



SAFER Gloucester

News from the Community Safety Partnership

PRODUCED QUARTERLY

August 2011

Safer Gloucester Panel September 14th

Safer Gloucester will be hosting its open panel, where it reports current activities and progress to the community on 14th September at Gloucester City Council Offices, Civic Suite, North Warehouse.

The meeting will start at 7pm and guest speakers will be Leader of Gloucester City Council, Cllr Paul James and Gloucestershire Constabulary's Chief Inspector Richard Burge who will be speaking about "Gloucester at Night" and answering questions like "Are you safe in the city centre at night time?"



The meeting will report the recent activity of the various themed based Safer Gloucester 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 interesting evening.

Recent Disturbances in Gloucester

During and after the recent disturbances in the city, the police, fire and rescue service and city council leapt into action to deal with the offenders and repair the damage.

Please see the inside pages of this newsletter for details of the wide range of activity that took place in that time and some of the support to the community which followed afterwards.

GLOUCESTER YOUTH SHOWCASE	Free entry
	Displays
	Activities
	Bar B Q
Saturday 17th September 10.00 am until 5.00 pm Llanthony Priory Grounds	
A great day out for everyone!	

Come to Llanthony Priory on Saturday 17th September and find out just what is on offer in the city for young people aged between 5 – 20 years to do! It will be a great day (weather permitting!!!) with displays and demonstrations from marching bands, Young Gloucestershire, Karate World, Prospects Training, scouts, guides, army cadets, sea cadets, St John's Ambulance, Street Elite dance group, Forest Emeralds, basketball, athletics and cheerleaders to name but a few. There will be bouncy castles, giant Jenga, kite flying, a climbing wall, ice creams and a barbeque.



We are also thrilled to welcome the winner and runner up of the Gloucester Youth's Got Talent competition – Kieran Powell and Jessica Weaver who will both be performing, along with other live music from local artists.

There will also be opportunities to win iTunes vouchers – just by attending!

This event promises to be a fantastic day for all young people and their parents to see many of the activities available for them to do. You may find a new hobby or interest that you would like to take part in!

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Gloucester Disturbances

Readers of this article will no doubt be aware that during the early hours of Wednesday 10th August, the disturbances that started over the previous weekend in London and then escalated to other parts of the country were copied here in Gloucester. Fortunately Gloucestershire police had reviewed their resources the previous day and increased the number of officers on duty for the Tuesday night.

The fact that there were additional police officers on duty many of whom were trained to deal with large scale disorder, and the fact they were able to call quickly upon resources from outside of Gloucestershire, including police horses from Avon and Somerset police, meant they were able to respond promptly and effectively to prevent the disorder and damage to the level seen in many other areas of the country. Having said that, it was extremely disappointing to see the damage that was caused and also the effect the whole incident had on our local communities.

At about midnight on Tuesday night, the arson attack at the old art college in Brunswick Road saw all the emergency plans of the Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service put into action. The Police created a safe means of entry to the area for the fire crews by moving those involved away from the main route into the grounds of the college and establishing escorts for oncoming appliances through any troubled areas. This immediate response to the fire was only made possible by the actions of our local police force. At its peak there were over 100 firefighters committed into the area with half of the county's fire engines committed within the city.

As soon as the problems started, the City Council's emergency response team was activated and plans were put in place to provide any assistance that may have been required from the city council to the emergency services and local community.

As soon as order had been restored to the streets, Enterprise (the City Council's Streetcare Partner) were out and about cleaning up some of the mess that had been made removing rubbish, debris and a fire damaged vehicle, thus enabling people to go about their daily work the following day without disruption.

A meeting was held involving all local agencies to coordinate a plan of action. Detectives were also called out to start an investigation to identify and bring to justice all those who had been involved in the disturbance. All of these actions took place

before most people were up and about for the start of the new working day.

