

Newsletter

September 2008



Welcome

Welcome to this edition of the Tonbridge and Malling Community Safety Partnership newsletter.

Crime levels in Tonbridge and Malling continue to remain at a low level. Latest figures available show that there has been a total reduction of 18.6 per cent, that's 502 fewer victims of crime in comparison with the same period last year. All categories of crime remain low, including burglaries, criminal damage and violence against the person offences.

Although crime is low, all partners within the Partnership are continuing to strive to reduce crime and disorder even further and below you can read about some of the activities that partners are undertaking over the next few months. You can also read about some of the initiatives that have taken place since the last newsletter was produced. Further details about the work of the Partnership can be found on our website: www.tmcommunitysafety.org.uk

Alcohol awareness campaign 2008

Following on from the successful sensible drinking campaign held last year, the Tonbridge and Malling Community Safety Partnership will be running a similar campaign again this year in the run up to Christmas.

We know that most people like to have a drink around Christmas time and we don't want to stop anyone from enjoying themselves. However, the Partnership want people to stop and think about the consequences of excessive drinking, both in relation to their health and their behaviour.

The Partnership will be running a number of events across the borough, as well as providing information and advice on alcohol consumption. Look out for more details in the local press.



In this issue

- 'Scambuster' theatre performance
- SNAP Club Night – 29 October
- Alcohol Control Zones
- Charlton Athletic Football Club coaching sessions
- Tackling nuisance vehicles – police operation
- Crime Prevention events

Chief Constable visits Tonbridge and Malling Community Safety Partnership

Chief Constable Michael Fuller made an impromptu visit to a Strategy Group meeting of the Tonbridge and Malling Community Safety Partnership on 10 September. Mr Fuller described the CSP as "an excellent model of how partnership working can reduce crime and the fear of crime in the community". All the key members of the Partnership were at the meeting and were able to learn about the continued reductions in the levels of crime.

Chief Constable Michael Fuller said: "I wanted to visit Tonbridge and Malling because I was intrigued to find out how such excellent levels of crime reduction had been achieved. I am under no illusion that the police can do this alone. This CSP is an excellent model of how partnership working can reduce crime and help people to feel safer in their neighbourhoods. Tonbridge and Malling is one of the safest boroughs in Kent but I can see that this partnership is not complacent and I whole-heartedly support its continuing efforts to improve the quality of life of all its residents."

Scambuster theatre performance

A Scambuster theatre performance will be held at Ditton Community Centre, Kilnbarn Road on Thursday 2 October at 11am.

'Scambuster the musical' uses a combination of information, entertainment and light hearted humour with music from the 1950s rock 'n roll era to give advice on how to deal with scams and rogue traders. It also aims to build confidence in elderly people and the vulnerable and encourage the wider community to look out for and protect those who may be at risk.



Tickets are free of charge and free transport will also be provided. To reserve a place contact the Community Safety Partnership on 01732 876132 or e-mail csp@tmbc.gov.uk

Next SNAP event – 29 October 2008

The next SNAP Club Night will be held on Wednesday 29 October at the SOS Nightclub in Avebury Avenue Tonbridge from 7pm until 11pm for 14 – 17 year olds. Tickets will cost £7 and will be on sale from Dominos Pizza in Tonbridge. The night will be Halloween themed and there will be prizes available to anyone who comes in fancy dress.

As usual, the SNAP Club Night will offer young people a place to hang-out with their friends and meet new people without the distraction of tobacco, drugs or alcohol. 'SNAP' (Say No And Phone) is about proving that people don't need alcohol and drugs to get a high out of life and is part of the Crimestoppers national campaign against alcohol and drug related crime. Almost half of the calls to Crimestoppers are about drug related crime and the SNAP events aim to encourage young people to report anything they might know about dealing in illegal drugs. Anyone with information about a crime or criminals can call free on 0800 555 111 to pass on what they know anonymously.

Crime Prevention Events

The Community Safety Partnership and Tonbridge & Malling Crime Prevention Panel have arranged several crime prevention events which will take place over the next few months. At these events, free crime prevention items, such as purse chains and personal alarms, will be handed out. There will also be advice and information available.

