



# Home Office

## Crime Reduction & Community Safety Group

### Tilley Awards 2007

#### Application form

Please ensure that you have read the guidance before completing this form. **By making an application to the awards, entrants are agreeing to abide by the conditions laid out in the guidance.** Please complete the following form in full, **within the stated word limit and ensuring the file size is no more than 1MB.** Failure to do so will result in your entry being rejected from the competition.

Completed application forms should **be e-mailed to [tilleyawards07@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:tilleyawards07@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)**

All entries must be received by noon on **Friday 27th April 2007**. No entries will be accepted after this time/date. Any queries on the application process should be directed to Alex Blackwell on 0207 035 4811. Any queries regarding publicity of the awards should be directed to Chaz Akoshile on 0207 035 1589.

#### Section 1: Details of application

Title of the project: TOGETHER PROJECT: KING'S FARM, GRAVESHAM

Name of force/agency/CDRP/**CSP**: KENT Police (and partner agencies)

Name of one contact person with position and/or rank (this should be one of the authors): Detective Sergeant John Phillips

Email address: [john.phillips@kent.pnn.police.uk](mailto:john.phillips@kent.pnn.police.uk)

Full postal address: Det. Sgt. J. M. Phillips, West Kent CID, Tonbridge Police Station, Pembury Road, Tonbridge, Kent

Telephone number: 07870 999 866

Fax number: 01732 379 217

**If known please state in which Government Office area you are located e.g. Government Office North West, Government Office London etc: GOSE**

Name of endorsing senior representatives(s): John Burden

Name of organisation, position and/or rank of endorsing senior representatives(s): Leader of Gravesham Borough Council

Full address of endorsing senior representatives(s): Gravesham Borough Council, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 1AU

**Please tick box to indicate that all organisations involved in the project have been notified of this entry** (this is to prevent duplicate entries of the same project):

## **Section 2: Summary of application**

*In no more than 400 words please use this space to describe your project (see guidance for more information).*

Whilst the South East is generally perceived as relatively affluent, it is undeniably true that there are pockets within the region of urban deprivation afflicted quite as seriously as those anywhere else in the country by problems of crime and disorder. Addressing the problems of these neighbourhoods has not always been prioritised, perhaps because the general prosperity of the home counties engenders a subconscious sense of complacency. The Together Project is about the effort of North Kent Police and partner agencies to address the challenges posed by one such ward and to rebuild a neighbourly and orderly community.

An initial analysis was undertaken of the crime profile of the area. Rates of burglary and criminal damage, which constitute key indicator crimes, were high, yet detection rates were low. Feedback from local officers and other agencies indicated low levels of public confidence in the police. This manifested itself in tangible form: the reluctance of witnesses to support police prosecutions; very few calls to Kent Crimestoppers; a lack of community-generated intelligence on which to base a pro-active response to crime; the complete absence of Neighbourhood Watch.

In order to begin to address the problems of Kings Farm it was recognised as critical to consult and enlist the support of key stakeholders – above all the local residents. Operation General was initiated, in essence, as a pilot project with a view to re-engaging police, partner agencies and the local community in a constructive dialogue. Though the Operation was short-term, it enabled the development of a detailed problem profile and gathered important intelligence.

The Together Project grew from the lessons learned in the Operation General Pilot. Conceived from the outset as a long-term multi-agency approach, the Project set key strategic targets: to reduce the incidence of dwelling burglary and criminal damage to within 20% of the area average; to increase the resilience of neighbourhoods to crime; to tackle the visible signs of disorder and to develop & maintain close co-operation between Police, partner agencies and the community.

The medium term results of the Together Project are striking. Month-on-month figures for key indicator

crimes, including criminal damage and burglary, show substantial reductions. Burglary dwelling is down by around 60% and vehicle crime by 50%. All crime in March 2007 was 36% lower than in April 2006. There is now an effective and growing neighbourhood watch network. An inter-agency anti-social behaviour sub-committee is actively tackling lower level nuisance behaviour and problem tenants. Regular forums bring together police and the local community, whilst a monthly newsletter circulates to nearly 1000 homes, spreading crime prevention advice and awareness of the local services available to residents.

**Section 3: Description of project**

*Describe the project in no more than 4000 words (see guidance for more information in particular Section 7 - judging criteria).*

## **Defining The Problem**

To establish an accurate profile of the problems of Kings Farm, the Together Project drew on valuable pre-existing research undertaken by partner agencies. The Index Of Multiple Deprivation statistics compiled by Kent County Council provided useful socio-economic data. The Index, using data collected in 2004, compares Lower Super Output Areas (sub-units of council wards) by reference to criteria including child poverty, household income, crime rates, employment and health & disability. According to the IMD the area which includes the King's Farm estate is rated in the most deprived 2% of council wards across the South East. Out of more than 5300 wards in the South East Region, Kings Farm suffers the 190th highest incidence of crime and disorder.

Kent Police statistics drew a similar picture. The police beat AZ13, which essentially covers the King's Farm estate, recorded the highest level of all crime of any beat across the county. It was characterised by high levels of criminal damage and vehicle crime. Perhaps the most striking and concerning statistic, however, was that the Kings Farm beat witnessed 18% of all dwelling burglaries recorded across the entire North Kent policing area, which covers the boroughs of both Dartford and Gravesham. On average between three and four houses in King's Farm were burgled every day. The control of dwelling burglary is a key priority for North Kent Police because the crime has a uniquely serious impact on the quality of life of victims. It may also be regarded as an indicator crime, the incidence of which serves to highlight other underlying problems, most notably drug supply and dependency.

The counterpart to the high crime rate in the Kings Farm beat was a low detection rate. Analysis of a sample of crime reports suggested that this reflected a combination of low public confidence in the police and structural vulnerability to crime. The beat had no Neighbourhood Watch. It produced few, if any, calls to Crimestoppers.

That action by Police and partner agencies was required was clear. The key question was what form that action should take. It was taken as a starting point that effective intervention would depend upon the support of the local community and should therefore reflect their concerns. Yet it was clear too that the context for constructive engagement did not exist. Public confidence in the police was seriously eroded and there existed no framework for consultation. Operation General was conceived as a short-term pilot to gather information, demonstrate a commitment to longer-term intervention and create a dialogue between Police, partner agencies and residents. It was a method of plugging the most important gaps in the intelligence picture.

