



Home Office

Crime Reduction & Community Safety Group

Tilley Awards 2008 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 tilleyawards08@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk.

All entries must be received by noon on **Friday 25th April 2008**. 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.

Section A: Application basics

1. Teesside Park:

2. Crime:

Author contact details

3. PC 440 Fagan:

4. Cleveland Police:

5. Police Station,
Thistle Green,
Stockton-on-Tees:
Cleveland
TS18 1TZ

6. stephen.fagan@cleveland.pnn.police.uk:

7. 01642 302248

Secondary project contact details

8. PC Ibinson

9. David.Ibinson@cleveland.pnn.police.uk

10. 01642 302636

Endorsing representative contact details

11. Superintendent David Brunskill,
Stockton District Commander,
Cleveland Police

12. David.Brunskill@cleveland.pnn.police.uk

13. Government Office North East:

14. Please mark this box with an X 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 B: Summary of application - *In no more than 400 words use this space to provide a summary of your project under the stated headings (see guidance for more information).*

Teesside Park is situated on the South bank of the River Tees at the junction of the A19 and A66 dual carriageways. It is divided into two separate parts comprising a Leisure Park and a Retail Park each with its own car parking facilities. Records showed that car crime was increasing with offences including theft of motor vehicles and theft from motor vehicles. This project was introduced to address crime in the area with the main emphasis on vehicle related crime.

Scanning:

- The area was identified as a vehicle crime hot spot via the Tasking and Coordinating process
- A scanning document was prepared using data from the Police crime and incident recording systems looking at vehicle crime both in the Leisure and Retail Parks combined.
- Information was provided from several meetings with businesses that established their priorities and level of commitment to the project.
- Internet research was carried out to identify other locations with similar businesses and local officers at those premises were consulted.

Analysis:

- Approximately 80% of the car crime on Teesside Park Estate occurred in the Leisure Park.
- Criminals were attracted to the area due to the length of time cars were parked unattended in the Leisure Park.
- There was a lack of cohesion between the businesses due to different priorities.
- Security, CCTV and lighting were of a poor standard.
- Shrubbery was obscuring visibility in the car park.
- Car owners were unaware of their vulnerability.

Response:

- A "Vulnerable Vehicle Scheme" required car owners to be spoken to when cars were found insecure or with property left in plain sight.
- Businesses were brought together and persuaded to act.
- Repairs were carried out on defective lighting and signage.
- Shrubbery was trimmed to improve visibility.
- Security and CCTV were improved.
- Offenders were identified and arrested.
- Criminal Anti Social Behaviour Orders were sought.

Assessment:

- Theft from motor vehicles reduced by 40%.
- Thefts of motor vehicles reduced by over 70%.

- Damage to cars reduced by 17%.
- Interference with a motor vehicle reduced by 40%.
- Businesses have engaged with the project and continue to take responsibility.
- Investigations resulted in a number of arrests and Criminal Anti Social Behaviour Orders were obtained against offenders.

State number of words: 382

Section C: Description of project - Describe the project in no more than 4,000 words. Please refer to the full guidance for more information on what the description should cover, in particular section 11.

INTRODUCTION

Teesside Park lies at the junction of the A19 and A66 dual carriageways just south of the River Tees covering an area about one third of a square kilometre. The park is divided into two distinct areas with the Retail Park to the West providing a large number of retail outlets and the Leisure Park to the East providing venues for socialising and entertainment. There were criminal offences relating to the Retail Park as in any similar area but by April 2006 it had been noted that there were a high number of crimes relating to motor vehicles and research showed that approximately 80% of these offences were occurring in the Leisure Park. Vehicle crime was part of the BCU control strategy and the area had been highlighted as a vehicle crime hotspot, significantly affecting district vehicle crime performance.

SCANNING

- The Strategic Tasking and Coordination Group (TCG) identified Vehicle Crime as a priority and included it in the Control Strategy.
- The Tactical TCG identified Teesside Park as a hotspot for vehicle crime. It was noted that the area was becoming an increasing problem for vehicle crime.
- Further work was commissioned by the Tactical TCG aimed at a long term reduction in vehicle crime.
- Views were sought from businesses on Teesside Park.
- Crime and incident reports and Intelligence reports were examined.
- A visual audit was carried out by a Stockton Police Crime Reduction officer accompanied by the neighbourhood police officer and the site security manager.

