

Eye in the sky gets a close-up on crime

Police have unveiled a new £40,000 eye in the sky, which they hope will help combat crime in inner city Birmingham. A CCTV van with a mast that extends up to 30ft will patrol Lozells, Handsworth and Newtown in an effort to tackle the growing number of street robberies, prostitutes and incidents of anti-social behaviour. The digital camera mounted on the surveillance van – dubbed "Isiah" – can focus on action and images up to a mile away from the vehicle. It is also able to enhance images which will be stored digitally in a computer and can be retrieved instantly.



Inspector Darren Miles, West Midlands Police, said the community had been demanding CCTV to be introduced long before the tragic deaths of Charlene Ellis and Letisha Shakespeare in Aston. "This hasn't been introduced as a direct result of the shooting in Aston or other events over the past six months. The community has been crying out for something like this long before," he said. "There are plans ahead for a static CCTV network as well, but for the moment this mobile unit will patrol crime hotspots around the area. "Not only is it visible but, because the images are being monitored on site rather than in a remote control centre, it means it is more efficient." Funded through a community partnership Community Safety Regeneration for Birmingham – using money from the Council's Single Regeneration Budget, the van is in use across the focus area.

It's safe to talk

If you want to make your area free from crime and you have any information about criminals, you can ring Crimestoppers free on 0800 555 111 and no one will ask your name.

From January to June 2003 nearly 400 people have already been charged in the Midlands as result of your calls to Crimestoppers, and 70 of these were for vehicle crime.

Remember, all Crimestoppers want is enough information to charge the criminals.

You do not have to 'get involved' and you will not be asked for a statement or to go to court.

CRIMESTOPPERS

0800 555 111

Handy tips to stop the thief from stealing your car

Many car thefts occur because owners make it easy for the thief

Lock windows, doors and the sunroof whenever you leave your car

Remove valuables from your car including your phone, keys and driving documents
Postcode your radio cassette or CD player

Fit an alarm or immobiliser, locking petrol cap and wheel nuts

Activate the steering lock - even in your drive or garage

Have your car registration number etched on every window

Park your car in a safe place. If you have a garage use it and lock it

Current WAB Membership for 2003/4

Glynis Foley	Handsworth PCP
Charles Bates	St Peters R.A.
Byron Kennedy	HLB representative
Mahmood Hussain	Aston Triangle
Z.Ahmed Kazi	Neighbourhood Forum
Joyce Wright	Central Handsworth
Mohammed Ilyes	
Faizal Karim }	Neighbourhood Forum
Simon Baddeley-	Handsworth Park Association
Ken Brown	Elderly Residents Association
Raymond Coke	Youth representative
Iqbal Qadri	Kokni Muslim Association
Mohammed Saleem	Birchfield Traders
Barbara Petris	Birchfield Resident Action Group

If you would like this newsletter in a different language please contact your ward support officer on **0121 464 8178**

Should you wish to comment on any issue raised in this newsletter or you wish to draw attention to forthcoming events please contact Derrick Taylor, Ward Support Officer on 0121-464 8178.

Councillors Profile



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Councillors operate a rota: Every Wednesday of the month 6.00pm - 7.00pm
Seventh Day Adventist Church
Hutton Road, Handsworth

1st and 2nd Saturday of every month 11.00am - 12.00 noon The Broadway School and Leisure Centre (Music Room, The Broadway, Perry Barr

Forthcoming Meetings

February 2004

- 11th Ward Committee, 7.30pm, Broadway School and Leisure Centre.
- 16th Central Handsworth Neighbourhood Forum, 7.00pm, St Teresa's Community Centre.
- 25th Perry Aston Residents' Neighbourhood Watch Association, 7.30pm, Broadway School and Leisure Centre.

March 2004

- 10th Ward Committee, 7.30pm, Broadway School and Leisure Centre.
- 25th Perry Barr Constituency Meeting, 7.00pm, Broadway School and Leisure Centre.