Events will be run on:

- Saturday 25 October at Tesco supermarket, Larkfield
- Thursday 30 October at Sainsburys supermarket in Tonbridge
- Wednesday 3 December at Tesco supermarket, Larkfield
- Thursday 18 December at Aylesford Retail Park, Quarry Wood (venue to be confirmed).

Charlton Athletic FC – new sessions



Charlton Athletic Football Club have begun their free coaching sessions in the borough for the autumn period. Free sessions will now be held on a Thursday evening at Hadlow Village Hall. From 6.30 – 7.30pm the sessions will be for 8 – 13 year olds and from 7.30 – 8.30pm the sessions will be for 14 – 19 year olds.

From Monday 13 October, a session will be held at St Stephen's Primary School, Tonbridge from 5 – 6.30pm for all ages.

All sessions are free for boys and girls to attend. If you would like further details contact Dan, West Kent Co-ordinator, on 07904 965816.

Operation Motor – tackling nuisance drivers

On Friday 29 August 'Operation Motor', a multi agency operation to target nuisance drivers in Tonbridge town centre, was held and was a great success. During the operation 70 vehicles were stopped and actions undertaken included 14 Fixed Penalty Notices being issued, 2 vehicles were seized for drivers having no insurance, 1 Section 59 warning (a Section 59 warning means that if the driver is found to be driving in an anti-social way on a future occasion he risks having his car taken away from him) was issued and 2 men were arrested for possession of cannabis with intent to supply.

The Operation sent out a clear message that anti-social drivers will not be tolerated.

Cascade peer mentoring scheme

Eight young people from Aylesford and Wrotham schools were presented with Cascade certificates on 8 July 2008. These young people had received training and information from The Kenward Trust on drugs and alcohol issues over the past year, often giving up their own time to do so. The aim is that they then cascade this information to other pupils within their schools.



Alcohol Control Zones

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council have now agreed to set up Alcohol Control Zones in the borough giving police new powers to tackle drink-related anti-social behaviour in public places. These zones will be established in West Malling, Borough Green, Wrotham, Platt and Leybourne. The existing zone in Snodland will be extended. Signs advertising the Alcohol Control Zones will be in place in all the designated areas by Sunday 5 October.

The legislation does not ban responsible adults from drinking alcohol in public places but it will help to prevent problems arising from drink-related anti-social behaviour. The police will have the powers to stop a person drinking in a public place if asked to do so, confiscate alcohol from anyone causing problems and to arrest anyone who, without reasonable excuse, fails to stop drinking or surrender alcohol when requested.

For more information on the Alcohol Control Zones including maps showing the designated areas, please visit www.tmcommunitysafety.org.uk, call 01732 876132 or email csp@tmbc.gov.uk.

Tackling motorbike nuisance

On Sunday 21 September the police received reports regarding nuisance motorbikes in Mereworth Woods off of Beaufighter Road, West Malling. The police attended, and after some 'commando style' crawling through the woods they managed to catch the offenders. As a result, four Section 59 warnings were issued, which means if they are caught again they will have their bike seized. The fifth offender had already received a previous warning and had his bike seized.

Useful contact details

Community Safety Unit	Csp@tmbc.gov.uk	01732 876132
Sarah Taylor	Anti-Social Behaviour Officer, csp@tmbc.gov.uk	01732 876149
Kent Police	To report a non 999 call	01732 771055
Kent Crimestoppers	Calls are free and anonymous	0800 555 111
Women's Support Service	Advice on domestic violence	01622 674921
Neighbourhood Watch	West Kent area	01892 502159
Streetline	To report a street related problem	01732 876060

Contacts for the Police and Community Wardens

Contact details for all local neighbourhood policing teams, Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and Community Wardens can be found on www.tmcommunitysafety.org.uk

Newsletter produced by Tonbridge and Malling CSP

Enquires to Alison Finch, Community Safety Officer, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling Kent ME19 4LZ, Tel: 01732 876247 Email: csp@tmbc.gov.uk

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