

Bracknell News Article

December 2007

Christmas is a time for families, fun and celebration but sadly it is often a time when reports of domestic violence increase. The police and council's Crime & Disorder Reduction Team will be promoting access to DV services in many pubs and clubs throughout the borough over the Christmas period in an attempt to stop DV happening in the first place but also to encourage those who experience such behaviour to report it. Domestic violence is illegal and should not be tolerated. There are a range of support and advice services available for victims within the borough. Bracknell police provide an excellent response to DV and specialist officers are available on 01344 823481.

Most recorded crime has fallen throughout 2007 but the Christmas period is often a time that provides opportunities to criminals. To help stop this, the police have devised 'Operation Sprout'. This is a fun way to remind people of the steps they can take to avoid being a victim of crime. The local press will be carrying a short questionnaire about local crime reduction initiatives and the answers will be displayed around local supermarkets in prominent places throughout Christmas and the New Year. There will be a prize draw early in February for the successful entries with prizes donated by local stores.

Throughout the autumn a series of neighbourhood forums were held and a questionnaire was sent to every home in the Borough to find out what things communities most wanted to be improved. The majority of residents wanted parking and speeding to be addressed. As a result the police and the DVLA have held a series of operations to deal with untaxed vehicles and parking in Gt Hollands, Hanworth, Birch Hill and Wildriings. Although parking is a difficult problem to resolve with so many cars and so few parking spaces, selfish and illegal parking can never be acceptable and will be addressed wherever possible.

Further work is being undertaken to deal with unacceptable behaviour in the Great Hollands area, in particular in Gt Hollands Square. A lot of work in recent years has reduced crime & disorder in Gt Hollands and the extra attention by the PCSOs and police officers in Gt Hollands is intended to keep the neighbourhood as quiet and safe as possible.

Finally, we continue to try to ensure that the most vulnerable within the community are kept as safe as possible. Many older people with mobility problems continue to live independent lives in their own homes. They are sometimes the target of rogue traders and conmen and so technology has been made available to help them. Bracknell Forest Borough Council can help with household gadgets such as personal alarms, door communications systems, motion detector alarms, alarms that can detect flooding or even monitor the taking of medication. The only cost the client would be the cost of the Forest Care lifeline alarm at a small weekly charge. Further information is available from Melanie Petrie on 01344 351858.