The Area

The map in Fig 1 shows the Retail Park as the oblong formation of buildings to the West and the Leisure Park formed by the semi circular buildings to the East. The stream running between these two areas is a tributary of the River Tees. It flows north into the river and defines the boundary between the Retail park and the Leisure Park. The Tributary also forms part of the boundary between Stockton Borough Council to the West and Middlesbrough Council to the East, however the whole area up to the A19 sits within Stockton Policing District.

There is only one vehicular access road to the whole site from the A66 at the North West corner of the Park with both sides of the Park joined at a single point across a bridge of the tributary.

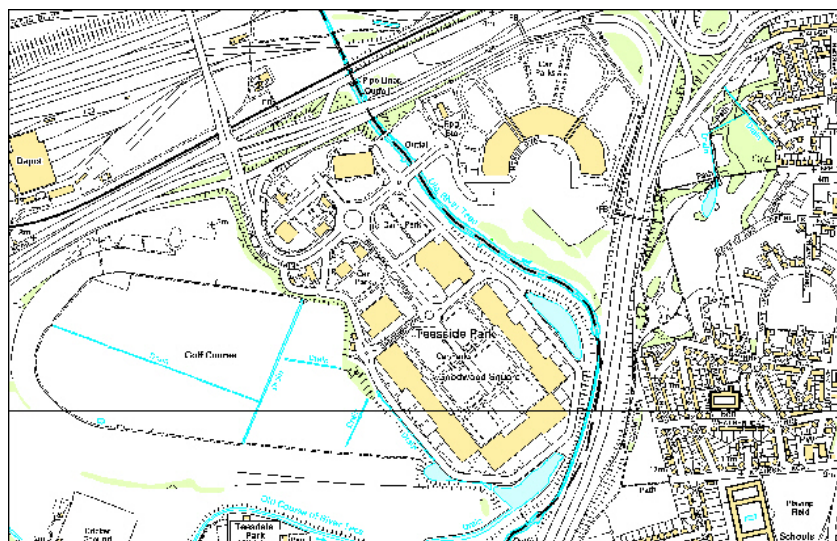


Fig 1

Figures provided by management at the park showed that about half a million cars per month attend the area with

approximately 80% using the retail Park and 20% using the Leisure Park.

An officer from Stockton Police Crime Reduction Team carried out a General Security Survey of the Leisure park and his report highlighted landscaping, security lighting, CCTV, general housekeeping and site security and management as issues requiring some action.

Retail Park

The buildings in the Retail Park, on the Western half of the complex consist of rented premises except for Morrison's Superstore and Toys R' Us who bought their premises. The rental from other companies on the retail site contributes to the cost of Security, CCTV and lighting to which Morrison's and Toys 'R' Us also contribute. The CCTV cameras are controlled from a single control room staffed by security personnel who also patrol the site. The main car park is subdivided into four zones designated by the colours Red, Blue, Green and Yellow. Access is via a one way perimeter road and to go from one coloured zone to another, drivers must use that perimeter road. The main car park, which is surrounded on three sides by buildings, is well lit, covered by CCTV and patrolled by security personnel.

The Leisure Park

The Leisure Park Comprises three curved buildings arranged alongside each other in a semi circle with the main car park radiating out to the North. The three buildings were each purchased by a separate company. The Western building was sublet to five premises including a bowling alley, fast food outlet and two restaurants. The Eastern building was sublet to a night club, bingo hall, casino, a bar and a restaurant. The centre building is owned and occupied by Showcase Cinemas who operate a multi screen complex. Like the Retail site car park, the Leisure site car park is also subdivided but with low planted areas and low wooden rail fencing. The separate zones have no designations and vehicles are able to travel freely throughout the car park. There was a small number of low quality CCTV cameras. Security patrols were infrequent and although there was a system of lighting, it was poorly maintained. The car park was designed in the form of radiating arcs with some parts over 150 metres away from the buildings. The shrubbery in the planted areas was not regularly maintained and visibility from the buildings to the farthest limits of the car park was obscured. None of the security facilities in the retail park were linked to the Retail site control room.