We were determined there would be no repeat of these disturbances and so Police Officers from all over the county were drafted into Gloucester to work for the next few days. All officers had their hours of work extended to 12 hour shifts and colleagues from the special constabulary responded magnificently by bringing large numbers on duty to work alongside the regular officers. In addition to the work in identifying offenders and ensuring there would be no further disorder, the aim since the night of the disturbances has been to provide reassurance to our communities by sending out high visibility patrols and actively engaging with local residents, local businesses and community leaders.

On Wednesday, the City Council's Neighbourhood Management Officers and Gloucester City Homes' Officers were out in the community ensuring that there was no debris or excess rubbish visible that could be set alight the following night. Landlords and Enterprise were contacted to ensure that some bulky items (old mattresses) that were a further potential fire hazard were removed. Bins that could be picked up and thrown were taken away. The County Council's Highway department were contacted to ensure that road repairs in the affected area were sorted out, so that rocks were not available as potential weapons.

City Council and Fire Service officers undertook educational visits to businesses in the affected areas to ensure that fire exits were cleared and discussions were held about how to reduce the risk of fire.

Visits were made by the Police, Fire Service and City Council to members of the community in those areas to provide reassurance, and pass any concerns to the Emergency Planning Group.

The Leaders of the City and County Council toured affected areas with the local Ward Councillors, the City MP and Chief Constable talking to community leaders, local residents and shop owners.

Gloucester City Homes assisted the Police and Gloucester City Council to secure an emergency Dispersal Order covering Barton

Street which was successfully implemented from 11th August for 6 months. The order allowed Police or Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) to direct any groups of two or more to leave the area for 24 hours when they believed the behaviour of the group was likely to result in members of the public being harassed, alarmed or distressed.

Chief Inspector Richard Burge said "On the Wednesday evening I was out and about on foot patrol talking to some of the local residents and shop keepers. It was distressing to hear the fear and trepidation amongst some of these people but also good to be able to tell them that we were not anticipating any further problems, but if there were problems we were very well prepared and had sufficient officers on duty to deal with any issues that arose. As the week progressed it was clear that the reassurance work we were doing was having an effect and our local communities were returning back to normal and they were fully supporting us."

The Fire Service were also talking to residents and checking their smoke alarms, returning later in the day to replace defective alarms free of charge.

The City Council's Neighbourhood Management Team visited sites where community events were due to take place in the following days e.g. Kingsway and Podsmead to ensure that there was sufficient cover from the Police and Council, and that Enterprise would ensure a speedy clear up after the event so that there were no bins that could be set on fire.

Chief Inspector Burge also stated "To date 30 people have been arrested for offences ranging from violent disorder to burglary and more arrests will be carried out in the coming days and weeks. There are a number of suspects who we still want to identify from CCTV images and I would urge anyone who has not yet done so, to look on the Gloucestershire Constabulary Website to see if they can name any of those featured. We will continue to work closely with all our local communities to ensure Gloucester is a safe place to live, work and visit and on behalf of all my colleagues, thank you for your continued support."

If you do recognise the people in any of the photos you should now ring 0845 090 1234 and quote incident number 123 of August 18 and the number of the relevant photo.

You can also email information to:
callcentre@gloucestershire.police.uk

Information can also be given anonymously at any time via the Crimestoppers website www.crimestoppers-uk.org or by calling 0800 555 111.

If you would like smoke alarms fitted in your home but you cannot do the work yourself, a free service exists which will install them for you. Please call 0800 180 41 40 to arrange your FREE Home Fire Safety Check. Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service staff will also install FREE smoke alarms where necessary.

Gloucester Youth Peace Project

Thursday 11th August 2011 saw the launch of Gloucester Youth Peace Project – a new project which was the vision of Delroy Ellis former youth leader from Star 66 Youth Centre. Delroy was assisted by Police Sergeant Lynn Northfield who secured funding from the Home Office proceeds of crime (seized assets) and worked tirelessly to find premises for the project to operate from as well as organise the launch event.



