



Dear Watch members,

Welcome to the Neighbourhood Watch newsletter. We hope you will enjoy the contents but would also like to hear from you if you have any preferences on topics to include, feedback on the current format or your own good news story. If you do, please get in touch using the contact details above.

Your Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch brings neighbours together to tackle crime and promote a sense of co-operation in their local community. Each watch is led by a co-ordinator whose role it is to arrange meetings and act as a point of contact for the council and police. Police *Safer Neighbourhoods Teams* support Neighbourhood Watch by helping set up new watches, offering crime prevention advice, and acting as a point of contact for any non-urgent information about crime in your local area. Westminster City Council supports the administration of all Westminster watches, writes this newsletter, and arranges an annual meeting.

If you would like to know the contact details for your local *Safer Neighbourhoods Team*, or have any general queries about Neighbourhood Watch please contact us on neighbourhoodwatch@westminster.gov.uk or 020 7641 2117



Safer Westminster Partnership Strategy

Every three years, following consultation with residents and businesses, the Safer Westminster Partnership write a strategy document which explains the key areas the partnership will focus on and how.

The priorities for 2008/11 were:

- Alcohol and drug related crime and disorder
- Youth related crime and disorder
- Violence
- Serious acquisitive crime
- Community cohesion, resilience, and counter-terrorism

Over this period we saw a 12% increase in people feeling confident in the police, an 8% decrease in serious acquisitive crime (robbery,

burglary, motor vehicle crime) and a 4% decrease in assault with injury.

The priorities for 2011/14 are:

- A safe and secure night time economy
- Adult re-offending
- Youth-related crime and disorder
- Drug-related crime and disorder
- Violence against women and girls

These are strategic priorities for the whole of Westminster. Each individual neighbourhood will continue to also have local priorities set by the community and the *Safer Neighbourhoods Team*.

If you would like a full copy of the strategy, please visit www.westminster.gov.uk/crime



Crime Reduction News

Pedicabs

A recent operation targeting anti-social behaviour associated with pedicabs (rickshaws) resulted in 60 riders being stopped and issued with a warning (for a variety of offences including obstruction and dangerous riding) and seven riders having their pedicabs seized. The council's noise team issued notices to warn riders about nuisance caused by amplified equipment. Those who persist could face prosecution.

Young people on Mozart Estate

An old tour bus has been kitted out with laptops and games, and has been used to divert young people from dangerous activities on Friday and Saturday nights on Mozart Estate. Youth workers have been on the bus to discuss gang issues and knife crime, and to provide further support for young people at risk. The bus worked with around 35-60 young people each weekend in February and March 2011, and will hopefully be seen again across the summer.

West End safety

A campaign in the West End has been reminding people on a night out to look after their belongings. In particular, the campaign warns about 'hugger muggers' who will pretend to befriend you when you're out on the town, and give you a 'hug' in order to get close to you and steal your personal belongings such as wallets, phones and watches.

Begging on Edgware Road

Local police and the UK Border Agency have undertaken an operation to target problem beggars on Edgware Road. Some individuals have been served with 'Minded to Remove'

notices or will be interviewed to establish their right to stay in the UK.

Virtual Ward Panels

Virtual Ward Panels, a new low-cost tool to consult with neighbourhoods electronically, has been developed by the council, police and local people. They will not replace Ward Panel meetings but offer a unique opportunity for the partnership to consult with a new group of people. Westminster's design has been so successful it is being rolled out to other parts of the UK.

Domestic Violence

The Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy service for Westminster and Kensington & Chelsea will be delivered by Advance from 1st July. Advance will continue the service formerly provided by the Woman's Trust and frontline staff will be transferred across to the new provider. If you would like to speak to Advance for confidential advice about domestic violence, please call 07747 080 964 (24hr), 07432 700 285 or 07432 700 286.

