



Meet our new Safer Communities Portfolio Holder

Hello! My name is **Bob Timbs**, and I am Councillor for **Lye Valley Ward**. As of 19th May, I also became Safer Communities Board Member at Oxford City Council and member of the Oxford Safer Communities Partnership (OSCP).



FIRSTLY, I'd like to thank Councillor Saj Malik for the tremendous commitment he has given to the OSCP over recent years. Saj has been instrumental in OSCP's successes which have seen crime fall dramatically in the city in the last decade.

In some crime categories we are witnessing the lowest level of crime for thirty years. You can read more about these achievements in Superintendent Amanda Pearson's article on the year end crime figures.

My role is to continue where Sajjad left off by providing political support for the partnership's activities.

This involves shaping city council resources, both human and financial, to make sure we do all we can to assist in reducing crime and disorder in the city. This commitment by the council is enshrined in Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter; it's full of interesting articles on recent activities of the partnership.

You'll read about the fantastic work of the Neighbourhood Action Groups in the city, how the partnership are responding to the summer spike in robbery, what youth activities we are putting on over the holiday period, how you can avoid becoming a victim of burglary and the celebration of reaching over 1,000 Neighbourhood Watch schemes in the city.

I wish you a safe and fun filled summer.

Bob

When I started my job as the commander for Oxford one year ago, my main objective was to build on the great results from the previous year.

I am pleased to announce that by working with our partners and communities, we have continued to see a downward trend in crimes that matter to our communities, for example, 120 fewer people have had their homes broken into in 2010/11, compared to the previous year.

Burglary, robbery and autocrime have reduced by 283 offences; all crimes which have a big impact on

■ By Superintendent Amanda Pearson

people's quality of life.

This has been achieved by all my staff, and partners, taking personal responsibility to help reduce crime, from neighbourhood officers and front-line council staff, to specialist detectives and crime reduction advisers.

In a period where cuts are being made across the public sector, I would like to reassure you that my front-line officers have been protected, so the excellent work that has been carried out by neighbourhood policing teams will continue, building links within the community to tackle issues that affect people's quality of life.

The neighbourhood officers will be joined by Oxford City Council's Community Response Team and the Crime and Nuisance Action Team who will work in partnership with us to tackle anti-social, which has also fallen this year.

Making Oxford an even safer place to live, work, and visit, is something that the police, partners and the community can do together by continuing to target offenders and work together in our neighbourhoods to show that criminal activity will not be tolerated in our city.

Crisis centre for sex assault victims

THE Thames Valley opened its first Sexual Assault Referral Centre, Solace on 1st April at Upton Hospital, Slough.

Solace will provide crisis intervention for all victims, female and male, of sexual assault and rape whether or not they report to the Police.

Service users will be offered a medical

examination, emergency contraceptives and support. If they wish to report to the Police or have reported to the Police, evidence will be gathered, and they will be able to give their statement in comfortable surroundings.

Solace will also provide telephone support and signposting for those who have

experienced sexual assault but do not wish to attend the Centre. Their 24 hour telephone number is **0845 519 7638**

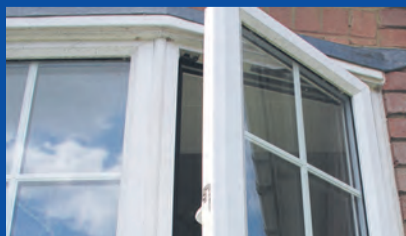
Oxford Rape Crisis offers a listening and support service to females who have experienced sexual violence or sexual abuse in childhood. To contact this service, call **0800 783 6294**.

Also in this issue...