Crimes

Between April 2004 and March 2006 approximately 52% of all crime in Teesside Park involved motor vehicles. There were 165 offences relating to motor vehicles in the Leisure Park. The vehicle crime offences comprised of:

- Theft from Motor Vehicle

There were 97 offences of theft from motor vehicle with the main items of stolen property being Audio and Satellite Navigation systems. There were 21 different makes of car targeted with Vauxhall, Citroen and Fiat suffering most crime (32). The models most frequently broken into were the Citroen Saxo (12), Fiat Punto (11) and Vauxhall Corsa (9). All makes and models are shown in Fig 2.

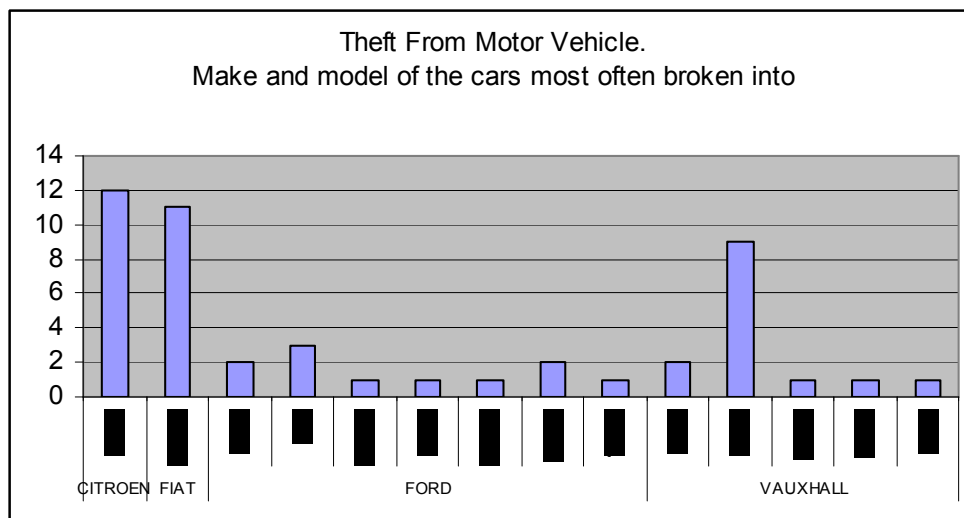


Fig 2

- Theft of Motor Vehicle.

There were 29 offences with 8 different makes and 15 different models being stolen including 9 Vauxhalls of which 4 were Corsas, 7 Fords of which 4 were Mondeos and 4 Toyotas. Such a broad range of makes and models indicated no significant patterns on which to base any initiatives.

- Criminal Damage to a Motor Vehicle.

There were 24 offences of damage involving 15 different makes of car. There were 7 Vauxhalls of which 3 were Corsas, 2 VW Golfs and 2 Citroens. Of the remaining 12 cars damaged, there was only one model of each make. Offences occurred on most days of the week with none on Tuesday and a peak on Thursday and during the day, between 9.00 p.m. and 11.00 p.m.

- Interference with a Motor Vehicle.

There were 15 offences involving 7 different makes of car with 3 BMWs, 3 Fords and 4 Vauxhalls including 3 Corsas and one Astra.

ANALYSIS

The main problem was crimes against motor vehicles and these were occurring because drivers were away from their vehicles for long periods of time, the physical layout of the car park made natural surveillance difficult and also caused problems identifying where cars were parked. In addition, the different businesses were not all working together due to their different priorities, there was little security, no CCTV and poorly maintained lighting.

Victim

The majority of victims were private car owners attending the Leisure Park to use the facilities provided. Most incident reports were called in by residents of Cleveland although there were a small number from Durham and North Yorkshire. Customers using the facilities at the Retail Park could be away from their cars for periods of time as short as a few minutes, while cars parked in the Leisure Park could be left unattended for hours at a time whilst the owners were enjoying a film, having a meal etc. Some owners did not seem to be aware of car crime in the area and either left their cars insecure or with property in plain sight. The main item of property targeted by thieves was car audio systems and satellite navigation equipment.

Vehicles were being broken into throughout the late morning to late evening but mostly between 1.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. in the afternoon and 7.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. in the evening. Offences were occurring on all days of the week but mostly on Saturday and Sunday. Times of the day and days of the week are shown in Fig 4.

