



Welcome

Welcome to the relaunched Safe newsletter.

Through Safe, we hope to keep you in touch with the work of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Community Safety Partnership. I hope that you will provide us with feedback on the newsletter and tell us about issues you feel should be featured.

We are working with our local partners in the police, Tenant Management Organisation, London Fire Service, Probation Service and Primary Care Trust to help solve problems that residents feel most concerned about and ensure the Royal Borough remains one of the safest boroughs in London.

I hope you enjoy reading the new and improved Safe newsletter, and that you will be encouraged to be active residents and support your local community through the various services and initiatives available.

Councillor Warwick Lightfoot
Cabinet Member for Community Safety



Drug den is closed down

Residents living on the Notting Barns estate in North Kensington can breathe a collective sigh of relief after police and the Council put a stop to drug dealing at 10 Matthew Close and ended antisocial behaviour that had blighted the area.

Tracie Scott, who lived at 10 Matthew Close, was visited throughout the day and night by drug dealers, burglars and prostitutes who were using the premises to buy, sell and use drugs, prompting complaints from neighbours.

The criminal activity and other antisocial behaviour at the property was having a detrimental affect on people living on the Notting Barns estate, with many residents living in fear of Scott and her associates.

In November, District Judge Phillips granted an interim three-month closure order after considering evidence gathered by the police and the Council's Community Antisocial

Behaviour Action Team.

The order meant only Tracie Scott was to be allowed on the premises. Since then a permanent closure order has been made and Tracie Scott is no longer living at 10 Matthew Close.

Robert Black, Chief Executive of the Tenant Management Organisation, commended the joint partnership working that led to the closure of 10 Matthew Close, saying: "This is an excellent example of a successful multi-agency approach to solving a serious antisocial behaviour problem.

"I am grateful for the support that local residents gave our officers to achieve this positive outcome."

If you would like to provide feedback on Safe please see contact details on page 8.

Benefit cheat pays up

A benefit cheat who claimed £32,000 in housing and council tax benefits to spend on clothes and holidays abroad was given a 20-week custodial sentence.

On Tuesday 12 January, Mr Mohammed Sohail of 15 Blantyre Tower, World's End estate, SW10 pleaded guilty to all charges at West London Magistrates' Court.

Mr Sohail's actions were described by District Judge Tempia as a sophisticated fraud involving the diversion of his wife's wages into an undeclared bank account.

Sohail had declared his income from working at the Bangladeshi High Commission, but covered up that his wife was in employment and earning.

Mr Sohail admitted his guilt and agreed to repay a lump sum of £12,000.

District Judge Tempia took into account the defendant's early guilty plea, but she felt that there were a number of aggravating factors to consider. Namely the persistent defrauding of the state over a six year period, the fact that Mr Sohail knew what he was doing was wrong by diverting his wife's salary of £1,000 a month into an undeclared bank account, and spending the money on clothes and holidays.

Judge Tempia said: "You intended to do this, that is why you continued to do it, because you wanted something for nothing and to top it all you used the money for clothing and to holiday in Spain and France."

As well as sending Mr Sohail to prison, the judge ordered the defendant to pay £12,000 in compensation.



It's good to talk

A 'fun bus' visited Holland ward in January to encourage young people to talk with local residents and recruit members for a focus group designed to help reduce antisocial behaviour in the area.

The bus was there for two days in January, and was part of an innovative consultation project aimed at young people aged 11 to 21 living in Russell Road and the surrounding areas.

The 'Russell Road consultation' involved youngsters knocking on doors and talking with residents to find out what they felt was needed in the area as well as what needs to be done to help reduce antisocial behaviour in the community.

Information gathered by the young people highlighted residents' concerns and what improvements could be made to tackle antisocial behaviour.

The peer consultation project was initiated by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Safer Neighbourhoods Officer and the Council's PAYP (Positive Actions for Young People) Coordinator after a number of complaints from residents about antisocial behaviour and noise nuisance in the Russell Road area, which was often attributed to young people.

CCTV catches sex carder in the act

CCTV cameras caught a sex carder putting up prostitution cards in public phone boxes on Earl's Court Road.

The offender, who is known to police as a prolific sex carder, has been arrested three times in the past for similar offences, and was caught red-handed and arrested by the police on Saturday 30 January just outside Oddbins on the corner of Penywern Road, Earl's Court.

Carders are employed by brothels to put up cards in public places to attract potential clients. Sex carding is an illegal activity which causes considerable offence to residents and visitors.

Money made from prostitution is often used for drug-related activity, and both the Council and police are working together to ensure that those involved are caught and brought to justice.

To report any antisocial behaviour call 0300 123 12 12 or if it is an emergency always dial 999.

Fraudsters caught out

A man who stole his dead father's identity was just one of many people caught attempting to defraud Kensington and Chelsea Council.

Alert Council officers uncovered 77 people making false applications on the Council's housing waiting list as well as detecting over £250,000 of Housing Benefit and pension fraud in excess of £12,000.