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Wardens scheme is expanded

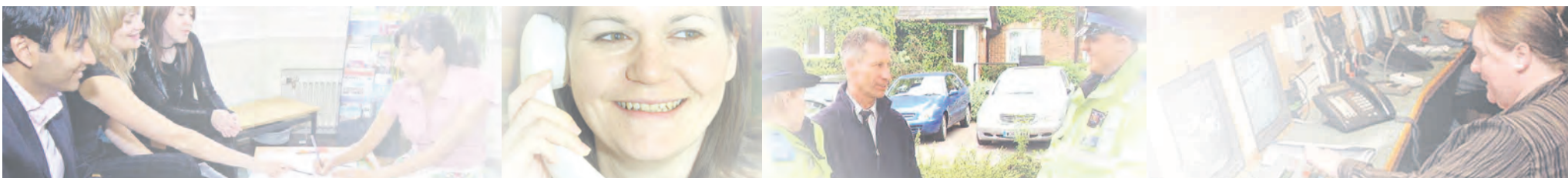


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Close those windows of opportunity



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Cool fun for kids during the holidays





WARDENS' ROLE EXTENDED ACROSS CITY

April saw the launch of Oxford City Council's Community Response Team. Built on the previous successes of the council's Street Warden Team, Community Wardens will now be patrolling across the whole of the Oxford.

The Community Wardens will undertake Environmental Visual Audits (EVAs) covering each of the following areas at least twice a week:

- Blackbird Leys and Greater Leys
- Rose Hill and Littlemore
- Cowley Marsh and Lye Valley
- Wood Farm and Headington Quarry
- Barton, Sandhills and Risinghurst
- Marston and Northway
- Cutteslowe

The EVAs allow them to identify environmental issues that are often of concern to our communities, such as litter, graffiti, abandoned or dangerous vehicles, dog fouling and fly tipping. Other common problems include damage to bus stops, walls and fences and unkempt gardens.

The wardens will investigate or report to the appropriate department and use the data gathered to develop preventative work in that area.

Community Wardens can issue Fixed Penalty Notices for litter and dog fouling, and they also support Neighbourhood Policing Teams and Oxford City Council's Crime and Nuisance Action Team in dealing with other forms of anti-social behaviour.

Examples of outcomes of Environmental Visual Audits:

■ Wardens often have to deal with discarded bin bags full of household rubbish. Once they have put on their sterilised gloves, the wardens search the bags for evidence of ownership.

Photographs are taken of the surrounding location and any evidence found. Notes are taken on a voice recorder that will be used in any statements.

The evidence is placed in evidence bags and stored securely in a safe for collection by the Environmental Enforcement Team, who can issue fines or take the perpetrator to court.

■ Whilst on patrol the Wardens noticed a house with bulky rubbish in the front garden. They spoke to the owner about this issue and noticed that all the front windows were broken.

The resident had been wary of reporting the windows as he believed this was part of a racially-motivated incident. Racial offences are regard-



Community wardens Louis and Jessie out on patrol in the city centre

Responding to your concerns...

ed as high risk incidents, so the Wardens gave the resident information on the removal of bulk furniture by Oxford City Council and immediately engaged with the relevant agencies to address the racial harassment. In addition to the regular EVAs, the wardens provide a rapid response to reports of anti-social behaviour across the whole city.

The team have a range of interventions that they can use such as clearing, cleansing, mediating and issuing Fixed Penalty Notices.

If the incident needs specialist interventions it will be referred to Oxford City Council's Crime and Nuisance Action Team (CANACT), Positive

Futures, Environmental Development or the local Neighbourhood Policing Team.

Laurie Taylor, Community Response Team Leader says "Customer service is at the heart of what we do and so we make every effort to keep our customers up to date on the progress of their complaint.

"The blend of environmental patrolling and rapid response allows us to respond immediately to customer concerns, helping to keep our city clean and safe."

● Community Wardens will be working six days a week from 9 a.m to 10 p.m Monday to Friday and 9 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. on Saturday.

Ox Cup event brings young people inside

PLAYING football on the streets is viewed by many residents as anti-social.

To combat this and encourage more people to play football, Oxfordshire Football Association and Wood Farm & Girdlestone Neighbourhood Police Team joined together to organise the OX Cup, 'Kicking Out Anti Social Behaviour!' event.

The successful event was a two-day football tournament that ran on Saturday 14th May and Sunday 15th May and pitted Oxford-based teams against each other to be crowned champions of Oxford.

The quality of football proved to be of a high standard and Oxfordshire FA was impressed with the level of respect shown by the players.