Under the auspices of Operation General a temporary multi-agency drop-in centre was opened, involving representatives from Kent Fire & Rescue Service, Moat Housing Ltd., Gravesham Borough Council, the Crime Prevention Panel & Neighbourhood Watch. A survey was also circulated, inviting residents to list and prioritise their concerns about the neighbourhood. Given the centrality of public reassurance to the success of the Operation high-visibility patrols by Police and Community Support Officers were prioritised and a number of search warrants were executed, based on pre-existing intelligence. At a basic level, the Operation constituted a significant stride towards re-establishing a tangible Police presence in King's Farm.

As a pilot, Operation General also provided some indication of what could be achieved by police in terms of reducing crime and anti-social behaviour with a pro-active patrol strategy. The tables below compare the respective levels of reported crime and calls from the public relating to anti-social behaviour during the period of Operation General with the same period in the preceding year. Overall, during Operation General achieved a 25% reduction in Anti-Social Behaviour calls, with the greatest reductions (over 35%) in complaints about rowdy behaviour in public places. The reduction in all crime was only a little over 5%, but criminal damage offences fell by nearly 30%.

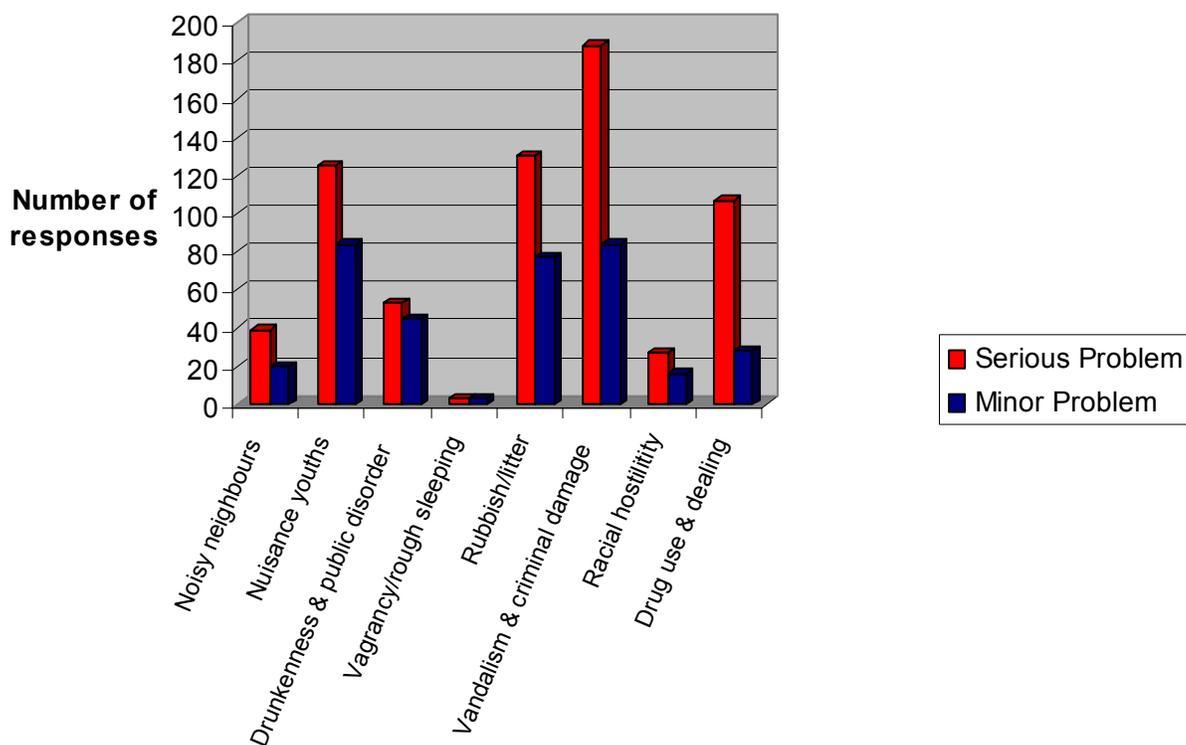
<b>Period</b>	<b><u>Burglary Dwelling</u></b>	<b><u>Burglary Other</u></b>	<b><u>Damage</u></b>	<b><u>Vehicle Crime</u></b>	<b><u>Violence</u></b>	<b><u>All Crime</u></b>
<b>Previous Year</b>	11	32	111	58	40	297
10/04/05 – 05/06/05						
<b>During Op General</b>	45	13	80	38	40	281
10/04/06 – 05/06/06						

<b>Period</b>	<b><u>Nuisance Neighbours</u></b>	<b><u>Nuisance Vehicles</u></b>	<b><u>Environmental Nuisance</u></b>	<b><u>Rowdy Behaviour</u></b>	<b><u>Hoax/ Abandoned 999 Calls</u></b>	<b><u>All Calls</u></b>
<b>Previous Year</b>	20	53	68	204	59	417
10/04/05– 05/06/05						
<b>During Op General</b>	21	50	50	140	50	311
10/04/06– 05/06/06						

The results of Operation General demonstrated what could be achieved by the committal of dedicated resources. But the greatest value derived from the Operation flowed from the information gleaned. The survey undertaken with the community enabled the development of clear objectives for joint intervention and provided a template around which Kent Police and key partners could begin to tailor their response. Space constraints prevent the replication of the survey results in full. From over 500 responses, however, a clear picture emerged of the profile of the problem in the eyes of local residents. Key concerns included vandalism (cited as a serious problem by 272 of 523 respondents), nuisance youths (cited by 209), abandoned vehicles (cited by 168) and drug supply (cited by 135). On the other hand problems such as drunkenness, rough sleeping and racial tension were regarded as serious or very serious only by a small minority of residents. The full results of the survey are presented in the figure overleaf.

Taking into account all sources of information, it was possible to construct a coherent profile of the problem. In essence, the oft-quoted “broken window” effect was much in evidence. The presence of abandoned vehicles, uncollected rubbish and unsupervised children on the streets at night were the environmental context for vandalism and anti-social behaviour. Similarly, it was logical to infer a probable link between the public concern about drug supply and the statistical prevalence of acquisitive crime, principally burglary and vehicle crime.