As part of a review of data held by the Council, officers checked over 4,000 records and carried out over 250 investigations.

Councillor Thomas Fairhead, Cabinet Member for Finance and Property, said: "We will not tolerate fraudsters taking money meant for people who are in real need. Our officers work hard to ensure people who claim money they are not entitled to are caught and dealt with appropriately."

Every two years the Council takes part in the Audit Commission's National Fraud Initiative, an exercise that matches electronic data within and between audited bodies to prevent and detect fraud.

Amongst the cases discovered was a man who stole his dead father's identity in order to claim his pension and someone else who applied for housing even though they had been given a Council property in north London.

Following this successful investigation and the number of prosecutions that have resulted, further prosecutions are being considered.

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea encourages residents who have any suspicions about fraud to contact the hotline on **020 7361 2777**.



Young offenders dig deep to clear snow

Young offenders on the Community Payback scheme helped Council staff grit roads and clear away snow and ice during one of the UK's coldest periods.

Offenders worked alongside Council officers shovelling away snow and ice in the north of the borough, making sure pathways were safe for the borough's most vulnerable residents.

Elderly residents living in sheltered accommodation at Tavistock Road, Alan Morkill House and St Mungo's were relieved when the young offenders visited to lay down grit and get rid of any snow and ice, enabling essential services to reach the residents.

The offenders made sure private pathways and drives to doctors' surgeries and community centres were more accessible for patients and residents.

Veronica Ajayi, a senior carer at Alan Morkill House praised the work, saying: "The offenders did a very good job. They cleared away paths and made sure ice was cleared away too."

The Community Payback scheme is a partnership between London Probation, the Metropolitan Police and Council. The scheme enables low-risk offenders serving community sentences to make amends in the local community as part of their punishment for offending.

Kids think safe

The borough's primary school children experienced a range of exciting hands-on experiences as part of this year's Junior Citizens programme.

Police and Fire Brigade Officers taught children how to deal with situations such as a fire in the home and keeping safe while using public transport. The youngsters got some hands-on experience designed to help them react swiftly and safely should they ever find themselves in a dangerous situation.

There was also practical advice on first aid and road safety as well as important messages about the dangers of smoking and alcohol.

The Junior Citizens programme, is coordinated by the Metropolitan Police Service and involves 1,000 primary school children from across the Royal Borough.

The annual event took place from Monday 8 March to Friday 19 March 2010, at the Territorial Army Centre, Adam and Eve Mews, just off Kensington High Street.



Glenn Duggan Crime Prevention Design Advisor



Get in gear to prevent car crime

Although crime levels remain low in the Royal Borough compared with other parts of London, the police, Council and other partners are working together to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour.

This issue features specialist advice on preventing car crime from Glenn Duggan, the Community Safety Team's Crime Prevention Design Advisor.

Here are **ten top tips** to help protect your vehicle:

1. **Don't leave items on display in your vehicle.**
2. **Portable satnav devices should be removed when the vehicle is parked and any visible sign that they have been used removed from the inside of the car.**
3. **Keep your car keys with you when you visit a petrol station or go shopping.**
4. **Don't leave your car keys on view at home where they can be reached via the letterbox.**
5. **Consider fitting anti-theft security systems.**
6. **Consider getting good quality locking wheel nuts fitted.**
7. **When parking at home, always use your garage if you have one, and lock both your vehicle and your garage. If you don't have a garage, try to park in a well-lit, open place.**
8. **If you have a motorcycle or scooter with a parking permit then use the ground anchors provided at the designated parking bays across the borough.**
9. **Use a secure motorcycle and scooter cover to reduce the temptation to steal your vehicle.**
10. **If you have a residents' permit for your vehicle, for a discounted fee you can park in Hornton Street Car Park when you go away on holiday.**

If you would like further advice on keeping safe from vehicle crime, please contact the Community Safety Team on **020 7795 6660** or email **commsafe@rbkc.gov.uk**.

In the event of an emergency always call 999, for all other calls to the Metropolitan Police service please call **0300 123 12 12**.



Cyclists caught on camera

Cyclists who jump red lights were targeted by police during an enforcement operation in February which saw nine cyclists stopped and given warnings for cycling dangerously.

Cyclists caught running red lights and riding on the pavement can face a £30 fine as part of a clamp down on rogue riders.

Police and PCSOs regularly check for cyclists jumping red lights across the borough and particular emphasis is placed on hotspot areas such as Notting Hill Gate and Kensington High Street, both of which are main cycle routes into central London.

Since April 2009, police have issued 150 fixed penalty notices for cycling on the pavement and ignoring red traffic lights.

The efforts of the Council and the police to encourage safe and responsible cycling were featured on the BBC One's London 'Inside Out' show in February.

Cycle safety

In an attempt to reduce collisions between cyclists and HGV lorries the Council gives cyclists a chance to see what the road looks like from the cab of a HGV lorry and experience the difficulties drivers can have seeing them. The campaign also stresses the need for drivers of large vehicles to take extra caution to avoid accidents with the ever-increasing number of cyclists on the borough's roads.

