

## Tilley Award 2005

### Application form

The following form must be completed in full. Failure to do so will result in disqualification from the competition.

Please send completed application forms to Tricia Perkins at [patricia.perkins@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:patricia.perkins@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

All entries must be received by noon on the 29 April 2005. Entries received after that date will not be accepted under any circumstances. Any queries on the application process should be directed to Tricia Perkins on 0207 035 0262.

#### 1. Details of application

Title of the project

**Northampton CASPAR3 project**

Name of force/agency/CDRP:

**Northamptonshire Police**

Name of one contact person with position/rank (this should be one of the authors):

**PS44 Mark McDonnell CASPAR3 Project Manager**

Email address:

**Mark.mcdonnell@northants.police.uk**

Full postal address:

**Community Action  
Northamptonshire Police FHQ  
Mereway  
Northampton**

Telephone number:

**01604 70070  
Mobile: 07799786514**

Fax number

**07799789012**

Name of endorsing senior representatives(s)

**Davina Logan**

Position and rank of endorsing senior representatives(s)

**Deputy Chief Constable**

Full address of endorsing senior representatives(s)

**Northamptonshire Police FHQ  
WOOTTON HALL  
Northampton, NN4 OJQ**

## 2. Summary of application

In no more than 400 words please use this space to describe your project. Include details of the problem that was addressed a description of the initiative, the main intervention principles and what they were designed to achieve, the main outcomes of project particularly in relation to the problem, evidence was used in designing the programme and how the project is evaluated.

**CASPAR** stands for **C**rime and **A**nti-**S**ocial behaviour **P**ARtnership.

**The Spring Boroughs and Semilong CASPAR3** project is part of the **Northampton Crime and Disorder Strategy 2002 – 2005** target: "To identify and implement, in one area per year, an estate action community programme specifically aimed at reducing crime and disorder".

CASPAR3 ran as a managed project from 1 April 2002 to 31 March 2005, and is designed to continue, in a self-managing format.

A structure of regular planned meetings, involve all agencies, elected members and community organisations has ensured a robust community lead problem solving system.

**Spring Boroughs and Semilong** is a residential area near to the centre of Northampton. Spring Boroughs the most deprived and Semilong the third most deprived area in Northamptonshire.

**There is a long-standing street prostitution problem**, over 200 sex workers were identified in 2001, linked to drugs and linked to a significant robbery and auto-crime problem.

The response involves Diversion, Enforcement and Environmental changes, ensuring that they compliment each other and was driven and supported by the community.

The aim was to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour, particularly associated with Vice and drugs, without incurring displacement to surrounding areas.

**The Northampton Vice enforcement policy** was designed in consultation with a sex workers support service (SWAN), the residents associations and the business community.

The Community Safety Scrutiny committee of Northampton Borough Council approved the policy in 2003.

It is believed to be the only such formal policy in existence in England or Wales based on a 'managed area'.

There is an agreement that women working as prostitutes at night within two non residential streets are not prosecuted but are directed to the SWAN Partnership, which provides a safe, supported and sustainable opportunity for sex workers to exit from prostitution (32 women have).

Women working outside this agreement are Cautioned and if persistent issued with ASBO's (7 have been). Kerbcrawlers and drug dealers continue to be prosecuted in the area (108 Kerbcrawlers prosecuted, three drug dealers issued with ASBO's).

Throughout the CASPAR area 25 premises used for drug dealing and prostitution have been closed.

The enforcement has been coordinated with environmental changes such as fencing and road closures and CCTV instillation.

Crime in the area has also reduced with 61 robberies in 2001 reduced to 31 in 2004.

**60% of resident's state that prostitution has reduced as a problem and 55% feel their area is now safer.**

**3. Description of project:** Describe the project following the guidance above in no more than 4000 words

---

## Introduction

Northampton is one of the four Basic Command units of Northamptonshire police. **Spring Boroughs and Semilong** is a residential area near to the centre of the town.

Following the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Northampton Community Safety Partnership published targets under 'THE CRIME AND DISORDER STRATEGY FOR NORTHAMPTON 2002 – 2005'.

A PERSONAL SAFETY targets is:

"To identify and implement, in one area per year, an estate action community programme specifically aimed at reducing crime and disorder".

**CASPAR** stands for **C**rime and **A**nti-**S**ocial behaviour **P**ARtnership; it was devised by Mark McDonnell to be non-specific to any location. There are now five CASPAR projects running within Northampton using the same model.

CASPAR projects look at those complex problems that tend to affect the entire community and warrants organisational collaboration and the use of community wide resources.

CASPAR3 ran as a managed project from 1 April 2002 to 31 March 2005, and designed to continue, in a self-managing format.

PS Mark McDonnell, the manager, was seconded from the Police and it is his time leading the project that forms the basis of this report. He is a graduate with an academic background in creative problem solving and experienced in multi-agency partnership work.

The **CASPAR3 Steering Committee** consisted of senior officers from the Community Safety partner organisations.

The '**CASPAR Forum**' meets monthly to discuss issues and devise responses, it consists of the County and Borough council members (one of whom chairs), senior officers from the statutory agencies, Police Authority and local Housing Association and representatives from Spring Boroughs Residents Association and Semilong Community Forum.