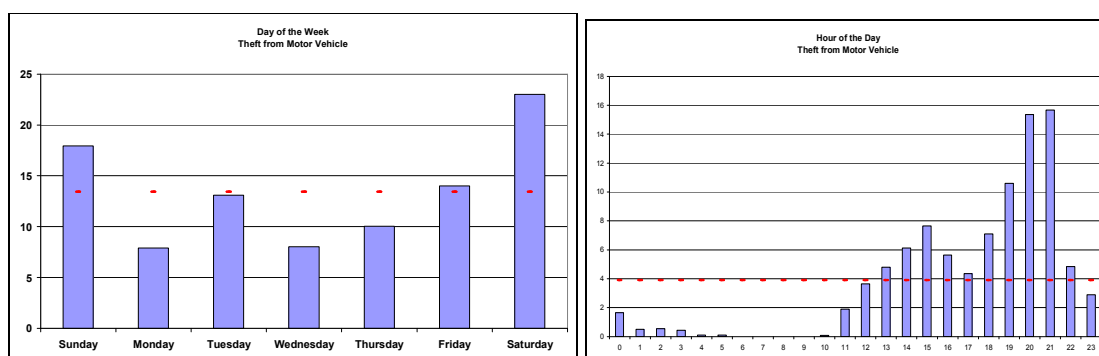


Fig 4

Most stolen vehicles were being taken on Friday and Saturday between 7.00 p.m. and 10.00 p.m. Times of the day and days of the week when offences were committed are shown in Fig 5.

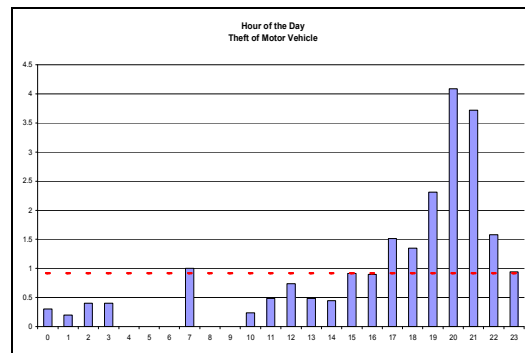
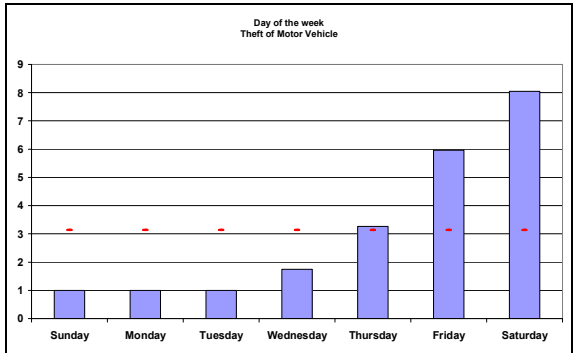


Fig 5

Vehicle interferences occurred only on 5 days of the week with peaks on Wednesday and Saturday. The time of day was similar to theft offences with offences occurring during the evening and the most common MO being to attack the lock. Times of the day and days of the week are shown in Fig 6.

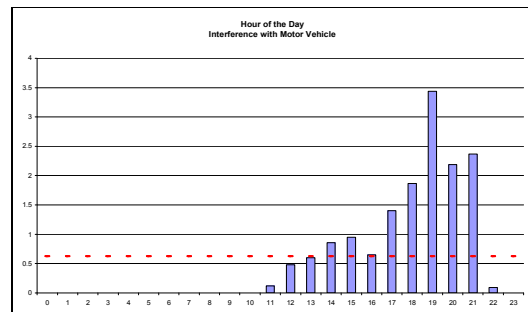
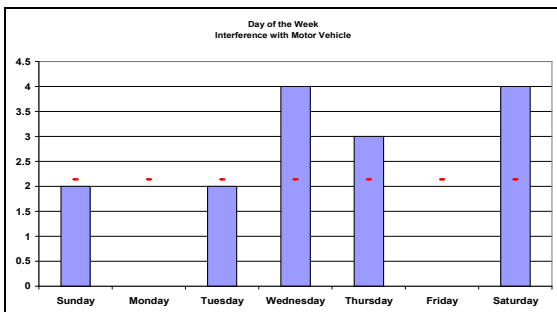


Fig 6

Criminal damage to motor vehicles occurred through the week except on Tuesday with a peak on Thursday and in the evening at similar times to other offences against vehicles with a peak between 9.00 p.m. and 11.00 p.m. Times of the day and days of the week are shown in Fig 7.

