IN Touch

Lancashire Constabulary
police and communities together

Neighbourhood Policing Newsletter

July 2011

Marton Neighbourhood Watch Update

PC Karen Rimmer

PCSO Kirsty Ashworth

PCSO Aneta Turner

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Your Top Priorities

You've told us your top problems for us to tackle are:

- ASB issues on Stanley Park
- Large groups of youths riding scooters on Worcester Road and Torquay Avenue
- Dog fouling across the ward

Last month you told us of ASB issues on Stanley Park... Youth referrals have been issued and stop searches completed. 29 youth referrals issued last month Parents have been spoken to.

Speeding issues... A course has been booked for the community beat manager so that the laser speed gun can be used by the NHP team. 2 weeks of action days with the council, parkwise and education have been conducted. Several tickets were issued as part of the action days.

Public consultation — all welcome

Date	Time	Location
2nd August	4pm	Retro on St Leonards Rd

Warning for people buying second hand cars

POLICE in Lancashire are warning members of the public to be particularly vigilant if considering buying a used car.

The warning comes after a spate of reports of stolen and cloned vehicles over recent weeks.

In the past fortnight, police have received six reports from people who have bought second hand cars that have been advertised on the internet that it transpires have been stolen and cloned using another vehicles' identity.

Detective Sergeant Simon Ingham, from the Organised Vehicle Crime Team said; "This type of criminality has a huge impact on the victims who are targeted as they are often left thousands of pounds out of pocket, with no way of getting their money back.

"We would send a strong warning to people who think they can get away with cloning cars and selling them on to innocent people – you will be targeted and you will be caught and brought to justice. I would also like to reassure members of the public that Lancashire Constabulary is taking robust action against those who clone and sell stolen vehicles.

DS Ingham continued: "People should exercise great caution when buying second handcars from private sales. We are currently working very closely with organisations such as Auto Trader in order to eradicate this type of crime. My advice would be to avoid paying cash where possible, otherwise ask for and record some form of credible identification from the seller and never meet in a car park or similar type of venue in order to complete the purchase of a car.

"If purchasers are taken to a private address make sure the seller actually lives there.

A genuine seller shouldn't object to this type of checking particularly if they want to achieve a sale. If in doubt walk away and inform the police or contact Crimestoppers. Never buy a car without a log book".

Police are also warning car owners to be extra vigilant in order to prevent their cars from being stolen through 'car key burglaries' – as this is quite often the first link in the car cloning chain.

Newer cars, which are often targeted for cloning, are difficult to steal so offenders are resorting to stealing keys left on show by using a hook or cane to retrieve them through an unlocked window, letterbox or cat-flap – people can prevent this by ensuring car keys are kept securely out of the way.

Court Round Up

A 32 year old male has been found guilty of being concerned in producing a class B controlled drug following the discovery of a cannabis factory during a warrant in the Marton ward. He has been sentenced to 2 years and 6 months imprisonment.

A 60 year old male has been found guilty of driving when above the alcohol limit after being stopped on West Park Drive. He has been disqualified for 12 months with costs and fines of £200.

A 27 year old male has pleaded guilty to driving above the alcohol limit after being stopped on Preston New Road also whilst disqualified. He has been placed under a 16 week curfew between the hours of 9pm and 6am as well as being electronically monitored. He has been disqualified for 3 years with costs of £85.00.

Officers' bravery honoured at special awards ceremony

POLICE officers have received commendations in recognition for their brave actions while on duty. The officers, who all work in Lancashire Constabulary's Western Division, which covers Blackpool and Fylde, were presented with the awards at a special ceremony.

Recognised officers with Chief Supt Debicki

PC Alan Bagan and PC Ross Williams were presented with the Rhodes Marshall meritorious conduct cup, which is given to officers who display significant physical, emotional or moral courage at an incident.

PC Bagan was returning to Bonny Street police station during the early hours of November 22, 2010, when he saw a man led on the edge of a footbridge, 50 ft from the ground. When the man appeared to lose consciousness and started to topple over the edge of the bridge, PC Bagan raced up the staircase and grabbed hold of his arm. PC Williams then arrived at the scene and grabbed both his colleague and the man - with the pair of officers having to hold on until further help arrived. It eventually took five officers to pull the man to safety.

Chief Superintendent Richard Debicki said: "Both of these officers reacted quickly in a life threatening situation. Were it not for their brave and physically demanding actions, the male in question would have fallen to his death."

Also nominated for the award were PC Paul Haddow, PC Matt Moore and PC David Baker. The trio attended a horrific scene in September 2010 where a man had fallen from a tower block and had been decapitated on his descent. The officers not only had to compose themselves and secure the scene but also had to deal with a number of members of the public trying to break through the police cordon to get a closer look.

PC Tim Taylor and Sgt Sam Driver were nominated for the award after dealing with an incident in Greenhalgh in September last year where a man started shooting an air rifle and throwing petrol bombs at a group of teens camping in a field. Without any thought for their personal safety they pursued the offender and arrested him near to the scene, preventing any further injury or danger to the group of traumatised youngsters. The man was later jailed for four and a half years.

PC Richard James was nominated after he helped to pull a suicidal male up from the parapet of the railway bridge next to Layton station in November last year. The man had toppled forward and PC James was able to grab his jacket and, with the assistance of members of the public, haul him to safety.

Chief Superintendent Richard Debicki said: "All of those who have received awards and commendations have gone beyond the call of duty when faced with situations that were often dangerous and in some cases life threatening. The actions of these individuals should be praised, not only because in some cases they have helped to save the life of someone else, but also because they are helping to protect our communities on a daily basis."

Youths invited to take part in football cage sessions

A SPECIAL mobile football cage will be used to tackle anti-social behaviour in South Shore.

The move, being carried out by Lancashire Police and Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, is aimed at providing youngsters with something positive to do with their time, thus reducing nuisance behaviour that is borne out of boredom.

The cage is a portable full-size five-a-side football pitch and will be located on Revoe Park every Monday night in July. Places will be on a first-come first served basis at the sessions and parents will need to sign a consent form in order for their children to take part.

PCSO Debby Savage, of the Haweside neighbourhood police team, said: "There have been complaints of youths acting in an anti-social manner in the parks. The park is a facility that should be available for every member of the community to enjoy, so it is hoped that by providing this diversionary activity we will see an improvement in the situation."

Local Crime Figures

Figures for Marton Ward	June 2010	June 2011	%+ or -
All Criminal Damage	13	4	-69.2%
Domestic Burglaries	6	3	-50%
Vehicle Crime (theft of and from)	2	5	150%
All Violent Crime	12	14	16.7%