

*Wycombe District Council and Thames Valley Police working together to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour*

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## Welcome to CSI – Wycombe

Welcome to the fourth *CSI – Wycombe* newsletter specifically designed to keep you informed of what we are doing in Wycombe district to reduce crime and disorder. Many of the activities we are undertaking affect your local communities so it is important to keep you up to date.

## New Year Greetings from the Community Safety Partnership

We hope that you had a great Christmas and that Santa brought you lots of lovely things. If you were lucky enough to receive a new mobile phone, MP3 player, bike, satellite navigation system or any other valuables in your Christmas stocking, REMEMBER it's vital to security mark the items and make a note of their make and any serial numbers.

Mobile phones, personal music players, bicycles and satellite navigation systems are not only popular gift ideas but they are also popular with thieves, so a little time spent making them secure will help prevent a potentially miserable New Year if they are stolen. You can register your personal property on the National Property Register website [www.immobilise.co.uk](http://www.immobilise.co.uk) for **FREE**.

As well as security marking items with your house number and postcode, people are also strongly advised to activate any built-in security features, such as PIN numbers on mobile phones, to make items less desirable to thieves.

Forensic marking kits are available through Neighbourhood Watch. These cost in the region of £22. If you are interested in buying one of these kits at this greatly reduced price, drop an email with your details to [communitysafety@wycombe.gov.uk](mailto:communitysafety@wycombe.gov.uk)

# Safer Homes Fund – Do you know someone who might be eligible?

IS YOUR HOUSE IN SAFE HANDS???



Do you feel secure in your own home?

Are you elderly, disabled or vulnerable?

Would you benefit from advice and assistance on ways of making your home more secure, offering you greater peace of mind?

Anchor Staying Put in conjunction with the Police and Fire Services are running a "SAFER HOMES" project, offering advice and FREE essential security equipment including installation. The project will run until March 2010 and will be free of charge to those residents who meet the necessary criteria.

Please call 01628 526367 for information.

## Community Showcase Awards –Night Shelter– Community Safety Winner

Night Shelter provides valuable service to the homeless, the majority of whom would end up sleeping on the street through the coldest months of the year. The service provides temporary accommodation and food in a safe environment and the offer of assistance in accessing other agencies and support in order that individuals can make life changing decisions.

With the exception of the 2 project co-ordinators, everyone supporting this project is a volunteer. 274 people gave up evenings and spent nights at the shelter for the period January – March 2009.

### Priorities for 2009-10

- Burglary dwelling
- Less serious violence against the person
- Robbery
- Theft from vehicle
- Anti-social behaviour
- Substance misuse



Chief Inspector  
Colin Seaton  
presents Night  
Shelter with the  
Wycombe  
Community  
Safety  
Partnership  
Award 2009

The project, in its second year, was able to offer support to 48 individuals who otherwise would have been sleeping on the streets. The time in the Night Shelter allows them to consider their options and with the support of the team make applications to other agencies for long term support. From an evaluation report only 8 either returned to the streets or it is unknown where they are now; the others have been found accommodation. The housing of these people has removed them from the streets of High Wycombe where they would have been of concern to local residents and traders. It also removed the opportunity for them to engage in low level anti social behaviour for example urinating in public as there is no access to toilets when sleeping rough.

The Project will again run this year starting on 4th January 2010 and continuing until 31st March 2010. The organisation has an excellent website which can be found at [www.wwns.org.uk](http://www.wwns.org.uk)

If you are interested in either making a financial donation to the project or donating a variety of toiletries and clothing etc. or even being one of the volunteers, this website will provide you with all the information you need. Your support would be very gratefully received.

## Acting Together to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour



In October 2009 the Public Safety Team worked with two local schools on a new initiative called 'Acting Together'. The initiative is designed to raise awareness in young people about anti-social behaviour and the effect it has on themselves and their community.

The Public Safety Team spent 2 hours in Wye Valley School and Highcrest School working with the students on various activities regarding anti-social behaviour. Following the workshop the students were asked to put together a short presentation which showed their perception of anti-social behaviour. The students split into groups and produced a short drama performance, highlighting different types of anti-social behaviour and the consequences the behaviour can have.

*asb@wycombe.  
gov.uk*



Wye Valley School students performed in the Chiltern Shopping Centre on the 6th November as part of 'Not in my Neighbourhood Week'. The performances were watched by members of the public and judged by Wilkinson's manager. In addition to the performance students were also asked to design a poster which showed what anti-social behaviour meant to them.

All students in the winning drama group and the winning poster design were presented with prizes at their school assembly. The Public Safety Team found this initiative beneficial to their preventative work and looks forward to working with the schools again next year.

## Camera to help tackle Anti-Social Behaviour

Wycombe District Council has acquired a new Rapid Deployment Surveillance Kit, primarily for recording evidence of anti social behaviour in the vicinity of their properties.