The **CASPAR Workers Forum** is a monthly meeting of 'street level' workers in the area including: youth workers, school teachers, the Beat Officer, Community Development workers, outreach workers, housing and estate officers from the borough and housing association and community centre managers.

---

## Scanning

**Spring Boroughs** is the oldest part of Northampton. It is 98% local authority High and Medium rise flats built when unfit Victorian terraced housing was the subject of clearance and re-development in the 1950's. Immediately alongside are the railway station and a 'truck stop'.

**Semilong** lies to the north of Spring Boroughs divided from it by the small **Grafton Street industrial estate**.

Most of Semilong date from the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Some of the earlier terraced housing has been demolished under Housing Clearance Programmes and re-developed with public rented housing. The southern and central housing areas were declared as Housing Action Areas in the 1980's under Housing Act legislation. It is made up of mainly privately owned housing and private rented multi occupancy accommodation.

The area contains the Catholic Cathedral, together with some shopping and commercial premises, a Soup kitchen and Night Shelter and the main mosque in Northampton. The area has a high number of Somalia and east European asylum seekers and refugees.

The Multiple Indices of Deprivation ranks Spring Boroughs the most deprived and Semilong the third most deprived area in Northamptonshire.

The CASPAR3 area is a complex un-cohesive area, with the unique problem in the county of a long established thriving street vice trade.

In his book, 'In Suspicious Circumstances', former police surgeon Dr Hugh de la Haye Davies attributes the arrival in the 1940s of US soldiers at nearby air bases for the surge in prostitution.

"In the Second World War the influx of American servicemen into the area and surrounding counties was a factor in making the town a magnet for prostitutes from all parts of the Midlands. In those days there was a deeply religious chief constable who, I have been told by some of his officers, acknowledged the problem but was of the opinion that no amount of policing would stop it. "He did not make it a priority, either in time or money, and was heard to express the view that it was better to contain the problem rather than to attempt to eradicate it."

At the start of 2002 the introduction of Crack Cocaine use had begun to be identified within Northampton and prostitution was rapidly becoming visible 24 hours a day. A number of firearm incidents had indicated the presence of organised drug dealers, many of Jamaican nationality linked to gangs from Birmingham and London.

**Crime Pattern Analysis** showed a significant crime 'hot-spot', particularly in relation to robberies and thefts from vehicles.

The Police and Council incident logging data provided evidence of a high number of complaints of anti-social behaviour associated with street prostitution and drug dealing in the block of flats.

Local Councillors were reporting similar complaints and a number of articles relating to the problems caused by street prostitution had been published in the local papers.

## **Project Aims and Objectives**

Aims:

- To make the area a safer place in which to live work and visit.
- To reduce crime and antisocial behaviour, particularly associated with vice and drugs, without incurring displacement to surrounding areas.
- To reduce the fear of crime and antisocial behaviour, particularly associated with vice and drugs, in the area.
- To co-ordinate effective joint working by all agencies in enforcement, support and co-operation.
- To fully involve the community in sustainable crime and disorder reduction solutions.

Objectives:

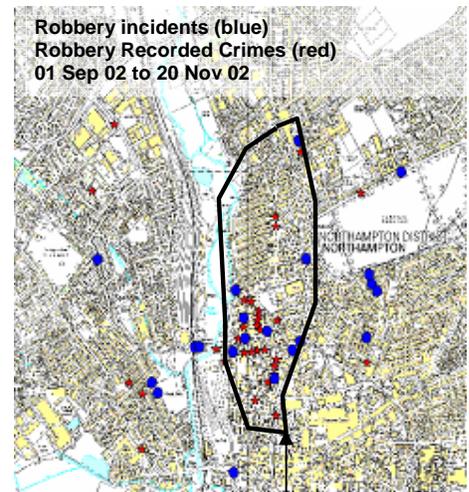
- To design and implement innovative solutions to achieve the overall aims and objectives of the project.
- To identify environmental factors contributing to crime and the fear of crime in the area and design and implement solutions, within available financial resources.
- To develop a co-ordinated strategy for identifying and diverting people vulnerable to involvement in crime and disorder.
- To develop a co-ordinated strategy to protect and support victims of anti-social behaviour.
- To increase the community ownership of crime and disorder issues and solutions.
- To design and implement a sustainable crime and disorder strategy for the Spring Boroughs and Semilong area.

## Analysis

### Analysis of Police Crime and incident recording systems:

An analyst report by the Police CPA in 2002 stated:

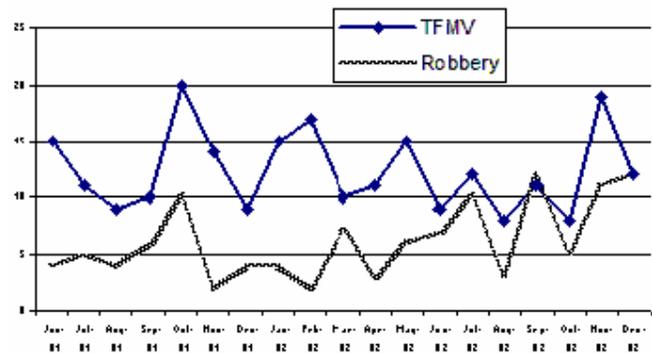
*"The Spring Boroughs Semilong area, the centre for vice, fits with more national trends of street robbery and its associated crack cocaine problems. White, males aged 20 – 30 are most at risk of street robbery in the area, a significant proportion of the victims have travelled into the area. The age of the victim, location and time of offence infer the vice trade is the victims motivation for his movements, whilst the need to feed drug addictions by way of targeting vulnerable victims is the causal effect and method. Due to the nature of the offence, poor police response to the crime and the location in which the crime occurred it is estimated that true crime figures within this area are considerably higher".*



CASPAR3 area

There appeared to be a correlation between robbery offences and thefts from Motor vehicles in the area.