Premises closure order

A premises in the Church Street area has been closed following 70 complaints about anti-social behaviour over a six-month period. These included late night parties, noise nuisance, alcohol-fuelled arguments and fights. The property will be closed for at least three months and the resident is no longer eligible to be housed in Westminster.

Illegal street trading

Plain clothes operations to target unlicensed street traders and 'three card tricksters' along Westminster Bridge and the Jubilee Bridges have resulted in the seizure of 6 ice-cream vans and 10 hotdog / peanut trolleys. Six people have been arrested for gambling.





Neighbourhood Crime Reduction Officers

Westminster has dedicated officers who take responsibility for tackling crime and disorder within each neighbourhood. Neighbourhood Crime Reduction Officers (NCROs) co-ordinate partnership responses to community concerns about crime and anti-social behaviour. They bring together people including the Safer Neighbourhoods Teams, housing providers, the fire brigade, councillors, residents and businesses. They work in every neighbourhood across Westminster, but differ from Westminster Wardens (uniformed, street-based officers) as their role focuses on providing long-term problem-solving and sustainable solutions to all types of crime and disorder.



Alex Juon, NCRO West End & Chinatown, and Covent Garden

Over the last few months, NCROs have been successful in reducing robbery, burglary, youth anti-social behaviour and drug-related offences. They also support interventions including ASBOs and group dispersal zones.

If you would like to speak to your NCRO about a complex local issue, please call 020 7641 1085.

Neighbourhood Watch 'health check'

Westminster has 255 watches on our database but there is no easy way to tell which are still active and which have ceased. If you are a Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator, please help us by e-mailing your details to neighbourhoodwatch@westminster.gov.uk, calling and leaving a voicemail on 020 7641 2117 or filling out your details below and returning the form to Megan Perryman at 64 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 6QP.

Name of watch:

Name of coordinator:

Contact details for coordinator (phone number, e-mail address and postal address):

Please note, that **any watches who do not respond by 30th September will be removed from the database.** This is to ensure that resources are dedicated to watches that are still up and running.

Thank you for your support.



Your Watch

If you don't already know who your co-ordinator is, contact Westminster's Neighbourhood Watch office on 020 7641 2117 or e-mail neighbourhoodwatch@westminster.gov.uk for further information, or to find out about starting up a watch in your area.

Watch Online

Find out more about Neighbourhood Watch and crime prevention through the following websites:

London Neighbourhood Watch Association:
www.lnwa.net

Neighbourhood Watch and Home Watch Network:
www.ourwatch.org.uk

What you report can make a difference

You and your neighbours know what should be going on in your area and, importantly, what should not.

The police and council won't necessarily know what is going on in your area unless you tell them and the more reports they receive on a particular issue, the more evidence they have to action it. If you witness a crime or anti-social behaviour, please report it.

Westminster City Council

To speak to Neighbourhood Watch officers at Westminster Council, e-mail neighbourhoodwatch@westminster.gov.uk or call 020 7641 2117 or

To report problems with street lighting, noise, graffiti, roads etc to the council, visit www.westminster.gov.uk/reportafault or call 020 7641 2000

Metropolitan Police Service

Call the switchboard numbers of your local police stations to get in touch with your local Crime Prevention Officer and *Safer Neighbourhoods Team*. Please check www.met.police.uk/westminster for opening times

Paddington Green 020 7402 1212

Marylebone 020 7486 1212

West End Central 020 7437 1212

Charing Cross 020 7240 1212

Belgravia 020 7730 1212

Harrow Road 020 7402 1212

St John's Wood 020 7486 1212

To report non-urgent anti-social behaviour to the police, phone 0300 123 1212

Contact your local *Safer Neighbourhoods Team* or police station for non-urgent crime, community issues and long-term problem solving.

In an emergency (i.e. where there's an immediate threat to people or property) dial 999

If you would like more copies of this newsletter, please contact us on 020 7641 2117.

Westminster Neighbourhood Watch is delivered by Westminster City Council in conjunction with the Metropolitan Police Service and the Metropolitan Police Authority.