues in the area and know the concerns of residents. The Partnership would be very interested in hearing your views on key community safety issues within the Borough and the locations or areas that are problematic. By collating these responses it will be possible to start to develop an up-to-date picture of key issues and themes across the

Borough. The findings will then feed into the Strategic Assessment process and will help to set Community Safety Partnership priorities for the coming year (2009/10).

It is being requested that the Local Committee let the Elmbridge Community Safety Partnership have any representations by 30th September 2008.

2 Report on the work of Elmbridge Community Safety Partnership April 2008 – August 2008

- 2.1 The work of the Partnership covers a diverse number of activities with the objective of achieving its six priorities.

The significant areas of work during the first five months (April 2008 – August 2008) have included:

Graffiti removal: 737 items removed in this first five months. This is a 33% reduction over the same period last year and indicates a lessening of the problem. The service is now able to proactively search out incidents rather than having the previous list of reports to deal with from the public sometimes already several days old. This now enables a far better response to locations which may suffer repeat attacks and can often result in graffiti being removed within hours of it being reported

North Surrey Prevention Programme: Aimed at delivering the third strand of the prolific and priority offenders, which is the early identification, and diversion of young people away from becoming prolific and priority offenders of the future. This programme is funded by the Partnership and enables officers of the Youth Offending Team to work with young people some of whom may be known to them and for whom work has to stop as they are not currently subject to a court order. During this five-month period 12 young people from Elmbridge have been on this programme.

Stamp Out Boredom: An initiative aimed at engaging with and diverting a group of 12 young people from a local estate from anti social behaviour during the summer holidays. 10 out of the original 12 young people completed the challenges set such as joining the library, litter picking, cleaning gardens for the elderly, attending the community centre for talks on drugs awareness and consequences of crime. Their reward was to attend an outward-bound course at Walton Firs.

Youth Engagement Scheme: Run by the Fire Service it delivers a week long course allowing young people to develop skills in team building, motivation, self-confidence and discipline. During this period one course has been run with 4 Elmbridge young people graduating. A second course will run in October with a final course in February. The

scheme received an Award from the High Sheriff in May together with a donation of £1000 in recognition of its work with young people.

Youth Crime Solutions: Presented by an ex offender who provides interactive sessions to high schools and colleges and targeted groups of young people on the consequences of criminal behaviour, conditions of prison, peer pressure and how to avoid it. 5 sessions have been given so far this year to 191 young people. A further 5 sessions will be given by March 2009

Teenage Tom Tom: A Navigation Guide for Parents. Provides parents with the skills required to help them develop self-confidence in various home situations and dealing with children. The second Teenage Tom Tom course has now been completed and evaluated. Eight sessions were planned but two had to be cancelled due to problems with the venue. Four new parents / careers took part in the sessions with additional parents from course one who were able to share experiences. Evaluation is positive with parents reporting an improvement in them and their children since the course started. A Third course is planned for later this year

Reparation work: Use has been made of the Probation Service and the Unpaid workers scheme previously known as the Payback scheme. We had originally hoped to secure four projects per year but have so far managed to complete four with a further two programmed in over the next month.

Big Drink Debate: The Partnership set itself an initial objective to obtain 3% of the Borough population. The Big Drink Debate comes to a close 30th September. and whilst the surveys have been promoted through the Web and undertaken at our Road Shows and Community Action days. As at the 1st of September there were only 2,200 completed surveys for all of Surrey so our target of 3908 residents (3%) looks unachievable – www.surreybigdrinkdebate.nhs.uk.

Pub Watch: One new Pub Watch has been launched in June 2008 covering Cobham & Oxshott. This joins the existing schemes in Weybridge, Walton, Esher and Molesey.

Off Watch: The Cobham & Oxshott Off Watch was launched 20th August. This is the first in the Borough and within the County. An Elmbridge wide Off Watch meeting will take place on the 8th September in an effort to establish a Borough wide group.

Positive Press policy: The Partnership has a positive press policy to raise the profile of the Partnership itself but to also promote its work and crime prevention in general, helping reduce the fear of crime. Over this period we have had 20 press releases and 2 radio interviews.