## Op General Survey Results



### Setting Objectives For The Project

Before the inception of Operation General, all agencies concerned shared two over-arching aims: to reduce levels of crime and disorder and to increase the long term resilience of the neighbourhood to crime. After Operation General, it was possible to crystallise these broad aims into solid objectives, agreed with key partners – most importantly Gravesham Borough Council and Moat Housing Ltd.. These were as follows:

- 1) To reduce the incidence of criminal damage by 20% by April 2007.
- 2) To bring the burglary rate down by 40% by April 2007.
- 3) To reduce the incidence of vehicle crime by 20% by April 2007.
- 4) To create a Neighbourhood Watch network involving at least 100 households by April 2007.
- 5) To initiate an effective crime prevention programme.
- 6) To create an effective public consultation and review mechanism.

These objectives were calculated to be mutually reinforcing. Success in achieving any one would, directly or indirectly, assist the achievement of others. In line with the conception of the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership they represented a holistic approach to tackling urban disorder.

### Configuring Responses To The Problem

In order to achieve these objectives it was clear from the outset that to achieve optimum results both law enforcement and crime prevention tactics would be required. Partner agencies had key roles to play with Police in both aspects of the response, which are described separately below. So too did local residents.

Building and maintaining public support for the CDRP's various initiatives was judged critical to the success of the project. This would depend on both advertising to the community the initiatives undertaken

and the outcomes thereof, and also developing a mechanism by which members of the public could participate and shape the Project.

The Together Project has utilised three key methods of enlisting local participation. The first has already been referred to: consultation by circular letter and questionnaire. Following on from the information gathering achieved by Op General, it was decided that further surveys would constitute an effective means of obtaining ongoing feedback.

Public meetings were the second consultation method selected. The first, initiating the Together Project, was held in October 2006. It was attended by the Chief Superintendent, the senior local Councillor and representatives from Moat Housing Ltd. & the Community Safety Department of Gravesham Borough Council. The meeting drew around 30 local residents. The public response to the project was guardedly enthusiastic. The Project was welcomed in principle, but residents expressed concerns that any intervention should be long-term. Further meetings were scheduled to take place on a quarterly basis. The second meeting in January 2007, after three months of sustained activity by the partner agencies, attracted nearly 100 residents. It featured presentations by the Crimestoppers Trust, Neighbourhood Watch and the Crime Prevention Panel.

The first public meeting was publicised in the first Together Project newsletter. Funded jointly by the partner agencies constituting Gravesham CDRP, the newsletter is now delivered monthly to all the 1300 households which comprise the King's Farm estate. 500 further copies are distributed to local businesses and public service providers. The first newsletter included information intended to address many of the concerns voiced by the community during the Operation General survey.

The first newsletter advertised the hotline, set up and run by Gravesham Borough Council to organise the rapid removal of Graffiti from buildings and structures in public view. It also publicised the availability of free crime prevention advice from Kent Police and contained information about setting up Neighbourhood Watch schemes.

In what was to become a regular feature of the newsletter, the first edition contained details of property recently stolen in the local area. Readers with knowledge of the whereabouts of the goods were invited to call the Crimestoppers line.

Later newsletters, included features on bogus callers, publicised the work of the new inter-agency Anti-Social Behaviour Subcommittee (see below), named and shamed those charged with criminal offences committed against other local residents and advertised the free letterbox shields available from the Together Project.

As well as informing residents of new initiatives, the newsletter enabled the partner agencies to publicise the existing services already available to deal with local problems. Following the results of one survey, which highlighted the anti-social consequences of dog fouling and stray animals the newsletter included an article about the role of the Borough Council Dog Wardens.

Following feedback received from a survey, it was identified that the Together newsletter was not easily accessible for some residents from minority communities or those with disabilities. A Punjabi version of the newsletter was subsequently added, and more recently, with the help of the National Blind Association, Braille and large editions have also been produced to reach the full range of the diverse population of King's Farm.

### **Building Resilience To Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour**

In establishing the problem profile several issues contributing to the vulnerability of the King's Farm community to crime had already been identified, notably the absence of Neighbourhood Watch. However, it was suspected that inter-agency liaison would identify other opportunities to address the environmental conditions in which identified priority crimes occurred.

Domestic burglary having been highlighted as a key concern, detailed analysis was undertaken of police records. This revealed the prevalence of one unusual *modus operandi* and thereby highlighted an underlying problem, rooted in the infrastructure of the neighbourhood. A disproportionate number of burglaries in King's Farm were found to involve access gained via the front door of the premises. This led to further investigation by Moat Housing Ltd. and Gravesham Borough Council, which together owned the bulk of the housing stock. It was found that the original letterboxes fitted to many of the houses in the estate were of a defective design that, effectively, allowed a burglar to open the door by a simple technique.

A remedy to this problem was rapidly found. Guards designed to prevent unauthorised access via the letterbox were found already to be commercially available. Under the auspices of the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership an agreement was reached that Kent Police would fund the purchase of a supply of door guards, whilst the Housing Trust would meet the cost of installation. The CDRP then circulated a leaflet to elicit expressions of interest. A total of 149 letterbox guards have now been fitted, and 187 more are scheduled for installation at the time of writing.

It was recognised that the circulation of the letterbox guard leaflet also represented an opportunity to stimulate interest in other aspects of the Together Project, and to assess the effectiveness of other aspects of the intervention. In particular, the "letterbox survey" provided an opportunity to solicit expressions of interest in joining a Neighbourhood Watch scheme or attending local crime reduction meetings. Another section of the form also offered an avenue by which residents with information about criminal activities could make a confidential contact with Police.

The establishment of an effective Neighbourhood Watch in King's Farm was viewed from the outset as a key criterion for the success of the Together Project. At the outset of the project there were no schemes of any kind operating in the area. This necessarily increased the perceived vulnerability of the neighbourhood to crime and anti-social behaviour. An effective scheme, bringing together many residents, ought not only to deter crime and feed intelligence to the police, but also empower the members to take collective action to deal with low-level nuisance and quality of life issues.