Handsworth Ward

LILA NEWSLETTER

Issue 3: January 2004



Happy New year

Welcome to the third edition of the LILA Newsletter. You will find the latest information on the redevelopment of Birchfield Library; 'Isiah van' the Police's new machine to tackle crime; Crimestoppers handy tips on how to prevent car crime; details on the mechanical sweeper cleaning streets and pavements in your roads; Perry Aston - Residents, Neighbourhood Watch Association, surgery details and forthcoming meetings.

If you have any wish to contribute to any community information towards this newsletter, or you would like this newsletter translated into another language or in braille, please contact your Ward Support Officer, Derrick Taylor on 0121 464 8178.

Finally, the WAB Advisory Board members and Ward Councillors would just like to wish you a Happy New Year.

A new library for Perry Barr.....

Plans are underway to rebuild the library on the Perry Barr island and create a more modern and relevant service for local people. We expect to provide a building that will be eye-catching and welcoming, especially to people who may not realise all the opportunities that are available in libraries these days. We hope to improve the range of activities for children and young people particularly, as well as provide a wider range of books, resources and computers for informal learning. We are talking to other services and hope to share this new building in ways that will improve information and learning services. These partnerships will ensure we can offer different and new types of activities. You may not know that we already have a reading group for teenagers and a homework club that operates every week. Both are very active but more young people are always welcome. Please visit us – it's a free service and anyone may come in – to see what we are doing now.

We want to find out more about the type of services, information and books you and your families need so please get in touch on 464 4242 and ask for Gurdial Gandham or Josie Mews.

You can email us at:
birchfield.library@birmingham.gov.uk
Our opening hours are:
Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays 9-1pm
and 2-5pm
Thursdays 12-7pm
Saturdays 9-5pm

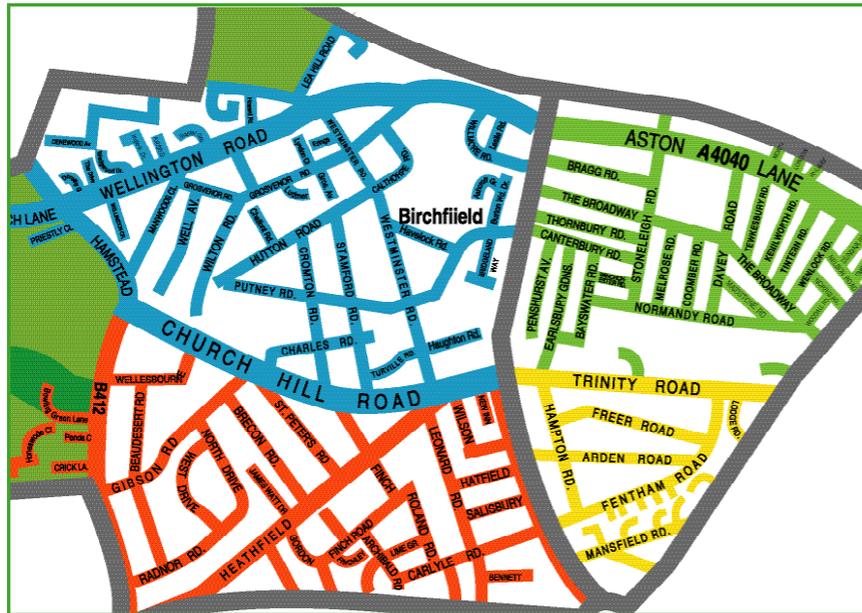
Throughout the Winter and into next Spring we plan to set up a consultation scheme, so we'll tell you more about that soon.



Mechanical Sweeper for Handsworth Ward



The Handsworth Ward Advisory Board this year funded a mechanical sweeper plus operative to enhance the standard of cleansing in the Handsworth Ward. The mechanical sweeper will clean the pavements as well as the street gutters – check on the map below to see when the mechanical sweeper is in your area. The mechanical sweeper will take approximately 6 weeks to get around all the roads within each designated area, and operates between the hours of 6am - 3pm. You too can assist this process by ensuring that your vehicle is not blocking it's path on and off the pavement, to help maintain a high standard of cleaning.