**Robberies and Theft From Motorvehicles**  
CASPAR3 area 2000/2002



## Community Survey

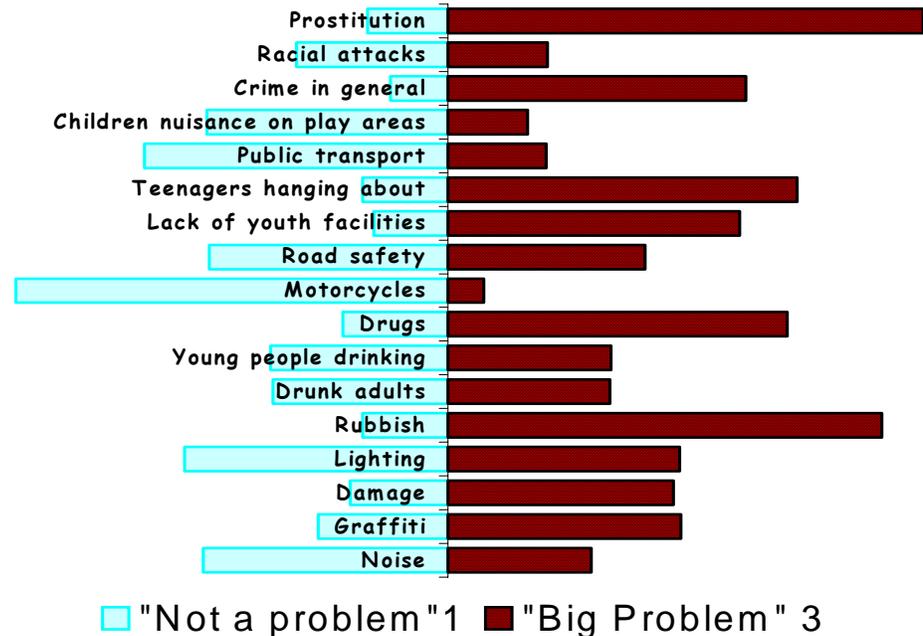
The aim of the surveys:

- To identify areas of work to be undertaken during the CASPAR project.
- To provide a benchmark for future evaluation purposes.
- To bring the community into the partnership by the process and the publicity generated by the survey.

A total of 999 questionnaires were returned (37% of the households in the area),

The local mosque provided translation facilities.

Residents identified the relative scale of problems of major concern:



A number of Focus Group meetings, facilitated by external consultants identified:

- A very high fear of being subjected to violence while walking in the area, due to the visibility of street prostitution, Kerbcrawlers and pimps in residential streets.
- There was considerable sympathy towards women working as prostitutes, if they worked at night away from residential homes,
- The major cause of annoyance was directed at Kerb Crawlers and Pimps/Drug dealers.
- That 'rubbish' problem consisted of discarded condoms and used syringes.

The Focus groups were used to start the process of community capacity building with training given to the community in problem solving.

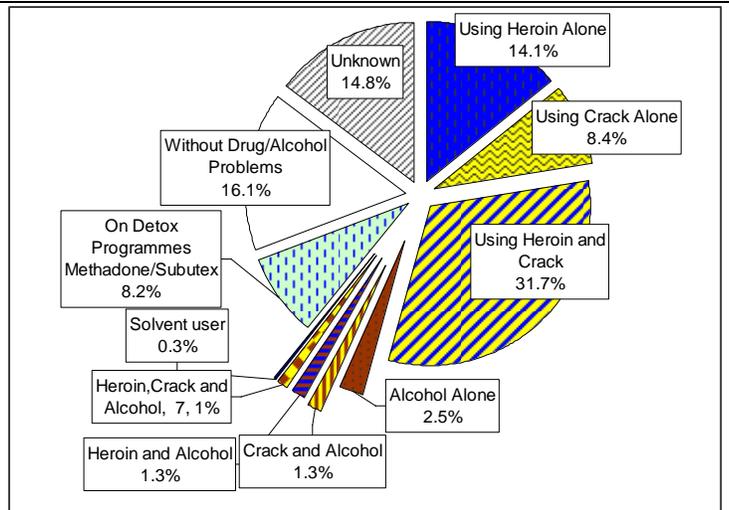
Throughout the 3 years of the CASPAR3 project more specific consultation has taken place on particular issues such as the removal of BT telephone boxes, road closures, security fencing and with local businesses within the Grafton Industrial estate in relation to the vice policy.

**The local authority** received complaints of damage and discarded needles and excrement in the stairwells of blocks of flats. The problems associated with two high rise blocks of flats, which were 50% unoccupied, had lead to a provisional decision to demolish them. There were estimated to be at least 20 flats used for the supply of class A drugs and vice activities in the area, often the lawful tenant having been 'taken over' by dealers.

