

Richmond upon Thames Community Safety Partnership Newsletter

January 2012



Introduction

Welcome to the first edition of the Richmond upon Thames Community Safety Partnership newsletter in 2012 for partners and residents involved in reducing crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime in Richmond upon Thames. This edition includes stories on the Council's call for action on metal theft, an increase of thefts in Sheen, a new Superintendent of Operations for Richmond Police and the Prime Minister's plans to tackle troubled families. If you have any comments please e-mail David Noakes, Community Safety Officer at d.noakes@richmond.gov.uk or telephone me on 0208 891 7214.



Richmond upon Thames News

- **Richmond calls for action on metal theft** Richmond Council has signed a UK-wide petition on the Government's website to amend the Scrap Metal Merchants Act 1964 to make it more difficult for thieves to sell stolen scrap metal. The Act, which governs the buying and selling of second hand metals, currently allows dealers to pay cash for any metals. The petition is calling for the law to be amended so scrap could only be paid for by cheque or directly into the seller's bank account. The decision follows the theft of a bronze plaque from the Radnor Gardens War Memorial in October, thefts of signal cabling outside Twickenham station and thefts of lead from the roofs of York House and All Hallows Church. The petition was signed by Councillor Virginia Morris, Richmond's Cabinet Member for Environment, on behalf of the Council.
- **New Superintendent for Operations at Richmond Police** A new Superintendent for Operations will formally start work at Richmond Police at the beginning of January 2012. Detective Superintendent Christos Kalamatianos, who was previously in the Prevention of Terrorism Branch, replaces Superintendent Jim Davis.



Current Crime Trends, Reports and Campaigns

- **Increase in both motor vehicle crime and burglaries in the Sheen area** There has been a notable increase in motor vehicle crime and burglaries in the Sheen area over the last few weeks. In the daytime vans have been targeted with doors forced or their windows smashed and cars have been targeted in the evening/night with their windows smashed. Residential burglaries are also occurring during the day with front doors and windows being forced open. Offences have various suspect descriptions, but include small groups of males, suggesting a number of different offenders are active in the area.
- **Motor vehicle crime in St Margaret's drops following arrests** The arrest of 2 males from Hounslow on the 21st November and visible police patrols has contributed to a cessation in motor vehicle offences in the St Margaret's area.
- **Rise in town centre thefts halted following arrests** Over the last few weeks there has been a rise in thefts in town centres across the borough. The suspects have been described as either of Eastern European or Asian appearance. Offending patterns include targeting lone shop staff to steal personal property, distracting and stealing from shoppers and using a jewellery swap technique to steal jewellery from the victim in the street. On

Wednesday 3 Eastern European females between the ages 15-24 from the Haringey area were arrested in Teddington and since then there have been no further offences. Town centre patrols have been taking place daily and will continue until Christmas day.

- **Overnight burglaries disappear** Following the rise in overnight thefts from garages, sheds, office blocks and small dwellings in rear residential gardens in Heathfield and Hampton North police tasking has led to the arrest of a prolific burglar from the Hanworth area who has admitted to 25 further offences in this area.



Westminster and London News

- **Mayor of London launches his 2012 Safer Park scheme** The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, has launched his 2012 Safer Park scheme that recognises the anti-crime measures park groups, councils and the public have taken to increase public safety in their local parks and green spaces. A recent telephone survey shows increased satisfaction amongst Londoners with the quality of their local parks (84% compared to 80% last year) and feeling safe after dark (37% compared to 30% last year) but that teenagers hanging around and poor lighting are the things that make most people concerned about their safety (23%). For more information and to apply click on the link below <http://www.london.gov.uk/saferparks>
- **Prime Minister announces plans to tackle troubled families** David Cameron, the Prime Minister, announced plans to radically transform the lives of some of the country's most troubled families. The plans, which are supported by £450 million are to be targeted at a 120,000 families who are estimated to cost the tax payer £9 billion per year, equivalent to £75,000 per family. The Government who also released their headline goals and how success will be measured are planning to recruit a national network of Troubled Family Trouble Shooters appointed by local councils. The estimated number of troubled families in Richmond upon Thames based on previous Government research is 190. The figures in our neighbouring boroughs were 585 in Hounslow, 540 in Hammersmith & Fulham, 660 in Wandsworth and 225 in Kingston upon Thames. A new Troubled Families team will be based within the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG).
- **Home Secretary announces new Deputy Commissioner for Metropolitan Police** Theresa May, the Home Secretary, has announced that Craig Mackey will be the new Deputy Commissioner for the Metropolitan Police. Mr Mackey who was previously the Chief Constable in Cumbria since 2007, has been a police officer for 27 years. The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, who was also on the interview panel said "Craig Mackey has a strong record in public order and will bring a new dynamism to the role of deputy commissioner".



Dates for your diary in January 2012

- **Operation Lockout events (crime prevention information, bike and phone marking)**
- **Operation Lockout-cycle marking event at Courtlands, Sheen Road, Richmond-Saturday 21st January 2012 between midday and 3pm**
- **Community and Police Partnership meeting** (bi-monthly public meeting of the community, police and council. All welcome) - **Tuesday 31st January 2012 at 7pm** in York House, Twickenham.