A number of tactics were employed to encourage residents to set up schemes. Through the pages of the Together newsletter Kent Police offered a full crime prevention survey of the home of any resident expressing interest in setting up a scheme in their area. The local NHW co-ordinator also gave presentations at the public meetings associated with the project. As a result of these efforts there are now four functioning schemes in the estate with a total of nearly 200 households involved. Two more schemes, covering Ash Road and Queen Street are also in the process of setting up. The second full Crime Survey, conducted in February, found that a majority of households on the estate wished to join a scheme if one were set up in their vicinity. This must bode well for the future expansion of the network. The target of 5% membership has been comfortably exceeded, though gaps remain. It is recognised that the success of particular schemes owes a great deal to the enthusiasm and energy of particular volunteer Watch co-ordinators, such as Ann Allen who runs the Gloucester Road scheme with 55 members.

Alongside the mobilisation of the efforts of the local community to combat crime and anti-social behaviour, Gravesham Borough Council and Moat Housing Ltd., the two principal social landlords, have formed, in partnership with Kent Police, what has become known as the King's Farm Anti-Social Behaviour Subcommittee. The subcommittee pools information and intelligence from the various agencies to draw up control strategies to deal with residents whose activities, criminal or otherwise, impact adversely on their neighbours. Amongst the tactics open to the Sub-Committee are Anti-Social Behaviour Contracts, ASBO applications and eviction proceedings for breach of the tenancy agreement. Perhaps the key contribution to the work of the sub-committee is made by the full time Anti-Social Behaviour Officer now employed by Moat Housing Ltd., Angus McDonald. At present there are four Anti-Social Behaviour Orders in place and six Anti-Social Behaviour Agreements.

It was agreed at the inception of the Anti-Social Behaviour Subcommittee that strong action should be

taken against those engaged in criminality with the most serious adverse consequences for their neighbours. A joint decision was taken that those charged with drug supply offences or domestic burglary should automatically be made the subject of eviction proceedings. This decision, which was endorsed by locally elected councillors, was publicised through the Together newsletter in December 2006. It was followed by police enforcement action, guided by local intelligence. Following Operation Battleship (see below) evictions proceedings were commenced against the first six tenants. It is expected that the process will be concluded by July.

In line with the focus on addressing Anti-Social Behaviour Gravesham Borough Council took the lead in drawing up a strategy to address the identified problem of "nuisance youths". The broad aim was to provide for young people a range of regular participatory activities coupled with access to education and recreational facilities. Kent County Council Youth Services already ran a youth club in King's Farm called "Miracles". The Together newsletter was used to advertise the range of activities it offered. The "Miracles" centre also started a "Garage Project", teaching youngsters car mechanics. The project has attracted sufficient interest that it is now to be expanded to include a ten-week course leading to a City & Guilds qualification. Kent Police also contributed to the diversion strategy. PCSO Davies took the lead in setting up a Karate Club, using KCC facilities, which now draws a regular weekly attendance exceeding twenty. Weekly football training sessions organised by the Charlton athletic Community Scheme initially drew a large attendance, but were adversely affected by bad weather in January and have now been suspended until after Easter.

Moat Housing Ltd. undertook a consultation exercise with a view to eliciting what sort of recreational facilities local youngsters wanted. Based on this work, the Trust joined with Gravesham Borough Council and jointly funded the installation of a multi-sport facility at a total cost of £80,000. Now open, the facility is reportedly well used, drawing many youngsters off the street.

The Operation General Survey had also identified the widespread dumping of rubbish in public spaces and graffiti as a problem. Gravesend Borough Council Waste Management Services, working with Kent Fire Service, organised several initiatives to combat the problem. In partnership with the Christianfields Resident's Association a Clear Out Day was held. Twelve skips were placed at strategic locations in the neighbourhood, and volunteers to assist in the removal of waste were provided by the Fire Brigade, Moat Housing, North Kent Community Church and the Youth Offending Team. In total 25 tonnes of rubbish were removed. Another linked operation in February targeted the clearance of rear access ways, many of which were overgrown or otherwise blocked. The Borough Council Community Safety Unit have also funded the installation of additional litter bins in key locations and a graffiti clearance program. The Groundwork Trust, a charitable organisation that aims to improve the built environment in deprived areas, also became involved in this aspect of the Project, running an educational program at Kings Farm School focusing on litter and the environment.

### **Tackling Criminal Activity**

Alongside the various steps taken with partner agencies to improve the resilience of the neighbourhood to crime, Kent Police undertook a number of operations and other work calculated to reduce crime and the fear of crime. Police action rested on two pillars: the establishment of a visible and effective police presence and the use of community-generated intelligence to disrupt prolific and lifestyle criminals. This approach reflected an underlying acceptance that, to command the confidence of the law-abiding majority, the police must be seen to deal not only with those involved in visible anti-social behaviour and petty crime but also those known by the community to live a criminal lifestyle. To put the matter in the clearest possible terms: arresting vandals and ignoring drug dealers would not have convinced anybody. The challenge before police was to tackle the roots of the disorder problem, not simply its visible manifestations.

Under the auspices of the Force Neighbourhood Policing Strategy, a team consisting of two constables and two Community Support Officers were allocated specific responsibility for the AZ13 beat. A third PCSO is due to join the team in July. Their efforts were augmented by the probationer training unit (PDU),

and by targeted patrol work by officers from Gravesend emergency response teams.

The direct impact of patrol work is not easily measureable. A crime prevented cannot be recorded. However, one example may be cited to demonstrate the effect achieved by the police presence in King's Farm. In January officers on foot patrol attempted to stop-check two men. They ran, were pursued and arrested for obstructing a lawful search. Search warrants were subsequently executed at the addresses occupied by the two suspects, which led to the recovery of property from over twenty burglaries. The two men were subsequently charged with twenty-five offences and remanded in custody.

Tips to crimestoppers from local residents, perhaps prompted by the descriptions of stolen property in the Together newsletter, also led to a number of other successful police operations. In November and December a number of search warrants were executed, leading to the arrest of three people and the recovery of stolen property.

On January 12<sup>th</sup> 2007 Kent Police carried out Operation Battleship. Acting on locally gathered intelligence, police executed twenty-one search warrants under the Misuse of Drugs Act. Sixteen people were arrested. Four received police cautions for drugs offences. Seven people were charged with supplying a variety of Class A drugs, principally heroin and crack cocaine, of whom four were remanded in custody. Four others were charged with drugs offences and bailed to court. Those charged with drug supply offences were referred to the Anti-Social Behaviour Sub-Committee for consideration of possible eviction proceedings.