The over-16s tournament was won by Oxford Stars, while Oxford Academy scooped the under-16 prize and Galacticos won the under-14 trophy. Union Streets, Positive Futures and Wood Farm Dons won the fair play awards.

Positive relationships were built on the pitches between the teams and the Neighbourhood Police Team and it is hoped that this will lead to improved communication between local young people and the local police teams.

A further success of the tournament was that a signed Chelsea FC shirt and a signed Arsenal FC shirt were auctioned for charity, and the auction together with a tombola and raffle raised £645 for Helen & Douglas House.

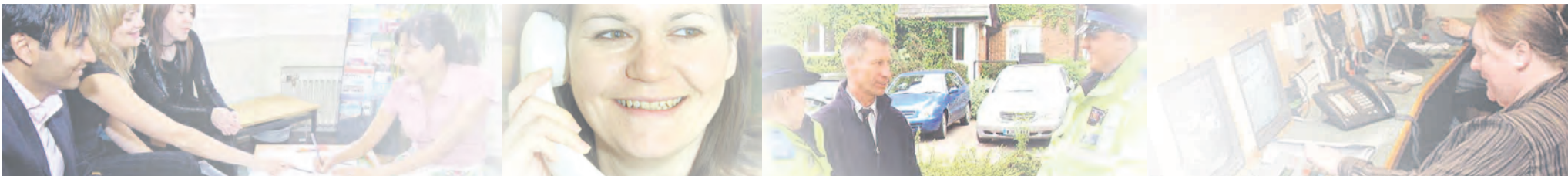
Oxford Positive Futures adopted by Diageo

DIAGEO is a national sponsor of Positive Futures schemes and Oxford Positive Futures is one of the first projects to be adopted by them.

The focus of the partnership will be the Diageo team providing one to one virtual mentoring to a selected group of young people and helping devise special events and excursions for the group.

The first event, a picnic in the park over the Easter holidays was a great success and the young people were very receptive to Diageo's support.

Diageo have been e-mailing the young people via their project worker since the event to start to develop a relationship of trust and respect and find out what support the young people would like to receive.



ARE YOU DOING ENOUGH TO DETER BURGLARS?

Close those windows of opportunity



YOUR home is your castle, but how secure is it if you've forgotten to close all your windows and doors?

Our Talkback survey tells us that burglary of people's homes remains the crime most people are concerned about, yet during 2010, 29% of burgla-

ries were committed by an offender entering through an insecure door or window.

This reaches a peak in the summer months of July and August as residents leave windows and doors open. The majority of burglaries occur during the

daytime when most people are away at work or school. Offenders are often looking for items that are small, expensive, and can easily be converted to cash, such as jewellery, laptops, MP3 players and mobile phones.

The good news is that the number of burglaries is at its lowest level since records began in the 1980s. However, more can be done, so here are a few simple things to protect your property:

Doors and Locks – Ensure all main doors are fitted with a British Standard dead-lock – or for multi-occupation properties, a mortice escape sash lock.

Patio doors – Use a secondary lock on all sliding doors to ensure the door cannot be lifted out.

Windows – Never leave any window open when you go out, even if they are on upper floors. Secure all windows with British Standard window locks.

Be a good neighbour – Get to know your neighbours and agree to watch out for each other's home.

Join a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme – Some insurance companies offer a discount if you are a member of an accredited scheme.

Lighting – Use interior light timers to mimic occupancy – set the timer so that the lights will come on randomly.

Alarm systems – An alarm system can be a very effective deterrent, but ensure any alarm fitted is by a company who are members of NACOSS or SSAIB. Trading Standards can provide a list of local companies they have vetted and approved. Some insurance companies will offer a discount if you fit an alarm using an accredited company. See www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk

Mark all identifiable property with your postcode using an ultra-violet pen, available free from Oxford or Cowley Police Station. Record your ownership details, for FREE, on www.immobilise.com.

● If you would like more crime prevention information, look online at www.thamesvalley.police.uk. Alternatively, you can telephone Thames Valley Police direct on 0845 8 505 505 and ask to be put through to Oxford's Crime Reduction Advisor.