Delroy with Inspector Mark Soderland and Sergeant Lynn Northfield, both from Barton Police Station

The Youth Peace Project is based at the Barton and Tredworth Community Trust building in Conduit Street, Tredworth and will follow a programme of values education rather than acting as a drop-in providing young people with a base to do whatever they like. It will be structured week by week. Delroy said "We will be looking at aspiration and why the young people can't get jobs. We will have people in to speak about gang culture and knife crime. Those attending the centre will be expected to represent the group and behave in a respectable manner. If we find out anyone has been involved in anything like the violence on Wednesday the 10th, they will be banned from the club". The project will also run sports activities in Gloucester Park.

For further information call Delroy on 07974435624.

Underage Drinking

The May Safer Gloucester newsletter reported residents concerns of young people under aged 18 consuming alcohol in public open spaces. This was highlighted after police seized alcohol to the value of over £50 from a 16 year old.

Safer Gloucester have taken this seriously and at the start of the school summer holidays, wrote to all off licensed premises to remind them of their responsibilities in selling alcohol. This included checking identity if the purchaser appeared to be under the age of 25, being aware of anyone who may be purchasing alcohol for the consumption of a minor and also the sale of illegally produced alcohol.

The Police have completed some test purchasing and proxy purchasing operations in the city. On one occasion a man was given an £80 fixed penalty notice for purchasing a bottle of WKD Blue and handing it to two underage girls waiting outside the shop.

In addition, the Police are working with Infobuzz to engage with young people and provide accurate information around drugs and alcohol to them.

It is planned to provide some drug and alcohol awareness evenings in the autumn for parents. In the meantime, if you would like to receive a copy of the booklet "A parent's guide to alcohol" please contact us by calling 01452 396984 or through the website www.safergloucester.co.uk.

101 - The Police Non-Emergency Number

Currently if you need to speak to the Police, but it is not an emergency, you need to call 0845 090 1234. This number is regional and only works for Gloucestershire Constabulary. From September this is changing, so that when you need to speak to the Police, but it is not an emergency, you will be able to call 101 and speak to the contact centre of your local Police Force.

The 101 non-emergency number will be rolled out across the UK, and should be fully functional by 2012. This means that wherever you are in England and Wales you will be able to call 101 and speak to the local Police.

This does NOT replace 999. If it is an emergency, the crime is in action, there is a danger to life or violence is being threatened then you should still call 999 to initiate immediate response.

You should call 101 to speak to your local Police force or report less urgent crime for example:

- Your car has been stolen
- Your property has been damaged
- You suspect drug dealing in your neighbourhood

- Report a minor traffic collision
- Give the Police information
- Any general enquiry

Calls to 101 will cost you 15 pence from a landline or a mobile phone; no matter how long you are on the phone or what time you call.

You should still report issues such as fly tipping and graffiti to the City Council on 01452 396 396.

Tri Signs in Longlevens

Unfortunately crime has been increasing over the last few months with a particular focus on car crime.

In many cases, the problems have arisen because car owners are not securing their vehicles when parking them – often leaving the doors unlocked.

Safer Gloucester has responded by placing some brightly coloured Tri Signs on lampposts in the Longlevens area giving bold messages to car owners and car offenders. These can be moved around the city should the "hotspot" area change.



Police officers are checking parked vehicles whilst on patrol, and any vehicles found with items left on display inside will receive a letter advising them to empty their car of valuables, together with a partnership tax disc holder as a reminder.

Where your sat nav is portable, keep it safe by taking it, together with the support cradle and suction pads, with you when you leave the car. Also, remember to wipe away any marks left by the suction pad on the windscreen or dashboard. Don't leave the equipment in the glove compartment – thieves will usually check there first.

Don't leave anything on view in your car – it only takes them moments to break into it.

Lock all doors and windows when leaving your car – don't forget the sunroof!

Never leave the keys in your ignition when you leave the car unattended – even when you are paying for petrol.