

## **Bracknell News Article**

**2<sup>nd</sup> August 2007**

The numbers of recorded crime in Bracknell Forest are continuing to show some healthy reductions. In particular vehicle crime will soon be at its lowest level for some years if the current downward trend continues. The numbers of cycle theft continue to fall as well as the more serious assaults. There have however been rises in the numbers of minor assaults and of burglary to dwellings.

In the hope that we may yet get a period of ward dry weather this summer, house holders are reminded to keep windows and doors closed when not at home. Don't make it easy for the thief. You may also remember the advice to keep car keys out of sight in the home. Some burglars simply want the keys to your car.

Although car crime is falling, drivers should still remember to remove property from their cars. One of the reasons for the low numbers is that some of our known criminals are currently in prison, but they won't always be. The satnav remains the property of choice for the car thief and leaving the holder on the windscreen just lets them think it is under the drivers seat.

The Bracknell Forest Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership recently supported Bracknell police to deliver a 'week of action' in Great Holland's. A range of activity to reassure the community took place but perhaps the highlight was a series of presentations to all the pupils of Easthampstead Park School on the dangers of carrying knives. The presentations were made by the Damilola Taylor Trust and included some powerful testimonies from some ex-offenders. The event went down very well with pupils staff and parents and it is hoped to repeat this in other schools in the future.

Victims of domestic violence and abuse are being helped to remain in their homes with the help of funding from the Bracknell Forest Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. The Bracknell Forest Sanctuary Scheme is a victim-centred initiative, developed in partnership with Thames Valley Police, Bracknell Forest Borough Council and agencies within the Bracknell Forest Domestic Violence Forum.

It is designed to protect families from domestic violence and abuse by ensuring that their home provides a suitable degree of protection from a potential offender and makes sure that the occupier has the means to summon help in an emergency. The scheme covers all types of housing: Council-owned, private and Housing Association-owned and includes any family threatened with homelessness due to domestic violence and abuse.

Referrals to the scheme must come through the Bracknell Forest Domestic Violence Unit based at Bracknell Police Station. Should you wish to discuss the Scheme further, please contact them directly on 01344 823480.

Much information about community safety and the work of the council and its partners can be found on our website at

[www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/living/liv-safer-communities](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/living/liv-safer-communities).

Anyone wishing to report a crime or criminal activity can call crime stoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111