**Health authority** outreach workers reported that they had contacted 220 female sex workers in 2001 mostly drug addicts, many homeless living in Stairwells, abandoned cars or in Crack houses.

During 2001/2 it was found that many of the sex workers in the area came from the Birmingham, Coventry and Stoke area.

There was no cautioning system in place for prostitute so no police data as to numbers was available.



**Traffic flow analysis** was carried out on the vehicles in a street in Spring Boroughs.

Traffic increased considerably after 8pm from about 40 to 120 vehicles an hour at 10pm

The registered owners of a sample of 131 vehicles logged in one hour on one night showed:

- 23 were from Northampton,
- 64 from other parts of Northamptonshire, and
- 44 from out of the county.

A search of the Internet located a site with a map of the area indicating locations where prostitutes were loitering and a rating system for prices and services.

**Analysis indicated a cash based industry estimated to be £6 to £12 Million pounds annually, money brought in by kerbcrawlers was spent by prostitutes on Crack Cocaine and Heroin. Few of the individuals involved actually lived in the area. The effect on the community was considerable and clearly outweighed all other issues.**

## RESPONCE

The response involves Diversion, Enforcement and Environmental changes, ensuring that they compliment each other and are driven and supported by the community.

The street vice in the area involved three groups of people, Prostitutes, their customers and their drug dealers/pimps. Each group had differing motivations.

### **Prostitutes:**

It was clear that a fine was not a deterrent for a homeless woman with a £200 daily drugs habit.

As the overwhelming majority did not wish to be working as prostitutes but were funding a drugs habit, the response was to assist them in exiting and encouraging them to work in the least antisocial way while this, often long process, took place.

### **Northampton PCT SWAN (Sex Workers Around Northampton) Partnership:**

*'The SWAN Partnership aims to provide a safe, supported and sustainable opportunity for sex workers to exit from prostitution and improve life chances for women, children and young people engaged in or affected by prostitution.'*

The partnership is based in town centre premises; providing outreach, drop in and detached sessions. With two full time PCT staff there are seconded workers from Probation, 'CAN' (a drugs agency), a health practice and a housing specialist. Life Long Learning service provided weekly sessions on life skills.

Lack of housing was inhibiting women exiting from prostitution. Home Office funding and partnership with Leicester Housing Association provided a house, the 'NEST' located in another part of the town. A crisis placement is for such occasions as women released from prison, another is for women actively working to exit prostitution.

Police enforcement, Drug Treatment and Testing Orders, Community punishment and the conditions of ASBO's Antisocial Behaviour Orders are all closely coordinated with SWAN who display the '**Northampton Vice Policy**' in their premises.

**The SWAN partnership was recognized by the Home Office as an example of Good practice and a finalist in the Health Service Journal Awards 2003 in the category of 'Reducing health inequalities through a partnership approach to public health'.**

### **Kerb crawlers:**

The aim is to reduce customers and therefore the money supply coming into the Vice industry, also a reduction of potential victims of robberies.

Unlike prostitutes the customers wish to be there, but are deterred by publicity.

The lack of a specialist Police unit meant that a simple pro-forma file was devised with the Crown Prosecution Service. This included a statement from the CASPAR manager, detailing the public consultation, and a statement from a Councillor who lived in the area, to prove the 'to the annoyance of other persons in the area' component of the offence.

The CASPAR manager attended court cases to brief the prosecutor.

The enforcement to be done by officers, including Special Constables, working in pairs using a hire car twice a week. The operation (Op Uncanny) was funded by an overtime budget, £12680 and £8000 from LPIF Fund 2004/5, which will continue in 2005.

The officers log vehicles driving in the area, with warning letters sent to the registered owners of vehicles suspected of kerbcrawling. The use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition CCTV cameras has also been used in this process.

**The Vice enforcement policy** has been developed over the lifetime of the CASPAR project, with it fully becoming in force in August 2003. It is believed to be the only such formal policy in existence in England or Wales.

It was designed in consultation with SWAN, the residents associations and the business community. The Community Safety Scrutiny committee of Northampton Borough Council approved the policy in 2003.

## Northampton Vice policy

The enforcement policy outlined below is based around a **managed area** within **Grafton Industrial Estate** and has been agreed with the owners of the industrial estate, the Police, Northampton Borough Council, the SWAN project, the Probation Service, Semilong Community Forum and Spring Boroughs Residents Association.

The enforcement is designed to be fair and proportional.



N.B. The agreement that the police will not prosecute women Loitering or Soliciting in the Grafton industrial estate at night is a local initiative and affords no right in law.

Women still commit the offence when working here.

The policy relies on the fact that a police Constable of whatever rank has the power to use discretion. It is on this basis we have this local managed area and it is done on the principle that; if a sex worker is discrete and thereby causing the minimum of annoyance to the local community the police will use their discretion to direct them to the SWAN services rather than to prosecute.

**All parties involved in this agreement recognise that street prostitution is not a desirable situation for either the individual sex worker or the community where it takes place. The aim is to have a managed reduction that causes the least harm to individual sex workers or to the community.**

*For sex workers:*

### Stage1:

Women who loiter or solicit in a street, or public place, for the purpose of prostitution outside the managed area agreement will be issued with a Caution. This will normally be on the street unless their identity is not known or there are other offences or warrants outstanding when the caution will be issued after arrest.