Schemes are on the rise across Oxford

IN EARLY 2011, the number of Neighbourhood Watch schemes in Oxford reached the 1000 mark.

Schemes have cropped up all over the city to help prevent crime and disorder. Recently, taxi drivers enrolled to become members of the scheme. By receiving text messages about crime and antisocial behaviour, they can observe any illegal activity while driving around Oxford.

Neighbourhood Watch schemes are community initiatives owned and run by their members. They work by developing close liaison between households and the local police. Neighbourhood Watch schemes can:

- Cut crime and the opportunities for crime.
- Help and reassure those who live in the area.
- Encourage closer communities.

Steve Morant, Oxford's Neighbourhood Watch Administrator, said participants only had to fill out a form to receive information via email or telephone messages about incidents of crime in their area.

He said: "I may give out information about crimes and incidents that have arisen, or trends of particular crimes to forewarn people and give them advice on how to keep themselves and their homes safe."

"On occasions we ask for information about incidents to be sent back to us, but primarily it's a messaging system to keep the community informed."

"Neighbourhood Watch schemes are the eyes and ears of the community."

● If you would like further information about Neighbourhood Watch, please telephone (01865) 335133 or look at the Thames Valley Police website at <http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/yournh/aboutus-watchnhood>

Buzzard's back on the wing!

EACH summer in Oxford sees a high influx of tourists and foreign language students.

For a very small number of visitors, their experience of the dreaming spires may not turn out as they expected, as unfortunately, Oxford experiences higher levels of robbery in the summer months. In response to this, OSCP are again running an operation to reduce the number of victims of robbery and antisocial behaviour in the city.

Operation Buzzard begins this month and will involve high visibility policing in areas of Oxford, along with police horses and police dogs patrolling our parks. Oxford City Council's Community Response Team and Park Rangers will be supporting the police.

Belinda Hopkins, Crime Reduction Advisor for Thames Valley Police says "The main aim of the operation is to reduce the number of students and residents becoming victims of robbery during the summer time when we normally see an increase in robberies. This year, Operation Buzzard has expanded to the city cen-

tre, to support visitors to our city. As in previous years, known robbery offenders will be warned of the police's strong stance on anyone who commits these crimes."

Helpful advice for host families

HOST families are families who provide accommodation for foreign students. If you are a host family, here are some tips for supporting your student:

- Don't let your student carry large amounts of money around with them.
- If your student has been the victim of a crime, please ensure they report the crime to the police and their Language School immediately.
- Check that your student knows his or her curfew times whilst they are staying

with you.

- Advise your student(s) not to take short cuts when they are walking home – especially at night - as they are not always lit. Stay safe by sticking to the roads that are lit.
- Encourage them not to take ipods, laptops, etc, out with them when they are not at college and think about providing somewhere for them to keep these items whilst they are staying with you.





Cool holiday fun for kids

CHECK OUT THE GREAT ACTIVITIES ON OFFER



Photo courtesy: Jason Carbon's ABC scheme in Barton

EVERY year, Oxford City Council and its partners provide holiday activities for young people aged 5 to 19.

The activities take place around Oxford and are generally free or have a minimal charge.

This year the Pegasus Theatre is linking up with the council to provide some activities including urban dance, theatre activities, music and lyric writing, making lanterns and puppets and storytelling.

Other providers include ABC Summer Fun, Oxford Active, Dovecote Parent's Committee, the Leys CDI and Cricket 4 All who will be offering activities such as swimming, ice skating, various indoor and outdoor games, drama, dance, basketball, football and DJing.

Last year, 1,373 young people attended these schemes in Blackbird Leys, Barton, Cowley, East Oxford, Rose Hill, Littlemore and Wood Farm.

Activities will begin on or around the first full week of the school's summer holidays. Young People wishing to book a place will need to contact the holiday providers.

More information will be provided nearer the time on Oxford City Council's web site, www.oxford.gov.uk.