The final element of the direct intervention by Police was prompted by feedback at the Public Meetings and research into ASB hotspots. It was calculated to complement the diversion strategy put in place by partner agencies. Acting jointly, the Chief Executive of Gravesham Borough Council and the Area police commander authorised a Dispersal Order covering an area of roughly half a square mile, centred on Kitchener Avenue and York Road. Under the terms of the order, which commenced on March 14<sup>th</sup> 2007 and has a fixed duration of twelve weeks, constables may require any group of more than three juveniles acting in an anti-social manner to disperse and may return to their homes children under the age of 16 found unsupervised during the hours of darkness. Figures for the use of the powers are not yet available, but it appears to have already had a powerful deterrent effect and feedback from residents has been very positive.

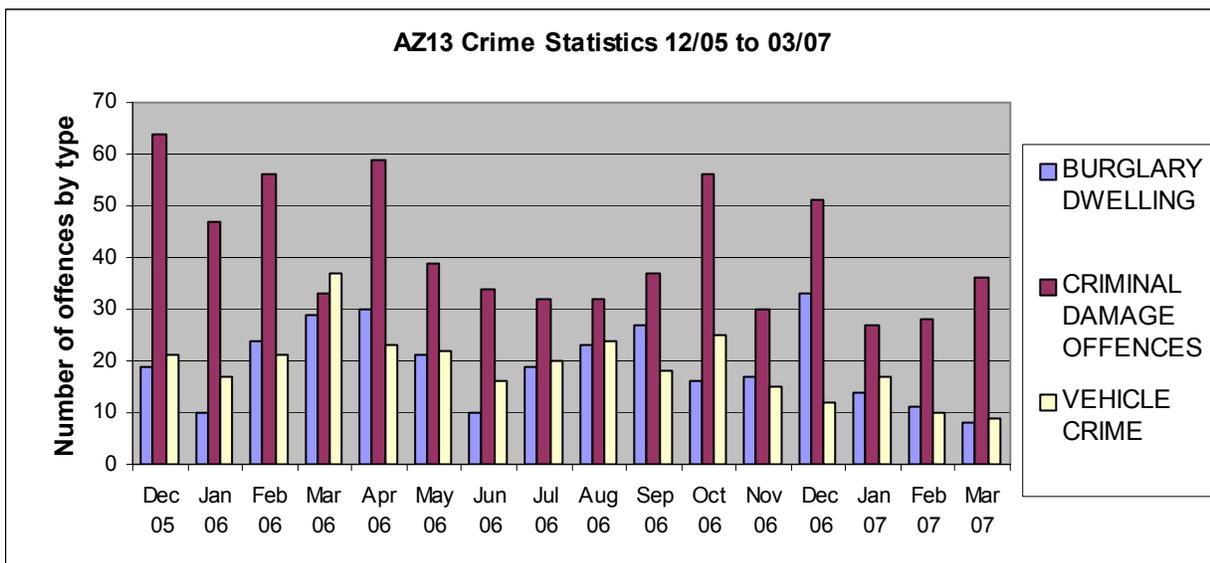
## **Conclusions**

The Together Project is ongoing at the time of writing. However, it is now possible to objectively evaluate the results achieved, and to draw from those results lessons to guide the future development of the Project.

The specific objectives set at the outset constitute a useful starting point for the evaluation process. These were:

- 1) To reduce the incidence of criminal damage by 20% by April 2007.
- 2) To bring the burglary rate down by 40% by April 2007.
- 3) To reduce the incidence of vehicle crime by 20% by April 2007.
- 4) To create a Neighbourhood Watch network involving at least 100 households by April 2007.
- 5) To initiate an effective crime prevention programme.
- 6) To create an effective public consultation and review mechanism.

Taking a three-month rolling average, criminal damage offences have fallen from an average of 49 per month in the three months to March 2006 compared to 29 per month in the same period the following year. Similarly, there have been an average of 11 burglaries per month, as against 21 per month. Similarly vehicle crime has dropped from an average of 20 offences per month to just over 10 per month one year on. These represent reductions of 40% in criminal damage, 48% in burglary and 50% in car crime.



The Neighbourhood Watch initiative has created a network of nearly 200 homes. This represents more than one in seven of the entire community, and the prospects of further expansion are good. In view of the total absence of Neighbourhood Watch previously, this represents a substantial success.

The foregoing constitutes a static analysis of the results of the Project against measurable criteria. However, it is important to note that the review process has been an ongoing one, informed by survey results, feedback at public meetings and the suggestions of stakeholders. Amongst the various changes, not envisioned at the outset of the exercise, were the invocation of the Dispersal Order in York Road, the publication of the newsletter in other languages and the expansion of the “Garage Project” into an educational program. Similarly, the letterbox guard initiative stemmed from analysis of information collected during the course of the Project.

From the outset, the Together Project was conceived as a long-term multi-agency commitment. It is by no means at an end and will continue to evolve. Over time the principal stakeholders have drawn in an ever-wider array of partner agencies, both governmental and voluntary, to tackle a wide range of the problems affecting a deprived community. The CDRP has played a co-ordinating role, delegating management of particular initiatives to the agencies directly involved or inter-agency sub-committees. It is clear to the partner agencies that there is no panacea for the problems of King’s Farm, and there is still much work to do, but key statistics and other evidence indicate that the range of initiatives put in place are having a genuinely positive effect in improving the quality of life for residents of the neighbourhood.

**Appendices**

Attached are key documents, illustrative of the work undertaken during the Together Project:

- Appendix 1 – Sample copy, “Together” newsletter.
- Appendix 2 – Kings Farm Forum Action Plan.
- Appendix 3 – Sample copy, Winter 2006 King’s Farm Crime Survey.

#### **Section 4: Endorsement by Senior Representative**

*Please insert letter from endorsing representative:*

The issues associated with urban deprivation, crime and disorder in the King's Farm estate had long been a source of concern to both Kent Police and Gravesham Borough Council. Various agencies had launched initiatives at different times with a view to addressing particular issues, but struggled to achieve lasting effects. In large part, this reflected the complex and inter-related nature of the problems in the community. It was clear to the members of the CDRP that bringing about meaningful improvements in quality of life for residents in the long term would hinge on an effectively coordinated multi-agency response.

