



Streatley Parish Council Newsletter

Serving Streatley,
Sharpenhoe &
Bushmead

ISSUE 57
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Police Presentation

At the Parish Council meeting on 10 March, Sergeant Andy Rivers of Bedfordshire Police delivered a report on the level and nature of crime locally over recent months. He also outlined the Speed Watch scheme, which involves members of the public monitoring the speed of local traffic and reporting to the police those vehicles observed to be exceeding the local speed limit. The police will then write to the owners of such vehicles, and personally visit anyone reported as exceeding 50 m.p.h. in a 30 m.p.h. zone. Sergeant Rivers explained he had sent some 3,000 letters under the scheme and could count on one hand the number of repeat offenders. A minimum of four volunteers are required in order to set up a scheme; volunteers will need to be vetted and will have to undergo one night's training. If anyone is interested they are asked to send their details to the Clerk for forwarding to Sergeant Rivers.

Street Watch

Mr John Plummer, Bedfordshire Coordinator of Street Watch, explained that the scheme had three aims:

- to prevent crime
- to reduce the fear of crime
- to improve communication with the police.

Street Watch relies on local volunteers to provide a service – often deterring crime simply by providing a visual presence. The commitment per volunteer is two hours per month, and anyone interested in setting up/becoming involved in a scheme should contact Mr Plummer via the Bedfordshire Police website and follow the links. Volunteers will require vetting, and the annual cost per volunteer is £226 (which will be paid from the Coordinator's funds for the first year).

Bobby Scheme

Mr Geoff Coombe, Bedfordshire Police Partnership Trust Administrator, outlined the Bobby Scheme, whereby vulnerable people can be visited at home and provided with advice and reassurance on security issues and practical assistance to prevent intrusion. The Trust has been running since 1997, is a registered charity and is totally independent of the police service. The Bobby Scheme, which employs a small team of carpenters and locksmiths, was introduced in 1999 and has responded to some 20,000 referrals. Contact details can be found via the Bedfordshire Police website; residents are asked to consider whether they are aware of any elderly or otherwise vulnerable people living locally who might benefit from a visit, and to contact the Scheme if they do.

If you wish to contact our Police Community Support Officer team, please call 01582 473411 or email LPT.LeightonBuzzardLinslade&Rural@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk. If you need to contact the police for a non-emergency call 101– all emergencies 999.

Parish Council Accounts

The Council's annual return is audited by an auditor appointed by the Audit Commission. The return document and all related books, bills, vouchers and receipts will be available for inspection on reasonable notice between the hours of 19.00 and 20.00 on Monday to Friday evenings (excluding public holidays) between 19 May and 16 June.

Dog Control Please remember that it is especially important to keep dogs under control around livestock at this time of year [lambs are frisky and can be a major temptation for dogs to chase].



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