Prostitutes' cautions are not criminal convictions. They are:

Warnings issued by a constable under Home Office circular 109/59.

They are not the same as a formal police caution issued under HO Circular 18 /1994, or a reprimand or final warning given under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

(From 1 June 2000 prostitutes' cautions are no longer be available for use against **children under 18** If found in circumstances involving prostitution they will be regarded as vulnerable and in need of protection under Section 46 of the Children Act 1989.)

To comply with Human rights legislation (the right to a fair trial) a notice is issued to women who are cautioned: The notice gives details of what a caution is and the appeal process. It gives details of the SWAN project and the following information:

**CASPAR** is partnership between the Police and the Councils other agencies and the community, to reduce the crime and antisocial behaviour in this area. Your cooperation is requested.

Loitering or soliciting for prostitution will not be tolerated:

In any residential area or near a School **at any time of the day or night.**

In any public place including industrial estates **During the day (7am to 7pm).**

If you continue to do this after being given this caution, or if anybody is drug dealing or Kerbcrawling, we will take every action we can to prosecute including obtaining Anti-social behaviour orders.

We will also prosecute anybody committing any offences against you.

### Stage 2:

Women who have received 2 or more cautions within a 6-month period for loitering or soliciting outside the managed area & time are liable to be targeted for arrest. (It is possible that an individual may receive many more than two). If subsequently seen loitering or soliciting she will be arrested and charged.

An application will be made to the court, at the time of sentencing for the imposition of an ASBO (Antisocial Behaviour Order) requiring that she:

- Does not loiter or solicit in a street or public place for the purpose of prostitution in England or Wales.
- Does not commit a lewd or obscene act in a public place in England or Wales
- And if she resides outside of Northampton Does not enter the Castle Ward other than to attend court.

(There may be additions or variations to cover individuals)

An ASBO lasts for a minimum of 2 years a breach of an ASBO is an arrestable offence punishable by imprisonment.

### Stage 3:

Women who breach the ASBO will be arrested for that criminal breach and the full range of sentencing, including Probation orders, drug rehabilitation orders etc. will be available.

Liaison is underway between the SWAN project and Probation to achieve the most appropriate course of action, the overall aim is to exit women from prostitution.

### *For Kerbcrawlers*

#### Stage 1:

If vehicle logged by observation or ANPR (automatic number plate recognition cameras) as cruising the area persistently a warning letter will be sent to the registered owner.

If seen to pick up a woman and then caught by police, he will be interviewed and summoned to court or if his identity is unknown or there are other offences or a warrant he will be arrested.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Between ### and ### on ## in #####, Northampton, during the course of an anti-vice operation a ## index number ##### was recorded ## times. The vehicle may have been in the area for genuine legitimate reasons, but it is suspected that the driver may have been committing an offence contrary to Section 1 of the Sexual Offences Act 1985(also known as kerbcrawling).

If indeed this was so, then, as the registered keeper of this vehicle, you are advised that type of activity causes continual disruption and annoyance to local residents.

The Police in Northampton have formed close links with residents and the local business community and are determined to address the problems associated with prostitution and kerbcrawling.

Over 50 men have been prosecuted in the Northampton magistrate's court with fines of up to £500 being imposed. The details of offenders have been published in the press and details passed to the press in the locality of the offenders address. The Police will arrest offenders and there is a policy to prosecute on all occasions. The police may also apply to the Court for an Antisocial Behaviour Order to be imposed on persistent offenders. A driving disqualification may also be imposed for this offence.

As such a record has been made of this letter. On this occasion no further action will be taken but if the advice in this letter is ignored proceedings may be initiated in the future. It is hoped that you will assist us to improve the quality of life of the community in this area of Northampton.

I apologise if this letter has caused any distress to an innocent person as this letter has to be sent to the registered owner of the vehicle, who may not have been the driver. I am happy to discuss the matter further with you.

## Stage 2:

If seen to pick up a woman and then caught by police, **after having previously received a warning letter**, he will be arrested and charged.

An application will be made to the court, at the time of sentencing for the imposition of an ASBO (Antisocial Behaviour Order) requiring that he:

- Does not loiter or solicit in a street or public place for the purpose of prostitution in England or Wales.
- Does not commit a lewd or obscene act in a public place in England or Wales
- And if he resides outside of Northampton Does not enter the Castle Ward other than to attend court.
- (there may be additions or variations to cover individuals)

## Stage 3:

Men who breach the ASBO will be arrested and the full range of sentencing, including Probation orders, drug rehabilitation orders etc. are available.

It will be seen that essentially both prostitutes and kerbcrawlers are given warnings prior to the same ASBO restrictions being imposed.

A woman abiding by the agreement of the managed area need never come into the criminal justice system, to appear in court she would have had to persistently ignored Police warnings and failed to take up the assistance of the SWAN project. The imposition of an ASBO means that if breached she could be required to engage by a probation order.

**The aim of this operation is not to prosecute people but to stop them committing that antisocial behaviour which is seriously affecting the lives of residents in this area.**

### **Vice operation results:**

138 individual women have been Cautioned a total of 372 times since 2002.

Seven prostitutes have had ASBO imposed on them, three others are awaiting sentence. One prosecution for Soliciting or Loitering for prostitution has taken place (this was to instigate the ASBO application).

108 Kerbcrawlers have being prosecuted.

In addition 435 warning letters have been sent.