The approach adopted by the CDRP reflected the classical experimental method. First an analysis was undertaken of the nature and extent of the problems in King's Farm. This did not simply involve processing hard facts, but also a consultation exercise designed to elicit the altogether less tangible, but equally relevant, factor of public opinion.

From the problem profile, and drawing on the knowledge gained from a pilot initiative, the CDRP drew up a range of tactics calculated to be mutually complementary. The broad intention was to address both the symptoms and the roots of crime and anti-social behavior simultaneously. The strategy adopted emphasized three points: prevention, diversion and detection. The longer-term aim guiding the Project was to re-build the social institutions, habits and expectations which in themselves constitute the most powerful barriers to crime and disorder. As the project progressed, in line with the consultation strategy, it developed to reflect new challenges, fresh ideas and the changing concerns of the community.

The success of the project in achieving and exceeding the objectives set at its inception suggest that the strategy adopted in King's Farm represents an excellent model. Moreover, given that the problems addressed by the Project in King's Farm are by no means atypical, but are sadly reproduced in many urban areas across the breadth of the UK, it appears to the signatories that the model has the potential for widespread application.

John Burden  
Leader, Gravesham Borough Council  
Chairman, Gravesham & Dartford Crime And Disorder Reduction Partnership



**Checklist for Applicants:**

1. Have you read the process and application form guidance?
2. Have you completed all four sections of the application form in full including the endorsement from a senior representative?
3. Have you checked that your entry addresses all aspects of the judging criteria?
4. Have you advised all partner agencies that you are submitting an entry for your project?
5. Have you adhered to the formatting requirements within the guidance?
6. Have you checked whether there are any reasons why your project should **not** be publicised to other police forces, partner agencies and the general public?
7. Have you saved you application form as a PDF attachment and entitled your message 'Entry for Tilley Awards 2007' before emailing it?

Once you are satisfied that you have completed your application form in full please **email it to [Tilleyawards07@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Tilleyawards07@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)**. Two hard copies must also be posted to Alex Blackwell at Home Office, Effective Practice, Support & Communications Team, 6th Floor, Peel Building (SE Quarter), 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF.

# Arrests and charges

Shamus Hooper, 26 years, Windsor Road, Gillingham was charged with an attempted burglary in Appleshaw Close on 26/03.

Ashley Love 18, from Dorchester Road and a 16 year old youth from Hawthorne Close have been charged with various motoring offences at Kings Farm in relation to a stolen Trials Motorcycle. Darren McGrath, 30, from Old Road West was charged with a burglary.

A 16 year old youth from Oak Road was charged with various

burglary offences

A 16 year old youth from Eltham was charged with burglary admitting to offences in Mackenzie Way and The Glades. He was remanded into custody.

A 16 year old youth cautioned for going equipped to steal Three arrests have been made in relation to the burglary at Thistledown and property stolen from the burglary recovered. Nigel Turner, 43, of Poplar Ave, Gravesend has been charged with wounding and assault following a disturbance at the AEI club.



## Contact numbers

Confidential information line: 01474 56 51 41

Anti-social behaviour team: 01474 33 74 40

Housing: 01474 56 44 22 Council housing repairs: 01474 33 77 77

Local Beat Officer PC Jim Walker: 01322 28 31 67

Police non-emergency line: 01622 69 06 90

Crimestoppers - 0800 555 111



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# Christian Fields and Kings Farm T o g e t h e r April 2007 Monthly news from The Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership



**Vernon Coaker meets officials and residents**

## Ministerial visit

A HOME Office minister visited Kings Farm estate to listen to police, council and residents' views on the battle against crime.

Vernon Coaker, MP, the Under-secretary of State for policing and security made the visit as part of the opening of the Public Safety Unit at Gravesend's Civic Centre.

The unit is a joint office for police and the council's community safety team.

At Kings Farm Mr Coaker met Ann Allen, the chair of the Gloucester Road Neighbourhood Watch, one of the four schemes in Kings Farm. Supt Chris Hogben, deputy area commander of North Kent Police, said the operations on the estate have been a "flagship improvement".

Mr Coaker praised the tough stance on crime and disorder and promised to listen to requests for more funding.

# Crime update

There have been four burglaries at Kings Farm since the last edition.

A Dell laptop was stolen during a night time burglary in Poplar Avenue on 30 March. A purse was stolen from a house in Cedar Avenue on 5 April.

There was a daytime burglary in Whitehill Road on 23 March where a LG Flatscreen TV was stolen.

There was another daytime burglary on 8 April in Elm Road where a DVD player and a mobile phone were stolen.

There were also burglaries near the estates.

At Thistledown on 5 April a 42" Plasma TV and a Ford Ka were stolen. The Ka was recovered in MacKenzie Way.

Burglars tried to force open the front door at a house in Cobsdene on the same day but were disturbed.

In Ferndale Road on 7 April a Ford Courier was stolen.

It was later recovered in Windsor Road.

Any information please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

**Crime  
Alerts  
Success**



property

**Dell Inspiron Laptop  
LG Flatscreen TV  
Dell Laptop x 2  
Fuji Camera**

If you have bought, been offered or seen these items please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. These have been stolen from your neighbours. If you are in possession of these items you are liable to arrest and prosecution for handling stolen goods.

**Local Beat Officers'  
surgery dates**

The Kings Farm community police officer, PC James Walker and Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) Dave Davies and Darren Jenner can be contacted on 01322 283167 or go to one of their surgeries. The next one is at 1pm on 12 May at Ferguson Road, Moat House at 7pm.

## Your newsletter

**The Together newsletter is now delivered to all residents of Kings Farm on behalf of North Kent Police in partnership with Gravesham Borough Council, Moat Housing and Crimestoppers. The newsletter will provide regular news in relation to crimes committed and persons sought, charged, convicted and evicted in your area and those that impact on your area.**

## Crime prevention

Now that the warmer weather is here please remember to keep all your windows closed when you go out and be sensible if you need to leave any open during the night.

Burglars will walk around for ages looking for an open window to make things easier for them.



## A welcome addition

Kings Farm and Christian Fields estates have a new Police and Community Support Officer.

