

Community Beat Officer Report and Neighbourhood Watch Bulletin

January 2005

New Milton and area.

This report is briefer than previous months as we have experienced a very quiet pre-Christmas spell. However, in summary, the number of reported crimes for December was 189 which is a 51% fall on last years figure for the month, and an 11% fall on this November's figure. This dramatic fall in crime, which is not reflected elsewhere in the division to the same extent, is the 'pay-off' for the effort put into the juvenile drinking problem and the pro-active approach to anti-social behaviour which has culminated in the Anti-Social Behaviour Orders recently obtained on a number of youths.

Total reported crime for 2004 showed a 10% fall on 2003, with double figure percentage point falls in all major categories of crime, with the exception of office and shop burglaries, which showed a small increase thanks to the efforts of one offender, now arrested and before the courts. In the crime areas of 'damage', 'theft' and 'Vehicle crime', falls well in excess of 20% were recorded.

This last year has demonstrated that we are able to target our limited resources to great effect and impact upon crime and anti-social behaviour. It is equally clear that the police cannot do it all on their own and that it is vital to have the support of the Town and Parish Councils as well as the community at large.

Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO's)

It is satisfying to be able to report the success we have had in obtaining ASBO's in respect of four local youths responsible for many offences and general harassment in the community. These orders have been obtained following much effort by the police in evidence gathering, and with the full co-operation and participation of the New Forest Community Safety Partnership.

The impact of these orders is yet to be experienced, but the conditions placed on the four youths concerned are extensive which include weekend curfews and exclusion zones. We will deal firmly with any breaches of these orders and test the resolve of the courts to back them up.

The granting of ASBO's with such wide ranging conditions will most certainly have an impact on other potential offenders and will incline them toward co-operating with lesser measures, such as Acceptable Behaviour Contracts.

Off-Licence 'sting'

A week prior to Christmas the Trading Standards Agency carried out a series of test purchases by juveniles. A total of seven premises were 'tested' and three of those failed the test by selling alcohol to the juvenile purchaser. This was a disappointing result bearing in mind the publicity that the whole issue has been getting in recent weeks and months. Consideration is being given as to the appropriate action to take in respect of those individuals who committed offences.

Town and office burglaries

In mid-December a man in custody for burglary admitted a total of 28 burglaries of shop and office premises in and around the town. This just goes to prove what we have long known to be the case, that it only takes one active criminal to bring an apparent 'crime wave' to the town.

Counterfeit currency

One man was arrested for using counterfeit currency in licensed premises in the town and is currently on police bail pending forensic results. Although there have been no recent reports of 'funny money' it would be good practice to continue checking your change, particularly £20 notes, for poor holograms, metal strips and notes bearing two different serial numbers.

The next full Community Beat Officer Report & Neighbourhood Watch Bulletin will be published in February 2005.

If you would like to make any comment regarding the content of the Bulletin, or you have information that would enable us to target our patrols to address your local problem, your input would be welcomed. You can leave a message for either PS Dave TANNER or PC Steve JENNINGS on 0845 045 4545

'Crimestoppers' – 0800 555 111