No person sent a warning letter has yet been caught kerbcrawling. Only on 10 occasions has a second letter been sent, an indication of the deterrent effect of the letters. One man is presently within the court system on the second occasion and an ASBO will be applied for on conviction.

### **Pimp/drug dealers.**

An injunction under the Housing Act was obtained by the Council against a man identified as particularly prominent in drug dealing banning him from the area, on the second breach of that injunction in September 2003 a ASBO was obtained. This had a significant impact on the Vice community as he had been thought to be untouchable.

A Police test purchase operation (op Scorpion) ran July to October 2004 and resulted in the arrest of 42 drug dealers (at the present time two have been sentenced and issued with 10 year ASBO's excluding them from the area).

Throughout the CASPAR area 25 premises used for drug dealing and prostitution have been closed by joint action with NBC, other social landlords or the owners of derelict buildings. Two using Police powers under the Antisocial Behaviour Act 2003 (and a further five in nearby areas).

### **Environmental changes.**

In September 2003 fencing was erected around flats in Spring Boroughs and Semilong. Aliston Gardens Community Centre, NBC and Probation Service created a community garden within the fenced area, **Winning the community involvement award for Northampton 'Cleaner Greener Campaign'**.

Spring Lane was identified as the main Kerbcrawler route and place of street prostitution. In September 2003 it was blocked. In October 2004 the Semilong Community Forum proposed a similar closure in the lower part of Semilong, which commenced at the end of March 2005.

An extensive white lighting replacement programme took place during the first months of the project in 2002. The quality of lighting is compatible with the image capture requirements of the Automatic Number Plate Recognition reading CCTV cameras installed.

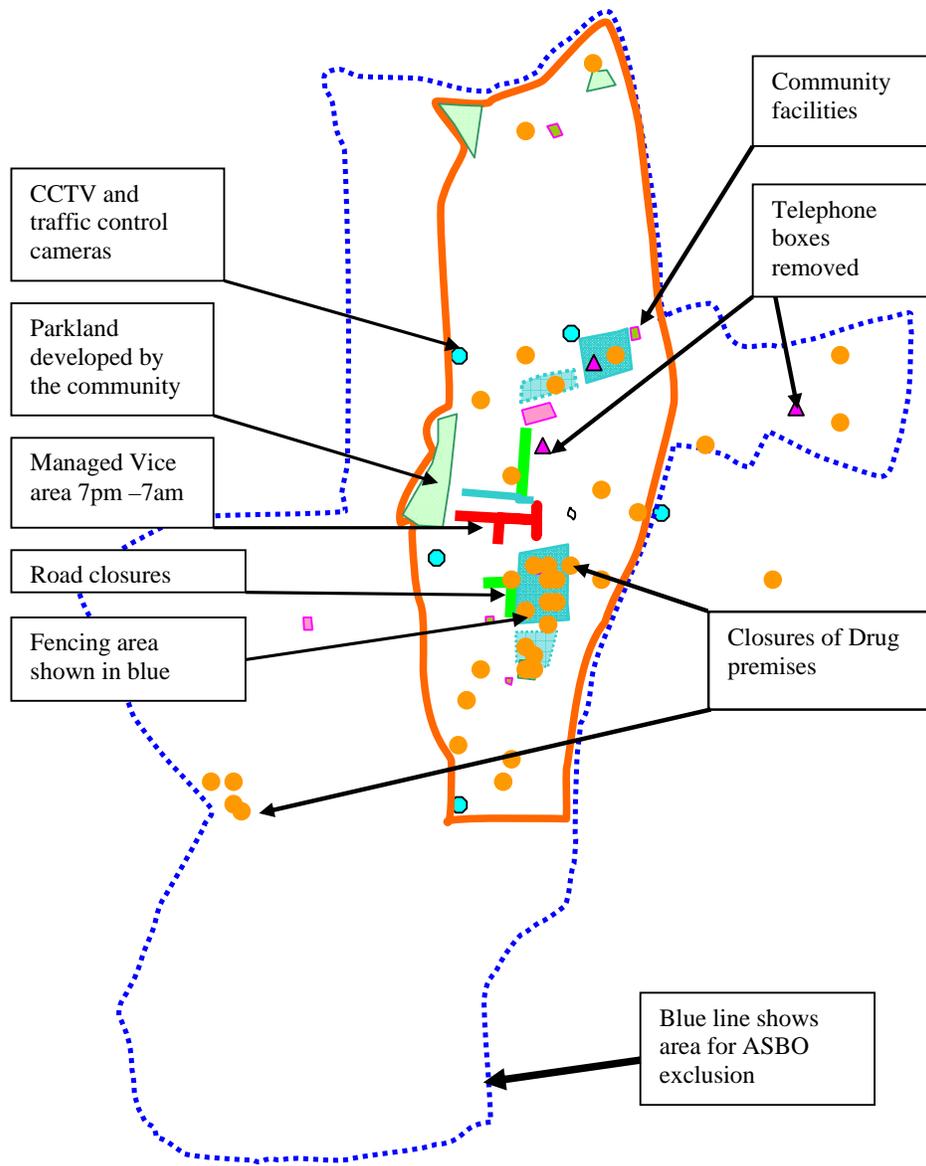
Claremont and Beaumont Court high-rise blocks were identified as the centre of much of the vice in the area. A stock transfer occurred from the Borough Council to Leicester Housing Association. A £7 million refurbishment is underway. The refurbishment includes many security features including a concierge system.