Residents and people who work in the borough can get free bike maintenance checks as well as training in cycling proficiency.

If you would like to find out more, please contact the Council's Road Safety and Travel Plan Team on road.safety@rbkc.gov.uk.



Your Safer Neighbourhoods Team

Safe will feature a regular snapshot of the Royal Borough's Safer Neighbourhoods Teams' work and the local ward priorities residents are most concerned about.

There is a Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT) operating in every ward. They are dedicated to responding to local issues and concerns.

If you have any day-to-day crime and disorder issues, or if you would like to get involved, you can visit your SNT team at one of the regular drop-in surgeries or crime prevention stalls.

Alternatively, please contact your local Kensington and Chelsea Safer Neighbourhoods Team. Details can be found at www.met.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods.

In the event of an emergency always call 999, for all other calls to the Metropolitan Police service please dial **0300 123 12 12**.

Courtfield ward

Priorities

1. Removing prostitute cards in phone boxes
2. Youth engagement
3. Road safety and enforcement

Ward update

In the past six months 17 people have been arrested or detained for prostitute carding and several brothels have been closed.

The SNT is organising a charity football match with Imperial College students at the Evelyn Gardens student halls, as well as talking to children at Mander Portman Woodward school and patrolling around schools at drop-off and pick up time.

There has been ward panel engagement with TfL and the Council regarding road safety on Cromwell Road as well as enforcement work to tackle pavement cycling.

Drop-in surgery

When: Tuesday 13 April 2010, 1pm to 2pm
Where: Halpin House Hostel, Queens Gate

Drop-in surgery

When: Tuesday 1 June 2010, 7pm to 8pm
Where: Evelyn Gardens Student Halls

Tel: **020 8721 2652**
07920 233811



Pembridge ward

Priorities

1. Burglary
2. Cycling offences

Ward update

Burglary continues to be a priority for residents in Pembridge ward, officers are targeting housing with communal doors which are often left open. Posters have been put up providing crime prevention advice as well as updates on the latest burglary initiatives.

SNTs are looking into the number of reported incidents of cyclists running red lights in the Notting Hill Gate area and cycling in the wrong direction along one-way streets in Portobello Road.

Officers have been tackling antisocial behaviour and street drinking by targeting all known drinking hotspots in the ward, confiscating alcohol and carrying out night-time patrols, working in partnership with the Council and local businesses.

Since the operation started, officers have obtained one antisocial behaviour order banning a habitual street drinker from the area and made arrests.

Crime prevention stalls

When: Wednesday 24 March 2010, 10am to 12pm
Where: Notting Hill Tube station

Crime prevention stalls

When: Thursday 8 April 2010, 6pm to 8pm
Where: The Limes Linden Gardens W2

Crime prevention stalls

When: Wednesday 14 April 2010, 4pm to 6pm
Where: Starbucks 140 Notting Hill Gate W11

For more information about
Safer Neighbourhoods Teams please visit
www.met.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods

Get involved!

There are a number of ways you can get involved in your local community to help beat crime and support more vulnerable residents.

Join your local Neighbourhood Watch scheme

Contact your local Safer Neighbourhoods Team for details www.met.police.uk/teams/kensingtonandchelsea.

Join your local Safer Neighbourhoods Team ward panel

Your local Safer Neighbourhoods Team ward panel sets and monitors local priorities. Information on ward panels is available from the Metropolitan Police website www.met.police.uk/teams/kensingtonandchelsea.

Become a Special Constable or Met Volunteer

Work alongside your local police and become a Special Constable or a Met Volunteer. Find out more by visiting the Met Police recruitment website www.metpolicecareers.co.uk or for more information contact **Luke Costello** on **020 8246 0825** or email luke.costello@met.police.co.uk.

Become an Appropriate Adult volunteer

Appropriate Adults support vulnerable people who have been arrested by the police. For more information contact **Lara Valle** on **07875878813** or email lara.valle@rbkc.gov.uk.

Help support victims of crime

Kensington and Chelsea Victim Support rely on volunteers to support local residents who have been affected by crime. To find out more visit the Victim Support website www.victimsupport.org.uk or telephone **0845 450 3936**.

Police Cadets

Kensington and Chelsea Police has launched a local cadet scheme. It is aimed at young people aged 14 to 19.

Cadets perform tasks such as the test purchasing of alcohol, fireworks and knives and take part in local events. They also get involved in London-wide activities such as Trooping the Colour, Remembrance Day parades, London Marathon and various charity events.

Cadets meet once a week and involve themselves in other activities at weekends and in school holidays such as camping trips.

For further information contact **Sgt Paul Crook** on **020 7938 3013** or email paul.crook@met.police.uk.

Contact Us

Community Safety Team

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www.rbkc.gov.uk/communitysafety

If you would like to receive an electronic or paper copy of **Safe** and if you have any content suggestions, please contact the Editor via email at commsafe@rbkc.gov.uk