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Hello and welcome to Edition 10 of the South West (Swindon) Warden Resource Centre Newsletter.

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Joint Venture Swindon Wardens and YOT

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This is your newsletter and we look forward to hearing your views on it. We would appreciate receiving any news, ideas or best practice stories you may have which you would like to share with other schemes within the South West.

Community Warden gets new set of wheels



Robin, Community Warden at Poole Borough Council, has recently been given a new set of wheels to aid in his patrols of the Canford Heath area of Poole. This new flash 21-gear high specification bicycle has kindly been donated by a local community group to help track down those responsible for committing acts of anti-social behaviour including criminal damage and vehicle crime.

This presentation took place at the monthly community lunch that is

always well attended by local residents and organisations including Borough of Poole representatives, local Councillors and the local Police.

When asked to comment on this prestigious occasion, Robin said,

“I am delighted with this presentation and the recognition that the local community have in the value of the Community Warden Scheme in Poole. It has been observed that many of the local young people congregate in areas that are not accessible by car. To cover the whole area on foot consumes a very long time and often certain parts get left out. The use of this bike will ensure that I can now patrol the whole estate and quickly respond to telephone calls received when on patrol making much more effective use of my time”

With the success of cycle patrols in Canford Heath similar patrols are being introduced into other parts of Poole.

Our thanks are due to Jane Gaskins, Neighbourhood Warden, Cheltenham Borough Homes who has kindly shared this article

This exciting project will encourage children and young people to engage in positive activities based on improving the environment. The new scheme aims to encourage community development, involvement, ownership and pride for the younger residents on the estate.

The scheme, for up to ten youngsters between eight and 11 years of age, has been launched on Friday 27 January between 3pm and 5pm, at St Paul's Community House. Employees from Cheltenham Borough Homes (CBH), volunteers and staff from partner organisations will be working with the young people.

Paul Stephenson, assistant chief executive of CBH, says: "This scheme is an innovative way to build relationships with local people, engage young people and provide an opportunity to educate. The junior wardens will be working with our neighbourhood wardens. They will have an opportunity to learn about the environment, recycling and the consequences of fly tipping through fun and educational activities. They will also be encouraged to help older residents and neighbours with disabilities with small tasks."

The junior wardens are taking part in an induction and training week during February half term where daily activities have been planned such as a visit to the fire station, and an estate walkabout with the neighbourhood warden. Following their training, the junior wardens will take part in a weekly after school activity. The youngsters will be able to earn points for their work, which they will then be able to exchange for small rewards or save up for larger incentives.



Photo taken from the first Training Session held on 14th February 2006

Cllr John Webster, deputy for neighbourhood and community, says: "This is a good way to get young people involved with their community, and I hope that the scheme will prove to be a success."

Gloucestershire Fire Service has agreed to support the scheme and provide educational opportunities as part of the program of activities.

The trial scheme will cost £5,000 and is being jointly funded from Cheltenham Borough Council's second homes funding, and CBH staff resources.

St Paul's Community House is managed by Cheltenham Community Projects.



The Swindon Youth Offending Team approached Swindon Street Wardens with a proposal to supervise young offenders on a regular basis. The wardens saw this as an opportunity to expand their horizons and therefore agreed to the proposal. They had to undergo special training and an enhanced CRB check before this new role could be taken up. The area of operation was agreed to be the area they already work in so this extra responsibility could be undertaken during the normal working hours. Most of the offenders supervised by the wardens would range between 15 and 18 years and the ratio of operation will be a maximum of 4 offenders at a time being supervised by a single warden. It was also decided that the offenders to be supervised would be from the area where the wardens work and so people on the estates can see the offenders tackling some of the crimes committed by them i.e. cleaning off graffiti, which was sprayed by them. This would improve the surrounding area and also help raise the profile of the wardens in the community. It was left at the wardens' discretion to decide what particular jobs the young offenders should undertake, which now includes litter-picking, graffiti cleaning, painting fences for elderly residents and clearing gardens to name some of them.

Before an offender actually starts attending the wardens office, they are sent a case history about the individual which includes the crime they have committed, the number of hours they are to complete and most important their behaviour, i.e. if they are violent or have any issues. When an offender visits the wardens' office for the first time, they agree and sign the rules and guidelines of working. The wardens try and create a special bonding with the offender that tends to make them comfortable and they feel happy to work. Steve, one of the warden says, *'working with the young offenders has given me a lot of satisfaction and I hope this will continue in the years to come'*.

On this particular visit they had 3 offenders attending the office. After their registration and briefing, Street Wardens Steve, Julie and Mike took them on a graffiti-cleaning project at Cavendish Square, which is the local shopping area. On arriving there the wardens identified the areas that needed cleaning and then cordoned off the area with cones and tape. Due to freezing temperature on the day they decided not to use the power jet but instead use Vandalex Graffiti remover, which also works very well. As well as the outside of Co-op shop they cleaned off graffiti from the local library, Jerry's Cafe and the Cock Robin Public House. The whole morning was enjoyable & beneficial to the people in the area. The volunteers' co-operated and worked very well and a large amount of graffiti could be cleared in a short span of time.



Study Visit

The South West Warden Resource Centre has organised a Study visit in conjunction with Exeter Community Patrollers on '*Community Patrollers Reducing the Fear of Crime*' on **24 March 2006** at St George's Hall, Fore Street Exeter.

The Exeter Community Patrollers will give a presentation on **The History of the Service, Complaints Handling, Enabling & Partnership, Enforcement & Mediation**

They look forward to answering any of your questions during the day. In the afternoon **a visit to a regeneration site and a splendid project completed by youths in Exeter.**

See how the Exeter Community Patrollers have had such a positive affect on neighbourhoods and the lives of people who reside in their communities. There is never a 'one size fits all' approach when dealing with communities, so come and see and ask questions about why this scheme is so successful.

Kindly complete your booking forms and send it back so you could participate on this visit.

Dates for your Diary

**26 April Study Tour – Stroud District Council
Street Wardens in a Rural Setting**

**28 June Regional South West Conference – Bournemouth
Partnership Working to Deliver the Respect Agenda**

The next meeting of the South West Regional Network will be held on 17 March at Holiday Inn, Taunton, M5 Jct25 from 11:30 am to 3pm.



Here is a direct link to the hotel web page where you can get your map and directions.

<http://www.superbreak.com/home.cfm?GroupID=3600&content=Hotel>



You can now view and book trainings at any time from the comfort of your own office via our online booking system at www.cbs-rswind.org



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