

Richmond upon Thames Community Safety Partnership Newsletter February 2011



Introduction

Welcome to the February edition of the Richmond upon Thames Community Safety Partnership newsletter for partners and residents involved in reducing crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime in Richmond upon Thames. The newsletters are intended to provide readers with headline stories about local, regional and national community safety news items, events and consultations in an easy to read format. If you have any comments please e-mail David Noakes at d.noakes@richmond.gov.uk or telephone me on 0208 891 7214.



Richmond upon Thames News

- **Operation Lockout** For details of event locations in February please go to the **dates for your diary** section of this newsletter or go to www.richmond.gov.uk/operation_lockout
- **Shop Banned from Selling Alcohol** A Twickenham shop has lost its premises licence after repeated reports from the public of underage sales of alcohol. The shop in question was AM2PM in Heath Road. A number of test purchases were carried out by the Police and the Council's Trading Standards department at the end of 2010 following reports of underage sales of alcohol and cigarettes, which resulted in a 16 year old being able to buy 2 cans of alcohol without being asked for proof of his age.
- **New Frequently Asked Questions page on Richmond upon Thames Council's Community Safety Webpages** We have now compiled a page of Frequently Asked Questions on the website. It includes information on some old chestnuts such as legal times for fireworks and illegal car parking, along with phone numbers of some 24 hour helplines. We hope this will be useful to people at the weekend and in the evenings when the Community Safety phone and mailbox cannot be answered. http://www.richmond.gov.uk/csp_a-z_of_faqs_4.pdf

We hope to add more advice in the future. Please let us know if there are topics you think should be covered.

- **17th Youth Crime Conference to be held at the Rugby Football Union, Twickenham** Richmond upon Thames Community and Police Partnership and Community Safety Partnership have invited secondary schools across the borough to nominate year 9 pupils to attend the Youth Crime Conference on the 16th February. The theme of this year's conference is "Stay Safe, Stay Secure, Stay Together" and will include workshops and a poster competition. A presentation will be made by the Serious Crime Directorate on Joint Enterprise. The event is being supported by the RFU, who are providing the venue free of charge.



News from London

- **The Met outlines where axe could fall to meet budget cuts** The Metropolitan Police service outlined initial plans for making savings to cope with an estimated £100m cut in grant funding

next year. The Met Deputy Commissioner Tim Godwin told the London Assembly's Budget and Performance Committee the service wants to maintain operational capacity, so is initially focussing on cutting costs through support functions, information technology, buildings and its fleet, rather than front-line services. One way the MPS hopes to cut estate costs by a quarter is by a shift away from traditional police stations, which are costly to maintain, to "front counter" services in high street locations, while officers and custody suites are based elsewhere.



News from Parliament

- **Crackdown on Availability of Cheap Alcohol** Retailers will be banned from selling cheap alcohol below the rate of duty + VAT under new plans announced by the Home Office. James Brokenshire, Minister for Crime Prevention said "We know that pricing controls can help reduce alcohol-related violent crime and this is a crucial step in tackling the availability of cheap alcohol." The proposals would prevent retailers from selling a 1 litre bottle of vodka for less than £10.71 and a 440ml can of lager for less than £0.38.
- **Specification issued for New Drug Screening Device** Police forces are a step closer to having equipment to test motorists suspected of drug driving. The Home Office has produced the specification for a new police station-based drug screening device. Once a screening device is approved, officers will be able to use it to test if a person has specific levels of drug in their system and then take a blood sample if the device gives a positive reading.
- **New Help for Victims of Anti-Social Behaviour** Trials of a new approach for handling complaints of anti-social behaviour were unveiled by crime prevention minister James Brokenshire. Eight police force areas will change the way they respond to calls, including a new system of logging complaints and improving the use of IT to share information, that will help to quickly identify and protect vulnerable victims. For more information go to <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/press-releases/new-help-asb>



Dates for Your Diary in February and March 2011

- **Lock it or Lose it events (bike marking and health checks for your bikes)**
Thursday 10th February - Twickenham Rail Station, Twickenham (4-7pm)
Wednesday 23rd February - Quadrant (outside Tesco) in George Street, Richmond (4-7pm)
- **Operation Lockout events (crime prevention information, bike and phone marking)**
There are no further Operation Lockout events planned for the remainder of February
- **Hate, Harassment and Hostility Community Forum Meeting** (this group looks at issues around hate crime in the borough) - **Monday 7th March 2011 at 6:30pm** in the Salon, York House, Twickenham
- **Community and Police Partnership Meeting** (bi-monthly public meeting of the community, police and council. All welcome) - **Tuesday 29th March 2011 at 7pm** in York House, Twickenham