Following lobbying by residents four telephone boxes identified as being used by drug dealers were removed after lengthy consultation with BT.

Northampton Probation Service provided regular clearing of vice related rubbish and overgrown shrubs, working directly with the resident associations/forum and Grafton Industrial Estate in maintaining the environment. This constant cleaning program ensured support for the Vice Policy from businesses.

The Semilong Community Forum have secured funding and is working to redevelop a park previously used for vice and drug dealing. Spring Boroughs are refurbishing a 'pocket park' in the centre of the estate. The Community by regularly using these locations have prevented further drug dealing and vice.

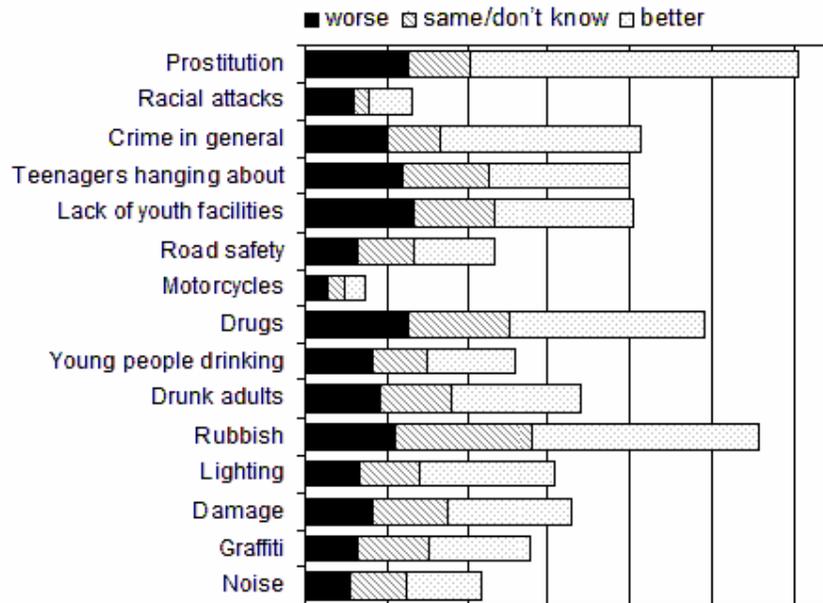
The coordinated nature of the responses was important and their geographical positions can be seen in relation to the present vice area.



## Assessment

### Resident perception

During December 2004 a follow up questionnaire asked residents if there had been any change to the problems since 2001. The reduction in each of the problems is therefore shown.



67% considered there had been a reduction in street prostitution.

55% reported an improvement in the safety their own street or block of flats.

Analysis of the location of the persons indicating that the safety of their flat was no better shows a cluster near to a crack house in Spring Boroughs, this was later closed down using the Antisocial Behaviour Act 2003.

The assessment of residents views, indicated that the significant change to the area occurred from September 2003.

The fencing around the Cooper Street flats and Alliston Gardens, instillation of CCTV and the full implementation of the vice enforcement policy was all in place by September 2003.

*"I no longer live in darkness too afraid to put the lights on. I am beginning to regain confidence in the knowledge I can feel safe and for the first time enjoy privacy now that people can no longer walk past my window at any hour of the day and night. I no longer drag myself from day to day and dread the night hours, I now look forward to coming home. The diary of events during the past 2 years has dwindled from 100% continual disturbance to 10% from time to time; the quiet during the night is unbelievable, I am relearning how to sleep 6/7 hours nightly, and wake up with energy and desire to do things the next day."*

(Resident and member of the residents association of Spring Boroughs December 2003)

Analysis showed a 19% reduction in the repairs and maintenance costs in the flats in the first year following the erection of the fencing.

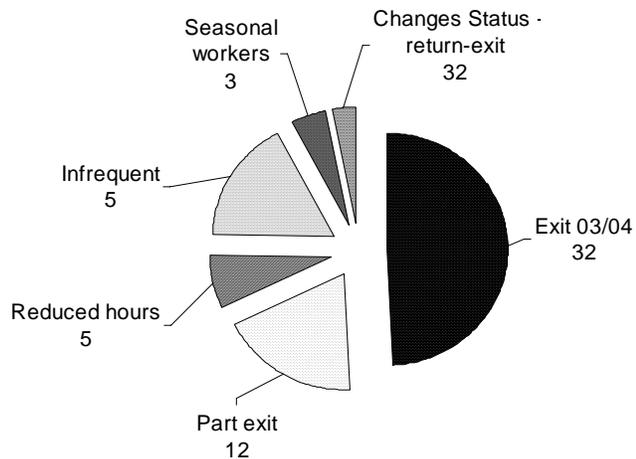
### Assessment of SWAN partnership

1054 contacts were made with 178 individuals during outreach in CASPAR area

The chart shows the status of the 86 women who have been in regular contact and engaging with the SWAN partnership from April 2004 to March 2005.

32 women have exited the sex trade following SWAN intervention during this year.

There has been no displacement to other areas of the town.



One of these women commented on the CASPAR project.