The 'ASBO kit' as it is called, will provide invaluable evidence to be used in court cases relating to ASB.

The new camera kit should prove very useful. Many of our cases are difficult to resolve due to lack of evidence - but with the correct deployment of the 'ASBO kit' that evidence should now be a lot easier to gather and use in court cases. The camera will be used in cases where other options have not worked and the council need such evidence as a last resort in order to progress action against an offender. So it will certainly not be used on every single reported case of anti social behaviour and principally for cases that could be described as at the more serious end of the scale of ASB.

## Sealed with a loving kiss?

As Valentine's Day draws near and the world is full of hearts, red roses, romantic couples and cupid striking, but for many it will not be cupid striking but their partner. Many victims of domestic abuse hide away, terrified of seeking help or unaware that it is available to them.



- One in four women experience domestic violence over their lifetimes.
- Between 6 and 10% of women suffer domestic violence in a given year and every minute the Police receive a call from the public because of domestic violence.
- It kills two women every week and 30 men each year.
- The facts are frightening and all the more so with the statistics from Women's Aid which state that more than half a million women in Britain are living in fear of a violent partner or ex-partner
- Although research shows that domestic violence affects mostly women, current statistics show that one in six men will be affected at some point in their

lifetime.

- The British Crime Survey revealed that 19% of domestic violence incidents were reported to be male victims, with just under half of these having a female abuser.

The reality of living with domestic violence means that many abused adults and children are desperate for advice to help them escape from the situation. In Buckinghamshire we are keen to ensure that abuse is not tolerated. There are a number of agencies who work together to provide help and support to victims of abuse.



**Wycombe  
District Council  
and Thames  
Valley Police  
working  
together to  
tackle Crime  
and Anti-Social  
Behaviour**



Thames Valley Police (emergency calls) 999 or non-urgent calls: 0845 8 505 505

Thames Valley Police Domestic Violence Unit: 0845 850 5505

National Centre for Domestic Violence: 08709 220 704

24 hr National Domestic Violence Helpline: 0808 2000 247

Victim Support : 0845 850 3886

High Wycombe Citizens Advice Bureau: 08444 994 108

Wycombe Women's Aid: Answered by the Samaritans (24hrs) 01494 432 000; during office hours 01494 461 367

Asian Women's Helpline: 01494 446 366

Men's Advice line: 0808 801 0327 or [www.mensadvice.org.uk](http://www.mensadvice.org.uk)

Respect Phone-line 0845 122 8609 welcomes calls from lesbians, gay men as well as bisexual and trans people.

Wycombe District Council: 01494 461 000

Shelterline: 0808 800 4444

## Fire Safety Shop

High Wycombe's Fire & Rescue Services' Community Safety Team utilised a shop unit in the Chiltern Centre to display their Christmas message, making residents aware of the hazards in the home specifically around the festive time of year.

The front of shop displayed examples of bad practice/hazards and specific problems with fire safety in the home and a Christmas decorative arrangement. The shop area was laid out with a pristine front room with all the Christmas decorations. As the tour continues around the corner there were the effects of what could go wrong. A purpose built room area was erected and within this held the remains of the burnout front room. Videos were shown of how fires can so easily start and prevention literature and advice was given out, with free home fire risk checks being offered.

The tour continues with more animated Christmas scenery and finally there were displays and information stands from many other community safety partners such



as Neighbourhood Watch, Anchor Housing, Wycombe Watch, Thames Valley Police and Police Community Support Officers and health advise re smoking.

## Local Community Sentence Project

**Local Crime Community Sentence**

**Would your community group like an interactive presentation on local crime and community sentences?**

**Bookings being taken now!**

**What is the Local Crime Community Sentence project?**  
It's a joint venture by magistrates and probation officers to increase the knowledge and understanding of community sentences. It's an opportunity for your group to 'be the judge', sentencing a serious crime and deciding whether the offender goes to prison or is given a community sentence.

**What is a community sentence?**  
A community sentence is a form of punishment in the community which is supervised by the probation service.

**How long is the presentation?**  
The presentation is about an hour. It is an interactive presentation which can be made at any time to suit your group. You don't need to provide any equipment – we bring everything we need with us. The presentation is absolutely free of charge.

**How can I arrange one for my group? ...** →

Magistrates and probation working together with your community to improve confidence in sentencing and raise awareness of the effectiveness of community penalties.

*I am interested in arranging an LCCS presentation for my group.*

Name:

Tel:

E mail:

Name of group:

Likely number in audience:

Likely venue:

Proposed date and time:

Please fill in the form and return it to:

**Clare Hooper**  
Local Crime: Community Sentence Co-ordinator  
Thames Valley Probation Head Office  
Kingsclere Road Bicester Oxon  
OX26 2QD

or contact at e-mail / telephone

**clare.hooper@thames-valley.probation.gsi.gov.uk**  
01869 255300

## What do you think of CCTV? – Budget Consultation Results

Results are now available from the Council's recent "Have your say" consultation on spending. This exercise asked residents of Wycombe District to tell us whether thought spending on named services should go up, down or stay the same.

