

CORPORATE NEWSLETTER FROM THE ERITH COMMUNITY POLICING TEAM

Drug Use and Supply

Residents voted Drug Use and Supply as one of their top priorities for the Safer Neighbourhood Team.

In the last 3 months we have conducted 6 drug search warrants leading to the arrest of 5 people. Cocaine worth approximately £700 and over £1000 worth of herbal cannabis and a 200, 000 volt stun gun were among the items recovered. Of those 5 people, one has since been charged and convicted of possessing a prohibited weapon, 3 remain on police bail pending further enquiries and 1 was released without charge.

To reduce drug use and supply within the night time economy, we teamed up with officers from Kent Police and visited a number of pubs and clubs in Bexley and Dartford. We took two Police Dogs who are trained to detect all types of drugs and a drug testing machine that detects minute traces of drugs on people's hands. The dogs scanned customers inside and outside the premises whilst anyone wishing to enter had to submit to a hand swab as a condition of entry. In total, 4 people were arrested for possession of cocaine and cannabis and 1 was arrested for being drunk and disorderly. 7 containers of alcohol were seized from underage drinkers and 4 people were dispersed from the area after being involved in alcohol related disorder. The operation was a huge success and one we hope to repeat in the autumn and winter months.

Burglary

At the beginning of the year we began an alley gating scheme to reduce residential burglary in Friday and Crusoe Road. Visiting each household to obtain consent for the gates has been a slow process but this is nearly complete. Quotations have been obtained from 3 manufacturers and we hope to have the gates installed by the autumn.

We then held a public meeting for residents of Ashburnam, Gordon and Battle Road, Belvedere, to gain support for an alley gating scheme in this location. 27 residents attended and 8 people volunteered to be street co-ordinators. Burglary offences have declined over recent months but there is often a seasonal increase in the autumn and winter. Residents are reminded to double-lock UPVC doors during the day, especially back doors leading to gardens that have alleyways to the rear.

More recently, working closely with our partnership agencies, we managed to evict two convicted burglars from a flat in MacArthur Close who were suspected of being responsible for a number of residential burglaries in Erith. Since being evicted, they have been arrested, charged and remanded in

prison pending a Court date for a string of burglaries across South East London.

During October we began a new property marking scheme using SMART WATER. This crime prevention product comes in a liquid format with each bottle having a unique forensic code which can be matched to the address to which the property belongs. 500 households in Erith and Belvedere had their property marked with the substance and photographs of any valuable items were taken. The scheme will be extended and offered to repeat victims of burglary.

Street Drinking & Anti-Social Behaviour - West Street and Erith High Street

In conjunction with drug testing at licensed premises, Police are using new powers under the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 to disperse people involved in alcohol-related disorder.

There is a core of about six people who continually consume alcohol and behave in a disorderly manner in the Riverside Gardens. Recently, two of the group were arrested in West Street for being drunk and disorderly. Both were charged and released on bail to appear at Court. One of these individuals broke the conditions of his bail and was re-arrested in West Street after causing further problems. He has since appeared at Court and been convicted. We are now gathering evidence to support an application for an Anti-Social Behaviour Order against those concerned. Images of the group have been circulated to local off licences to prevent them being served and causing further problems.

Neighbourhood Panel Members

We are actively seeking more people to become members of the Erith Neighbourhood Police Panel. The panel meets every three months for approximately two hours at the Erith Leisure Centre in Avenue Road. We discuss issues affecting the area and residents select 3 priorities for the Neighbourhood Team to work on. This is an excellent opportunity for you to have a direct impact on what your Police do. Please contact PS James Coomber on 0208 721 2048 if you wish to take part or e-mail us at Erith.SNT@met.police.uk.