

# Lewisham Local NEWS

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LEE  
GREEN

LEE STATION CRIME SPECIAL: 4<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2006



## Working Together To Tackle Crime

Residents around Lee Station have written to Bridget Prentice MP about disturbing incidents of local street crime involving knives - describing recent examples of street robberies and assaults on schoolchildren as they walk home from school.

• **Bridget has been in contact with Lewisham Police, Lewisham's Education Department and secondary Schools in the area – in addition to Network Rail - to make them aware of these problems.**

• One young local resident, **Oliver Henness**, has obtained over 100 signatures for his petition asking for a series of measures to make this area safer. These include a more visible and proactive police presence, a campaign to raise awareness of local crime and a CCTV camera to help monitor the area. In response to this campaign the police have:

- Extended their patrols around local schools when pupils are leaving until 7pm.
- Consulted with Head Teachers of the schools concerned and worked alongside youth workers.
- Visited local schools and spoken to the pupils.
- Obtained support from other safer neighbourhood teams to bolster the local police presence.



- Bridget Prentice MP with two members of the Lee Green Safer Neighbourhood Team.
- Contact Sgt Mike Chattenton on 020 8721 2482



■ **You have told us that crime and anti-social behaviour are the most important concerns in your area.**

This is why Mayor Steve Bullock (left), has established with the police the **Safer Lewisham Partnership** – and created a deputy with responsibility for Community Safety on the Council's Executive. Community leaders have joined the Police and Mayor of Lewisham to back the DEAR Lewisham initiative which targets the problem of youth on youth robbery. Deter, Educate, Act and Redress (DEAR) sums up the four areas in which the Police and council are joining forces to make young people safer.

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■ Lewisham's Young Mayor, Wilf Petherbridge, said: "Some adults dismiss these robberies as minor and unimportant, but many young people in the borough are afraid on their own streets. "Teenagers across the borough have to be encouraged to talk about what they can do to be safe."

# BRIDGET PRENTICE WELCOMES MUMS' SURVEY ON KNIFE CRIME



Bridget Prentice MP has paid tribute to a recent survey by a national parenting organisation about the dangers of knife crime.

**Netmums** has 207,500 members from every part of the country – with 1000 in Lewisham – and during the knife amnesty earlier this summer 5,000 mothers took part in their survey – finding out their views and giving particular emphasis to the problems created by 12 to 16 year olds carrying knives.

Bridget Prentice has welcomed their findings, “These results reveal the strength of feeling and sense of desperation amongst many mothers to see strong action to tackle knife crime. Their views should be taken into account, because it is their children who are in danger, both of being a victim or of possibly being a knife carrier themselves one day”.

#### These are some of the survey's results:

- 51% think that there should be a guaranteed custodial sentence for anyone caught carrying a knife – even a week for first time offenders.

This sends the clear message to teenagers, “It's your choice, carry a knife and go to prison”

- 37% support the idea of electronic tagging or community service for carrying a knife, but not a custodial sentence.

- 50% think that parents need to accept their responsibilities and be subject to the consequences if their 12-16 year olds are found carrying knives.

#### Netmums are now calling on the Home Secretary to increase the number of Youth Inclusion Support Panels.

These panels help children aged 8-13 and their families who are at risk of becoming involved in anti-social behaviour and crime. They include the police and representatives from local schools, social services and members of the local community.

This programme is currently treating 36,000 of the most at risk children and has been shown to be highly effective.



- Safer Neighbourhoods** is the Metropolitan Police's approach to community policing. **It's about the police, the Council and local people working to identify and tackle issues of concern in your area.**

All of Lewisham's 18 wards have had a safer neighbourhood team since April 2006

Each team will eventually be made up of six police and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). Their aim is to listen and talk to you, and find out what affects your daily life and feelings of security.

These might be issues such as anti-social behaviour, graffiti, noisy neighbourhoods, jobs or vandalism. Then, they work to find a lasting solution.

- Safer Neighbourhoods teams are dedicated to your community and are additional to other policing teams and units in London.**

#### Lee Green Safer Neighbourhood Team

- Your local team is led by Sgt Mike Chattenton
- They are based at Lewisham Police Station
- They can be contacted on 07920 233877  
020 8721 2482

Tell us your views about local crime and send this form to, Crime Survey,  
82 Lee High Road, SE13 5PT

Your comments

Name & address

Email:

The Labour Party will not pass any of your information to any other organisation. If you do not want us to contact you, please tick this box