



Community Safety Panel Meeting March 10th

Safer Gloucester Partnership will be hosting the Community Safety Panel, where it reports current activities and progress to the community on 10th March at Gloucester City Council Offices, Civic Suite, North Warehouse.



The meeting will start at 7pm and guest speaker Dave MacFarlane, police trainer will speak about Community Oriented Policing that encourages police officers to use their professional judgment whilst including the victim's views, to decide an appropriate response for dealing with offences.

Also at that meeting there will be shown a short DVD "Hate Crime" made by the National Star College students – helping to identify some of the issues facing local people of all ages.

The meeting will report the recent activity of the various themed based Safer Gloucester Partnership Action Groups and close with a "question time" for members of the public to ask questions about the related work and crime situation in the city.

Mark this date in your diary now and join us for what promises to be an excellent meeting.

Youth Projects in City Centre

Safer Gloucester Partnership has recently provided funding support for two youth projects in the city.

The first is to the City Centre Community Partnership to assist with bringing the Greyfriar's Bowling Green back into use for youth facilities. It is intended that at least 30 youth events will be held on the site in the next year. The second is to provide facilities at Young Gloucestershire's Greyfriar's House to enable young people to take part in dancing, African drumming, DJ workshops and more, with a drop in centre being open on a Friday and Saturday night.

Re-Launch of Partnership Website

Safer Gloucester Partnership has recently re-launched their website with a new image. Please spend time to look at the site and find out what the Partnership is doing - as well as the latest events and news, there is some very useful crime prevention advice and information.



Anyone who did not manage to collect a copy of the Crime Prevention Calendar for 2011, can download one directly from the website.

www.safergloucester.co.uk

Crime where you live

On 1st February 2011, the Home Office have launched a national website www.police.uk whereby you can enter your postcode and find the number of police recorded incidents in your neighbourhood.

This is an attempt to enhance information available to the public in order to empower residents to raise any concerns with their local Police teams. Public meetings with the Police are also scheduled on the website along with photos of the local Community Beat Officers and Police Community Support Officers.

“Have your say” days

The next Safer Gloucester Partnership “Have your say” event will take place in Abbeymead in the houses around Staunton Close and Blaisdon Close.

Partnership officers from the Police, Gloucester City Council and Project Solace will be joined by City Councillors and volunteers from the Neighbourhood Watch Association to visit residents to ask their views on life in the area and if they are affected by crime or anti social behaviour. We will be visiting as many residents as time allows in the early evening from 6 – 8pm on 16th and 17th February.

Following the successful “Have your say” day in Thatcham Avenue, Kingsway, last September, there will be a further survey exercise of Kingsway residents on February 24th from 3 – 7.30pm. The questionnaire will focus on whether residents are happy living in their area and whether they are experiencing any anti social behaviour.

Shopwatch Success Continues

The Safer Gloucester Partnership Shopwatch scheme continues to thrive in the city. If a person is found shoplifting in Gloucester, they are not only banned from the premises concerned, but the incident is referred to the Shopwatch board to consider banning them from all Shopwatch member shops.

Shopwatch works alongside the Radio Link system operating within the city centre, providing retailers with access to a secure website containing images of offenders. Shopwatch members are able to share all of their information of offenders and inform other members if they spot a known offender in the city centre, thus stopping known offenders from having the opportunity to commit further offences.

At the present time there are 145 member shops and 38 offenders banned. In 2010 there was a reduction of 28.7% (190 offences) of shoplifting.

Out of the 105 people banned since the scheme began in October 2008, only 15% have re-offended or breached their ban. Five offenders have had their ban extended and one of those extended still further. This last offender has now been given a Criminal Anti Social Behaviour Order (CRASBO) by the court, banning him for two years from entering all the shops in Gloucester City Centre and The Quays Development and all Shopwatch members’ premises.



Bogus Callers Beware!

If you have a visitor at your front door that you are not expecting and do not recognise, the advice from Safer Gloucester Partnership is “Do not open the door”. In order to support the older residents in Gloucestershire, the six community safety partnerships in the county set up a Bogus Callers Helpline. The helpline number **0808 1000 777** is free to ring and has been staffed by Glevum Security for the last 7 years, to provide advice 24 hours a day 365 days a year. If it is believed that the caller could be in any sort of danger, Glevum Security will call the police as an emergency. Our thanks go to Glevum Security for their help and support with this valuable service.

Safer Gloucester Partnership has also produced some Nominated Neighbour cards for residents to hold up at the window if they see a stranger at their front door. The card says “I do not recognise you.

Please call at my neighbour at no.... and they will verify your identity.” If



neighbours join together, they can help each other out in checking stranger’s details.

Shed Security

There has been an increase in the number of sheds broken into recently in Gloucester and there are a several measures that can be taken to avoid this.

Fit decent locks to your shed door. Fittings should be bolted through the shed door and reinforced at the back with a steel plate. For sheds that have exterior hinges, replace the hinges with security screws that cannot be unscrewed once in place.

Padlocks used externally should be no less than 6cm wide and made of hardened steel. A “closed shackle” type is best.

Chicken wire or welded metal grilles should be fixed to the inside of shed windows.

A shed alarm can be purchased from Gloucester Police Station at Bearland, Longsmith Street, for £5. These are easy to fit, are motion sensitive and are ideal for protecting vulnerable doors against forced entry attempts.