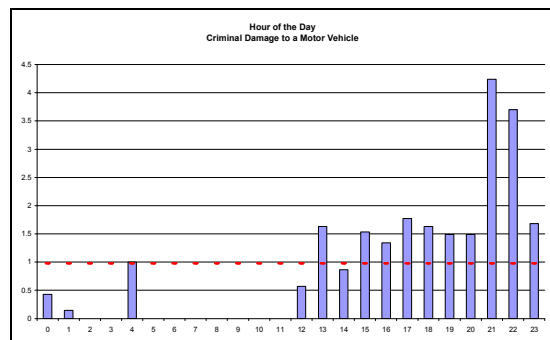
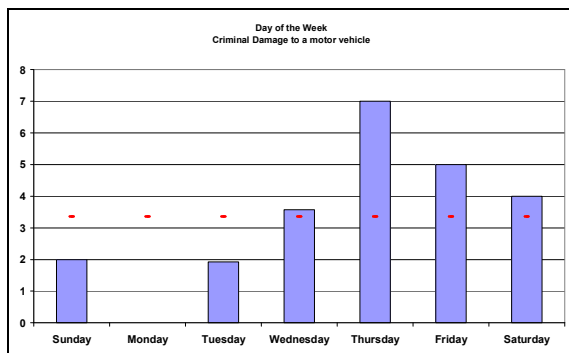


Fig 7

Some vehicle makes were targeted more than others which indicated that some thieves held a preference towards some cars.

Offender

Information from the crime and intelligence reports suggested that the majority of criminals were young males travelling to the area by car, usually with at least two people in the car. Most offences were committed while the owners were using the leisure facilities though on occasion the offenders were witnessed in the act. Intelligence

pointed to groups from Middlesbrough District.

Location

Leisure Site based businesses were unwilling to engage with any problem solving as each had different priorities due to their different opening times and clientele. They were reluctant to pay towards any security that would cover other premises at times when their own was closed. For example, the night club was open from about 6:00 p.m. until 2:00 a.m. while several other premises were open through the day and closed by midnight.

Stockton Police were responsible for the whole of Teesside Park and this had always been the case even though the CDRP boundary stopped short of the Leisure Park which lay within Middlesbrough Council area. Funding to improve the site was not expected from either council as responsibility rested with the police from one district while the land lay within the boundaries of another.

The design and layout of the car park made natural surveillance difficult and also prevented accurate analysis of the location of crimes due to the lack of identifiable features and the fact that a lot of the crimes were reported by the victims after they had left the car park.

RESPONSE

Initiatives were considered with reference to the EPIC model (Enforcement, Prevention, Intelligence, Communication)

Victim

Prevention

Posters were displayed outside premises on the leisure park warning drivers of car crime in the area and advising them to be careful to place valuables out of sight and lock their cars. An advertising trailer was sited at the Leisure Park warning of the problem and offering crime prevention advice.

A "Vulnerable Vehicle Scheme" was introduced whereby patrolling officers identified cars that were left insecure or had valuables left in plain sight. The initial idea was to record the vehicle's details and send a letter to the registered keeper warning them of the crime in the area and giving crime prevention advice. It was also noted during periods of fine weather that some drivers had locked their cars but left windows open.

Neighbourhood officers for the area took the scheme further by making efforts to speak to owners while they were still in the Leisure Park or by contacting them later at home.

Offender

Enforcement

A "Sting" vehicle was deployed in the car park and was fitted with a camera to photograph anyone breaking in. There were no recorded thefts from the vehicle while it was deployed in Teesside Park but it has provided good results in other locations and continues to be used to good effect elsewhere.

The Vehicle Crime Unit identified and arrested a number of individuals for vehicle crime in the park and secured a Criminal Anti Social Behaviour Order against two of them banning them from the area. A number of offences were detected after being taken into consideration.

Prevention

Capable guardians in the form of patrolling Police, Enforcement Officers and local security personnel served to deter criminals.