Code
 (map of area above - split into four, representing the different days/areas)

- Yellow = Monday
- Green = Tuesday
- Blue = Wednesday
- Red = Friday

Environmental Wardens

As part of the Ward Committee's commitment to creating a safer neighbourhood and cleaner environment, the Environmental and Consumer Services Department has been contracted through the Ward's allocation of Neighbourhood Renewal Funding, to employ 2 Environmental Wardens from 1st December 2003, to specifically tackle the issues of street litter, advancement of waste, the proper storage and disposal of commercial waste, dog fouling, and the promotion of waste recycling. The Warden will complement existing street cleaning services by providing advice to the public on the correct disposal of waste, and



taking enforcement action against repeat offenders. Our new Wardens, Dervan Seville and Keith Benson added "We are looking forward to working with local residents to improve their estates and make Handsworth a place to be proud of."

Clean up campaign success

The recent clean up campaign performed by Environmental and Consumer Services has been successful. Handsworth was chosen as one of the first 4 wards to benefit from the scheme. The programme tackling fly-tipping on council-owned land and private land throughout the City has seen over 80 sites in Handsworth being identified for clearance. 63 have been cleared to date with approximately 121.2 tonnes of refuse having been removed altogether from the Ward. The Ward Councillors would like to see this scheme continue on a regular basis. What would be your views? Please contact your Ward Support Officer and let him know.



Wellington Road embankment being cleared on 25 November 2003.



PERRY ASTON RESIDENTS'/NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION

Hello everyone,

I suppose you are wondering who we are and what we are, so I will quickly try to enlighten you. We were formerly known as The London Road Residents' Association and were formed over ten years ago. However, last year we had a change in the Chair, and things have really took off. We have gone from strength to strength, increasing our membership from approx. 14 to now over 70. We charge £2.00 per year and for that, you can come at anytime with any problems that may arise and we will endeavour our utmost to get them sorted. Already, in the past 18 months, we have achieved so much.

Working together with the Council and the Aston Neighbourhood team, we have not only cut the level of crime down but have succeeded in cutting down the grime as well, although it must be said, that the latter is and always will be an on-going problem, until the community start to take a pride in their surroundings. We have also managed to get security gates erected, have litter bins placed all along Aston Lane and hopefully soon The Broadway. On top of that, we have also started to run coach trips, so that the residents who don't go places do so now. We hold raffles at our monthly meetings, and at the end of the year all members get useful gifts, like timer switches last year, to help us beat the burglar, and small kettles this year so that a warm cuppa can be had during the night. Next year, IF we can raise enough funds, then we aim to provide members with carbon monoxide detectors.

We are also now recognised at the National level of Neighbourhood Watch, and most of our

members are on the Ringback service, which makes us aware of any crime in the area. Locks, spyholes, doorchains, smartwater and ten-year smoke alarms have also been fitted.

Our aim is to bring the community together, to cut the crime and grime, and to make our streets a cleaner and safer environment for us all to live in. If you are interested in joining us, then come along to one of our meetings held in the Broadway School, usually on the last Wednesday evening of the month, at 7.30p.m. where your local Councillors, Police Officers, relevant Council Department representatives and ourselves will gladly welcome you.

May I take this opportunity to offer our most grateful thanks to everyone who supports us; Councillors Hussain, Brown and Kazi, Sgt Blake and the Aston Neighbourhood team, Jean White, Community Safety Officer; Derrick Taylor, Ward Support Officer; Alun Lewis and Linda, Broadway Leisure Centre, and you the community, may 2004 be a very happy and prosperous one for you all.

Regards,
Pam Hurlston (Chairperson)