Provider	Contact details	Age Group	Cost
Barton Youth Service Barton Neighbourhood Centre	Kev Jackson M: 07887 858686	13+	Free
ABC, Bayards Hill School, Barton	Jason Carbon M: 07931 315450	8-13	£1 per day
Dovecote Voluntary Parents Committee Dovecote Nursery Blackbird Leys	Carol Richards T: 01865 712299	4-12	£20 per week
Blackbird Leys Youth Centre	Blackbird Leys Youth Centre T: 01865 772886	13+	Free
The Leys CDI Blackbird Leys Community Centre Blackbird Leys Road	Marsha Jackson M: 07540 112228	9-19	£1.50 per day
Pegasus Theatre & Em J Dance Pegasus Theatre Magdalen Road Oxford	Angharad Phillips T: 01865 812167	6-19	Free
Oxford United Youth & Community Sports Trust, East Oxford & Cowley	John Armstrong T: 01865 337525	10-19	Free
Cricket 4 All Cowley Marsh Park, Marsh Road	Shazad Rana M: 07747 072241	9-16	Free
John Henry Newman Primary School	Contact John Henry Newman School	5 - 11	£4 per day
Rose Hill Youth Service Rose Hill Youth Centre The Oval Rose Hill	Maggie O'Sullivan M: 07775 007902	11-19	Free
Rose Hill Partnership Rose Hill Primary School The Oval	Charmaine Swift T: 01865 777937	5-11	£5 per day
Oxford Active Wood Farm	Owen McGovern M: 07973 231892	8-15	Free
Wood Farm Youth Service, Wood Farm Young Peoples Centre, Tituphall Drive	Simon Edmondson T: 01865 764752	13+	Free

New blitz on crime

OSCP have developed a new three-year plan to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in Oxford.

The 2011-14 plan is divided into three sections: concerns that affect whole communities; work that supports or prevents victimisation; and specific activities to reduce offending.

OSCP has several targets to achieve in 2011-12. These are to:

- reduce burglary of people's homes, car crime and robbery by 5%;
- reduce levels of violent crime by 12%;
- achieve a 50% public satisfaction rate with the way the police and local authorities deal with crime and anti-social behaviour;
- achieve 65% of people not committing another act of anti-social behaviour after receiving their first intervention from CANAcT;
- provide Positive Futures Programme activities for 1000 young people.

The plan is a legal requirement and must be based upon an assessment of crime and anti-social behaviour issues in the city that must include local people's views on community safety issues. To achieve this OSCP uses an annual Oxford City Council Talkback survey; some of the results include:

- Domestic burglary continues to be the crime that worries the greatest number of respondents, but the proportion of people who are worried about it is the lowest it has been during the past four years.
- Speeding vehicles / dangerous driving, parking issues and rubbish or litter lying around are the top three antisocial behaviour concerns in Oxford. However, the proportion of people who think that these issues are of concern in their area have decreased over the past couple of years.

● For more information on the OSCP Rolling Plan 2011-14 go to www.saferoxford.org.uk/ or www.oxford.gov.uk/PageRender/decC/Tackling_Crime_occw.htm

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

In an emergency

999 for Ambulance, Police or Fire Service

Thames Valley Police non-emergency number: 0845 8 505 505

Oxford City Council's emergency out of hours service

If you have a GENUINE EMERGENCY that relates to anti-social behaviour, pest control, noise or street cleaning such

as a discarded needle or a missing or broken manhole cover: 01865 249811

Direct Access to Key Services during office hours

- ◆ Anti-social behaviour - Nuisance neighbours, intimidation or harassment: 01865 252969
- ◆ Community Response Team: 01865 252080
- ◆ Environmental Health - Pest control, food hygiene, licensing, health and

safety issues, noise/air/land pollution, energy efficiency: 01865 252887

- ◆ Street cleaning – needle and syringe finds, dog fouling, abandoned vehicles or bicycles, flyposting and flytipping: 01865 249811

Other useful contacts

- ◆ Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0800 731 0055
- ◆ NHS Direct: 0845 4647
- ◆ Oxfordshire Drug & Alcohol Action

Team: 01865 290800

- ◆ Trading Standards: 01865 792422

This newsletter was produced by Oxford City Council, c/o The Community Safety Team, St Aldate's Chambers, St Aldate's, Oxford, OX1 1DS

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