Lock Out Burglary campaign: In an effort to reduce the levels of burglary a campaign has been started which seeks to give out a series of related messages throughout the year as a reminder for residents to take necessary precautions to reduce this type of crime. A poster campaign was introduced in June with two age group % - 7 years and 8 – 11 years. The winners were picked by the mayor of Elmbridge and presented with a prize. The posters are to be used in the ongoing crime awareness programme. In August ‘footprints’ have been introduced which will be left at addresses where some form of insecurity is found. In September a Property Roadshow is being introduced where stolen items will be on show and residents are being encouraged to attend to see if their property is amongst that found and also take up the offer of property marking. **The event is on Saturday 27th September 2008 between 10am – 2pm at The Heart, Walton.**

Neighbourhood Watch: Promotion of NHW is conducted at each of the Community Action days and Road Shows as well as by the neighbourhood teams. During this period a further 20 watches have been established taking us up to 420 with a total 20,140 households – www.neighbourhoodwatch.net.

Park Mark Car parks: A further 6 car parks have qualified for this qualification taking the total to 11 car parks – www.parkmark.co.uk.

Resident Association and Neighbourhood Watch communications: In an effort to speed up communications two databases have been established. The neighbourhood watch coordinators database and a Resident Association database. There are 847 coordinators covering 420 schemes (20,140 households) with 426 contactable by email. The Resident Association database has single points of contact via email with 30 RA’s who cover 16385 households. Work continues to grow both databases. During the period April – Aug 5 messages have been circulated.

Elmbridge Junior Citizen: The 2008 scheme was run during June with nearly 1300 young people taking part over the two weeks

3 OPTIONS

3.1 Not applicable.

4 CONSULTATIONS

4.1 This report invites the Elmbridge Local Committee to make representations on community safety issues they are aware of to enhance the annual strategic assessment and refresh of the Partnership Plan

5 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Surrey County Council contributed £24,000 towards the work of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership in 2008/09. In addition to which the County Councillors have also funded several community safety initiatives through their Member Allocation funds. These projects have included Elmbridge Junior Citizen, Drive out Vehicle Crime, display equipment for the community road shows and, most recently, an information card for the distraction burglaries project currently being worked on by the Partnership. Additional funding has also been requested by Surrey Fire and Rescue Service (Agenda Item 16) towards the Youth Engagement Scheme and Safe Drive Stay Alive.

6 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Equalities and Diversity is a cross cutting theme of the Elmbridge Sustainable Community Strategy of which Building Safer Communities is a theme.

7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 As outlined above.

8 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 Whilst the work of the Partnership is undertaken in an effort to reduce crime and disorder it is rarely possible to measure the effectiveness of a particular piece of work on recoded crime during the same period. The reported crime for Elmbridge during this period compared with the previous year is:

CRIME TYPE	1.4.08 – 31.8.08	1.4.07- 31.8.08	% increase/decrease	number of crimes
Robbery	33	18	+ 83.3 %	+ 15
Criminal Damage	797	900	-11.4%	- 103
Domestic Burglary	171	202	- 15.3%	- 31
Non Domestic Burglary	196	211	- 7.1%	- 15
Most Serious Violence	11	18	- 38.9%	- 7
Other Violence	605	712	- 15%	- 107
Vehicle Crime	357	488	-26.8%	- 131
Vehicle Interference	56	90	-37.8%	- 34
Serious Acquisitive Crime	561	708	- 20.8 %	- 47
Total Notifiable	3115	3476	- 10.4%	- 361

Offences				
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9 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 The Local Committee is asked to note the work of the Partnership to ensure it is aware of its work and to offer any contributions as to its future work and offer advice on any area it has influence over.
- 9.2 The Local Committee will also wish to be satisfied that the financial contribution it makes toward the work of the Partnership is being used as intended.

10 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 10.1 The Elmbridge Local Committee is invited to receive a further update on progress in December 2008 / January 2009 when the Community Safety Partnership Board will have next met.

LEAD OFFICER: Peter Kipps Elmbridge Community Safety Partnership Manager

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 01372 474399

E-MAIL: pkipps@elmbridge.gov.uk