Interestingly while those responding wanted more spent on tackling crime and anti-social behaviour they also wanted less spent on CCTV.

CCTV is a key tool for helping to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in priority areas, such as town centres. The cameras, which inevitably can't capture every crime taking place remain a fantastic tool for the Police, particularly as they provide hard evidence that can be used in court cases. In the next item in this newsletter, you will see just a few of the examples where the cameras and most importantly the Operators, have been instrumental in providing the evidence and guidance police need to carry out their job effectively. There are many other benefits that are difficult to measure such as making people feel safer when

visiting our town centres and this making them more welcoming and vibrant places during the day and night.

Helping to find people who have gone missing or the child who has become separated from its parents are added benefits of the system, as is spotting people who might be about to drive whilst under the influence of drink and so place us all at risk. Identifying people who look as if they are considering harming themselves is also another use of the system and several peoples' lives have been saved by the prompt actions of CCTV alerting the Police to their concerns about unusual behaviour in multi storey car parks.

In line with resident's wishes we are seeking to offer an even more cost effective service, while maintaining the range of cameras and the quality of the monitoring service. With an upgrade of the control room on the horizon that will see running costs reduce as well as opportunities to provide more services the future is bright for CCTV in Wycombe.

## Caught in the Act

- From descriptions provided by the Police following a serious incident, CCTV spotted the suspects walking away from the town centre. Police were informed and directed to the suspects who were subsequently arrested and have been charged with murder. A few days later, operators noticed a youth setting light to floral tributes laid out for the deceased. Police were informed and directed officers to the youth who was questioned.
- A three year old girl was reported missing in the Town Centre. After an intensive area search of the town, the child was located by the CCTV operators near to the town centre. The police were informed and directed to the child who was found safe and well.
- A man and a young lady were seen acting suspiciously in an alleyway next a pub in the town centre. The man was observed taking a small packet out of his packet and passing it to the lady who was then seen 'snorting'. Police were informed and on searching the man, an amount of illegal substance was found. Both were arrested, the young lady for abusing the police officers.
- Two youths were seen acting suspiciously in the early hours. CCTV monitored them and saw them drilling into a parking pay machine. Police were informed and after a short chase, both were arrested.
- Police reported a robbery in which a mobile phone was taken and the description of two suspects was passed to CCTV. Two youths matching the description were located and monitored. Police were informed and directed



If you have any information about any crimes then call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Wycombe  
Community  
Safety  
Partnership

c/o Wycombe  
District Council

Tel: 01494 421404

[Communitysafety@  
wycombe.gov.uk](mailto:Communitysafety@wycombe.gov.uk)

to the suspects. One of the youth was seen throwing an item into a waste bin as police approached the area. Police were advised of this, and on searching the waste bin, the stolen mobile phone was found. Both youths were arrested.

- CCTV operators were observing a disturbance in town centre and keeping the police updated. A male was spotted hiding in a doorway and was seen pulling out an extendable baton from his pocket. Police were informed and sent to investigate. On seeing the police, the male ran off and was followed on camera by CCTV through the town. The male dumped the baton into a bin, continued running and eventually went off camera. The male was later found in the church yard with serious injuries after falling from the top of a building whilst trying to escape from the police. The man was taken to hospital for treatment and later arrested. The baton was recovered from the bin.
- Police advised CCTV of a robbery and serious assault in town centre and the description of the suspect, a female, was passed to the CCTV operators. CCTV operators carried out a camera search and a female who matched the description of the suspect, was located. Police were informed and directed to the suspect. On seeing the police, the suspect took an item out of her pocket and discreetly dropped on the floor. Police were advised of this and the stolen item was recovered. The female was arrested.
- Two men who appeared to be very intoxicated were seen in a vehicle, which they left and the tried to gain entry to a local nightclub. After being refused they returned to the vehicle and the driver started the engine. The car then pulled off quickly onto Bridge St and onto Oxford Rd by this time CCTV had informed police. A police unit followed the vehicle up Queen Alexandra Road where the car pulled into the High Street. Two local sergeants tried to test the driver's alcohol consumption but he was too intoxicated and so it was done at High Wycombe police station where the driver was found positive for being over the alcohol limit.

Whilst these snippets may make it sound like our towns are not very safe, these types of incidents do not happen every day and it is by good policing, the use of CCTV and partnership work to reduce crime, that we continue to keep crime down and arrest those who seek to ruin our town for others.

**Next edition due in April 2010**