*"I feel that CASPAR's 3<sup>rd</sup> project has been really good and achieved its main aims. Helping working girls exit prostitution and reducing related crime instead of punishing them as before, which never solved anything for the women, community or business areas that are affected by the problem. Though finding an effective deterrent/ punishment for those curb crawling. I believe fencing off St. Stephens House and surrounding flats has been very effective for all. Reducing drug dealers and pimps, the use of drugs within the flats, and the horrors which these involve. Working with SWAN is great for everyone. With the time restriction for work and area restriction allowing every one to know where they stand. Also the help SWAN provides to the girls exiting and hope for others that it is possible. Generally it's worked for everyone. I have witnessed all the stages CASPER has implemented. Though slow starting the changes are amazing now. Women have hope and the community is safer whilst the school and local business's do not have the problems they used to. What a great success."  
(Z' ex prostitute September 2004)*

## Crime Figures

A comparison of the crime figures with the community surveys show:

2001 a total of 1004 crimes and

2005 a total of 896.

(61 robberies in 2001 and 31 in 2004).

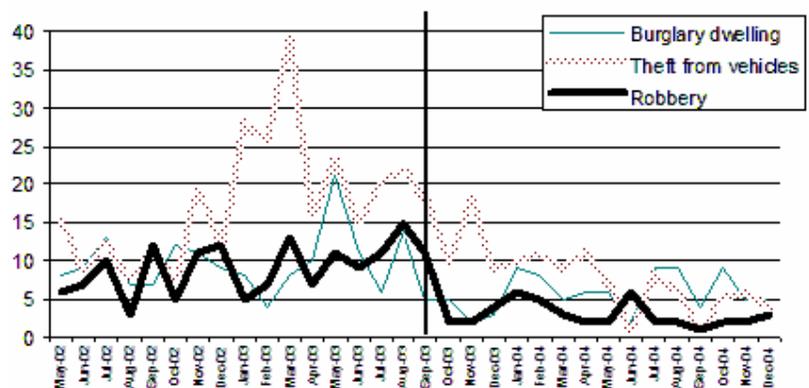
However as the residents indicated 1 September 2003 as the significant date relating to their perception of a reduction in antisocial behaviour, and the crime continued to rise till then, this date was used for crime analysis for the success of CASPAR responses:

All CASPAR3 Crime changes	Mar 02 to Aug 03	Sep 03 to Feb 05	% change
<b>All crime</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1410</b>	<b>29</b>
Dwelling Burglary	168	104	<b>38</b>
Damage	156	155	<b>1</b>
Robbery	148	55	<b>63</b>
Violence	283	191	<b>33</b>
Theft from vehicles	304	147	<b>52</b>
Theft of vehicles	143	113	<b>21</b>
Damage/interference to vehicles	201	192	<b>4</b>

The significant sustained drop in crime since September 2003 is apparent.

Assessment of the crime categories, for the same period, supports the earlier analysis that Robberies, burglaries and Thefts from motor vehicles are linked.

**CASPAR3 Crime comparison 18 months before and after september 2003**



## Conclusion

The reduction in crime and antisocial behaviour has occurred as a result of many coordinated initiatives. The impact of each initiative cannot be directly analysed, each is dependent on all the others for success.

Arguably the most important has been the community building work. The development and empowering a strong vibrant community has resulted in a situation where the community now have a direct lead in the problem solving, decision making process.

In March 2005 Semilong Community forum were winners of the Northamptonshire Police Authority 'Unsung heroes' group award.

A comment from a politician:

*–“Government ministers are hotfooting it up to Northampton as we are a story to tell. Four years ago, Spring Boroughs was not a pleasant place to be. People were coming to my surgeries saying they wanted to be transferred out of the area. Now the area is getting its pride back.”  
–(Tony Clarke MP. In Chronicle & Echo, December 2004)*

A comment from a resident:

*“The Caspar Project has undoubtedly achieved reducing crime and disorder in the Semilong and Spring Boroughs. There are outstanding improvements already been voiced, written; ie. More lighting round garages, extra magnets on doors, signs on security doors and car park gates to keep locked at all times and/or not to let unknown or undesirables into secure blocks of flats. Reduced crime, graffiti, prostitutes in residential areas, pimps, drug dealers. I first wish not only tenants, but the hierarchy in the police force and Borough Council realised how hard the agencies have worked to pull it all together. What is really important now is how to continue the good work that's been done, how to ensure we can see a continuity and be absolutely clear we will not slide backwards. It is clear that 90% of tenants want this and have pulled together making a good community spirit grow. A way forward can and will be achieved via communication and understanding the needs of the community. I feel privileged and proud to be a part of past, present and future. Many Thanks.”*

## Lessons learned from the Spring Boroughs and Semilong CASPAR Project:

- Plan in detail the aims/objects before the project starts.
- Make sure partners are 'on board' and prepared to commit themselves to the long-term solutions.
- Meet and work closely with community groups.
- Appoint a project manager whose role is solely that, not someone who fits in the project alongside their day job.
- Put in place an agreed media strategy.
- Be aware of personal, organisational and political agendas of partners.
- Personalities and personal contacts are the most important part of a partnership; information exchange relies on trust as well as protocols.
- Match the project to the specific problem; what works in one community may not be appropriate in another.
- Plan for a continuation strategy alongside the exit of the manager at an early stage.
- **Share the success with everybody involved.**