Darren Jenner started work in the second half of April. He says he's excited at the prospect of being involved at what he called "the forefront of neighbourhood policing" in Kent.

Darren has just completed the seven-week stringent training programme for PCSOs and is keen to get to grips with his first posting. "It's a challenging area," he said.

There are plans for a third officer to start in August.

## KINGS FARM FORUM ACTION PLAN

### Strategic Aim 1 : Youth Activities/Diversion

<b>Objective : To engage with young people in the area and divert them into positive activities</b>					
<b>Ref.</b>	<b>Specific Action</b>	<b>Measures/Outputs</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Progress to date</b>	<b>Lead responsibility</b>
1.1	<p>To provide a range of activities (within existing resources) in which young people can participate on a regular basis and/or give them access to education/training:</p> <p>i) Karate Club;</p> <p>ii) Miracles Garage Project;</p> <p>iii) Multi-agency summer/holiday programmes</p> <p>iv) Positive Futures</p>	<p>No. and type of activities in place. No. and age of young people taking part or benefiting from different activities.</p> <p>Nature/no. of schemes run.</p> <p>No. and type of activities.</p> <p>Provision and no. benefiting.</p>	Ongoing	<p>Progress of each of the projects as follows:</p> <p>i) Karate Club very successful, with 20 young people attending regularly on a weekly basis;</p> <p>ii) Garage Project well-attended with young people referred/using facilities from ACP, Connexions, Key Training Services, KCC Youth Services. Project currently being reviewed, looking to run 10 week C &amp; G accredited courses.</p> <p>iii) Miracles – mural project planned for Aug. Also activities planned for Aug/Sept: mountain biking, quad biking, Ist Aid, Motor Mechanics and Cooking. 2<sup>nd</sup> mechanic appointed to support the Garage Project.</p> <p>iv) Sessions began running in Oct with a break over Christmas on Mondays 7.00pm-8.30pm. Prior to Christmas sessions were</p>	<p>NK Police, PCSO Dave Davies</p> <p>KCC Youth Services Jon Whitfield/Brenda Armstrong</p> <p>KCC Youth Services &amp; partner agencies as appropriate</p> <p>Charlton Athletic community Scheme (John Armstrong)</p>

	v) Joint work between YMCA and Miracles.	Nature of outreach work; areas of focus and beneficiaries.		attracting 30-40 young people. Adverse weather after Christmas affected numbers and decision taken to postpone further sessions until after Easter.  v) YMCA and Miracles developed plan for outreach work that will concentrate on York Road and Ash Road. Primarily will be concerned with 11-19 year-olds but potentially will also take on younger ages.	Garnet Johnson (YMCA), Jon Whitfield (Miracles).
1.2	To consult with young people in the area on, and improvements to, provision and facilities in place.	Type of consultation conducted. No. of young people consulted. Outcome of consultation and resulting action taken.		Consultation completed by Moat Housing and found that young people's preference was for a multi-sports facility in the area. Multi-purpose area has been installed part funded by Moat and part-funded by GBC (£80,000 total) and is very well-used.	Moat Housing Assoc. & partner agencies as appropriate

### Strategic Aim 2 : Enforcement Action – Reducing Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

<b>Objective : To address key crimes and problems of anti-social behaviour in the area</b>					
<b>Ref.</b>	<b>Specific Action</b>	<b>Measures/Outputs</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Progress to date</b>	<b>Lead responsibility</b>
2.1	To run targeted operations in the area to tackle specific crimes and to monitor their impact.	No. and type of operations run. Outcomes and impact on crime/disorder levels.	Ongoing	Operation General (Apr-June 2006) : high visibility policing stage led to 30 arrests; consultation and intelligence-gathering led to further 29 arrests and execution of search warrants (drug-related activity) led to 7	NK Police Beat Officer and PCSOs.

				<p>arrests. Questionnaire provided to residents re crime and disorder issues, with 350 respondents wanting to be kept informed. Kings Farm included in designated Dispersal Area between 18/08/06-12/11/06. Drug-focussed Police Operation completed (via Kent Police HQ) Jan 2007.</p> <p>As part of the Together Campaign, element to tackle burglary with advice on home security provided by Police, Police funding of letter box guards and their fitting by GBC staff.</p>	
2.2	To use policies and procedures via referrals to the Anti-Social Behaviour Team (GBC) to address the behaviour of known individuals.	Referrals from the area to ASB Team. Resulting action and outcomes.	Ongoing	There are 4 ASB Orders in effect at this time re individuals from the area.	NK Police, ASB Team (GBC) & partner agencies as appropriate

### Strategic Aim 3 : A Safer & Greener Environment

<b>Objective : To take action to improve the cleanliness/appearance of the environment and promote pride in the local area</b>					
<b>Ref.</b>	<b>Specific Action</b>	<b>Measures/Outputs</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Progress to date</b>	<b>Lead responsibility</b>
3.1	i) To involve local residents and community groups in carrying out 'clear up' days to remove litter, clear out alleyways and remove graffiti.	i) Clear out days run and specific areas improved. Groups/no. of local people involved.	Ongoing	i) Street cleansing operation completed in February targeting rear access ways. Christianfields Residents' Assoc. Clear Out Day - 12 skips were sited at Christianfields, Palmer and Ferguson Aves. Approx. 25 tonnes of rubbish removed from the estate. Cost of day: £1,500 provided by Community Safety (GBC) whilst Residents' Assoc., The Gr@nd Project, NK	Waste Management, Housing Services (GBC), Kent Fire & Rescue Service, Residents' Assoc. & partner agencies as appropriate