Location

Prevention

The shrubbery around the perimeter road and between different parts of the car park was trimmed to improve visibility throughout the car park and this activity will be maintained regularly from the central fund.

Improving the CCTV was an obvious step towards reducing crime but the separate businesses were unable to agree the best way forward. Linking with the existing system was one option but was discounted due to cost implications.

Another proposition was that all of the businesses on the Leisure Park should combine to fund a single security system similar to that already in place on the Retail Park but separate from it. Full agreement could not be reached due to the fact that there was some security and CCTV already in place, even though inadequate, it would have to be removed to make way for a new combined system.

Eventually it was agreed to call in a private security company who would provide personnel and CCTV for the area. The security company increased the number of hours that personnel were on duty and also the number of staff. Security personnel regularly patrolled the area operating a shift system with an overlay so that now there are more personnel on duty at optimum times as evidenced by the crime analysis. CCTV placed on the two outer buildings is monitored by the security company.

Although the Showcase Cinema management indicated that it was a company policy not to install cameras, further research carried out by neighbourhood officers persuaded them this policy only appeared to exist in the North East of England and there are now 2 cameras fitted outside the Showcase Cinema are monitored by the Cinema staff and all of the businesses are in regular contact with each other.

Communication

Neighbourhood officers visited the area every day and spoke to security personnel. The officers advised security personnel of the latest offences and incidents and provided information relating to core times which is when the staff would concentrate their patrols. There was also a more formal meeting every 2 months attended by all stakeholders including neighbourhood police and officers from the Crime Reduction Department at which time Police provide more detailed information to the security staff.

Police attended several meetings with businesses and landlords and an agreement was eventually reached that all of the members would contribute to a central fund to have lighting repaired and properly maintained in the future.

Assessment:

In the first year of the researched period there were 71 offences followed by 83 offences in the second year. In the first year that the POP was active, April 06 to March 07 there were 93 offences, an increase of 12% but in the year April 07 to March 08 there was a 40% reduction to 55 offences although there are no offences recorded in March 2008.

The POP was discharged in September 2007. During the 18 months the POP was running there were 57 offences in the first 6 months, 36 in the second 6 months and 32 in the third 6 months. In the 6 months since the POP was discharged there have been 23 recorded offences.

In the year ending March 2008 when compared to the previous year:-

- Theft from motor vehicles reduced by 40%.
- Thefts of motor vehicles reduced by over 70%,
- Damage to cars reduced by 17% and
- Interference with a motor vehicle reduced by 40%.

The improvement during the second year of the project coincided with the improvements in security, CCTV and cooperation between the businesses on the Leisure Park. While drivers are still away from their vehicles for long periods, they are more aware of car crime and take more care to secure their vehicles.

Even though the POP has been discharged, neighbourhood officers continue to visit the park every day and liaise with security and management. All of the businesses on the Leisure Park now work together to maintain a safer environment for customers and their property and there are regular meetings between management police and security. The businesses continue to maintain the security lighting and there is an improved CCTV system in the leisure park along with better security that is increased at core times.

State number of words used: 2761

Section D: Endorsement by Senior Representative - Please insert letter from endorsing representative, this will not count towards your word or 1MB size limit restrictions.

24th April 2008

Dear Sir/Madam

Please find enclosed an application submitted by dedicated officers within my Police District for the Tilley Problem Oriented Partnership Awards 2008. This project is about joint partnership working between the Police, Local Council and other agencies.

The project is named 'Teesside Park' which resulted in some excellent problem solving and innovative ideas dealing with crime.

I fully support this application and submit it for your consideration.

Yours faithfully,

David Brunskill

Superintendent

Stockton District Commander

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 e.g. civil or criminal proceedings pending in relation to your project?
7. Have you inserted your project name as a footer note on the application form? Go to View-Header and Footer to add it.
8. Have you saved you application form as a word document and entitled your message '**Tilley 08 entry (followed by project name in brackets)**' before emailing it?

Once you are satisfied that you have completed your application form in full please email it to Tilleyawards08@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk. One hard copy must also be posted to Alex Blackwell at Home Office, Effective Practice & Communication Team, 4th Floor, Fry Building (SE Quarter), 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF and be received by 25th April 2008.