				Community Church, Housing Services, Waste Management (GBC), Moat Housing Services, Surestart, Youth Offending Team (KCC) and Fire Service, all provided volunteers, managed refreshments and advice on the day. Further Community Action Day planned for Spring 2007.	
<b>Ref.</b>	<b>Specific Action</b>	<b>Measures/Outputs</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Progress to date</b>	<b>Lead responsibility</b>
3.1 <i>cont.</i>	<p>ii) To work directly with children and young people to raise awareness of the importance of caring for and having pride in their local area.</p> <p>iii) To work in partnership with the Borough's Neighbourhood Watch Scheme to encourage greater participation in NW.</p>	<p>ii) Type of project(s) run and no. of children and young people benefiting.</p> <p>iii) No. of Watches in the area and membership.</p>	<p>July 2006</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>ii) Litter Project run by Groundwork at Kings Farm School completed involving the School Council. Further project aimed at concentrating on litter/environment planned for Spring 2007.</p> <p>iii) Police Borough Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator attended Forum with view to working with members to develop NW in the area. New NW Coordinator now in post and to be invited to future meetings. 1 NW existing in Kitchener Ave, new NW set up at Gloucester Road (February 2007).</p>	<p>Groundwork Trust/all agencies as appropriate</p> <p>Borough NW Scheme, Community Safety (GBC)</p>
<b>Objective : To help reduce crime and improve personal safety through changes to the physical environment at key locations</b>					
<b>Ref.</b>	<b>Specific Action</b>	<b>Measures/Outputs</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Progress to date</b>	<b>Lead responsibility</b>
3.2	To carry out environmental/physical changes to the environment (resources permitting) at the following identified areas: i) alleyway in Kitchener Ave to Sun	Locations identified, funding allocated and natures of improvements carried out. Impact of improvements - any objective outcomes (reduction in crime/disorder/complaints)	Ongoing	i) Ownership of this alleyway in	All agencies as appropriate

	Lane;  ii) footpath from Cedar Ave adjacent to the family centre;	and subjective outcomes (public perception such as feeling safer).		question and being investigated;  ii) Ownership of this alleyway (KCC) confirmed and footpath area leading to doctor's surgery and family centre cleared (Nov 2006). Graffiti on main signage also removed (Jan 2007) and concrete litter bin installed (CS Budget funding) to help to reduce litter problem (Feb 2007).	
<b>Objective : To take action to address the issue of non-accidental fires in the area and to improve fire safety in local homes</b>					
<b>Ref.</b>	<b>Specific Action</b>	<b>Measures/Outputs</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Progress to date</b>	<b>Lead responsibility</b>
3.3	To establish the extent to which non-accidental fires (e.g. rubbish fires) are a problem in the area.	No. of non-accidental fires occurring in project area monitored on quarterly basis.	Ongoing	Kent Fire & Rescue Service representative allocated to Forum and will be providing statistics for the area.	Kent Fire & Rescue Service
3.4	To increase the number of residents who take up free home fire safety checks and who have smoke alarms installed.	No. of residents receiving home safety checks. No. of smoke alarms provided.	Mar 2007	Operation Titus plus free fire safety checks offered as part of the 'Together' Campaign.	Kent Fire & Rescue Service and partner agencies as appropriate

#### **Strategic Aim 4 : Raising Awareness and Information Provision**

<b>Objective : To provide information improve personal safety and to enable local people to take action to help reduce crime and disorder in the area</b>					
<b>Ref.</b>	<b>Specific Action</b>	<b>Measures/Outputs</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Progress to date</b>	<b>Lead responsibility</b>
4.1	To provide residents with contact details of key agencies that can help them to address issues related to crime/anti-social behaviour.	Production and distribution of contact details (and re-distribution if appropriate).	Ongoing	Laminated sheet with numbers of key agencies produced and circulated throughout the project area.	Community Safety (GBC) & partner agencies as appropriate
4.2	To provide security advice targeted	Measures taken to provide	Ongoing	To be incorporated into	All agencies as

	at elderly residents to improve their personal safety and security at home.	advice and no. of local elderly people benefiting. Assessment of outcomes.		Community Action Day (Spring 2007).	appropriate
<b>Objective : To raise awareness of the work of the Forum and to encourage residents' participation</b>					
<b>Ref.</b>	<b>Specific Action</b>	<b>Measures/Outputs</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Progress to date</b>	<b>Lead responsibility</b>
4.3	To produce a quarterly newsletter for local people on the work of the Forum and to promote action taken through the local media.	Newsletter produced and distributed quarterly (Sept, Dec, Mar, June). No. of press releases issues and articles in local press. No. of articles on the GBC website.	To commence	Super-ceeded by the 'Together' campaign and leaflets that have been delivered door-to-door. Let's Talk consultation event also took place in Nov (for Kings Farm and Westcourt residents).	Community Safety (GBC) & all partner agencies Communications staff as appropriate
4.4	To promote the work of the Forum through face-to-face work with local groups and residents.	No. of talks/sessions and other measures taken to make contact with people and no. of people participating.	Ongoing	Liz Read (the Gr@nd) to speak to parents at the Family Centre re the work of the Forum in Aug-Sept. Local survey with local residents regarding awareness of Forum, issues they feel the Forum should address and to encourage residents to join planned by Christine Gray (Housing Services, GBC). Joint work promoted through the Together Campaign, public meetings and leaflets.	The Gr@nd Project, Housing Services (GBC) & partner agencies as appropriate

Kath Donald  
KF Action Plan Feb 2007



## Crime Survey Questionnaire

### Kings Farm Estate 2006

#### Crime Reduction Survey

*Officers, please record comments made by residents overleaf.*

1. On the Kings Farm Estate, how much of a problem are the following?

	Big Problem	Fairly Big Problem	Not a Very Big Problem	Not a Problem
<i>a.</i> Noisy neighbours or loud parties	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>b.</i> Teenagers hanging around	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>c.</i> People being drunk or rowdy in public places	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>d.</i> People sleeping rough in public places	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>e.</i> Rubbish or litter lying around	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>f.</i> Vandalism, graffiti and deliberate damage to property	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>g.</i> People being attacked or harassed because of their skin colour, ethnic origin etc	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>h.</i> People using or dealing drugs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>i.</i> Abandoned or burnt out cars	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Big Problem    Fairly Big Problem    Not a Very Big Problem    Not a Problem

*j.*  
Dog fouling in public places

2. Do you have any other concerns other than those listed above? If so, what are they?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Which of the above would you say is the biggest problem in your community?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Who do you think are committing criminal offences within your community?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Do you see the local Borough Council Wardens?

yes                       no

6. Do you know how to contact the wardens?

yes                       no

7. Would you be prepared to provide a statement concerning any of the above, which if necessary would be treated in confidence?

yes                       no

8. In a few months time, we will be conducting a follow up telephone survey.

Are you happy to be contacted again?

yes                       no

If yes, please give your name, address and telephone number below.

\_\_\_\_\_