

Concerns Grow Over Vandalism



• **Parish Councillor Joyce Sortwell and Ann McRae by a smashed window in the High Street, with the 1300+ signature petition.**

Cllr Joyce Sortwell reports: Over the past few months there have been a number of incidents in West End High Street of late night vandalism and many West End residents are fed up with these wanton attacks. For some reason some people think it is fun to smash glass and disfigure the look of our village. Well it is not fun or clever, it is upsetting and very costly to the many small businesses in the High Street.

Local campaigner Ann McRae was so concerned over the level of vandalism and violence, plus the apparent lack of visible action, that she organised a petition to complain and demand greater action from the police and the councils.

West End Parish Council is also concerned at the amount of vandalism that occurs in the Parish and is looking at ways of trying to

In this Issue

Growing over
concerns
Vandalism

Police
Community
Support
Officers

Moorgreen
Youth Centre
Improvements

Focus Team
Member Profile
Bruce Tennent

Policy Point:
Police
Mergers

prevent this. One possibility is to have our own Police Community Support Officer who amongst other things will have powers to issue fixed penalty fines to offenders. By having an officer in the village it is hoped they will get to know the likely areas and the people likely to offend. Most damage has been caused in the premises in the High Street, smashed windows etc. Working in conjunction with the Parish Council and our Youth Leader, we would hope to see a marked decrease in the amount of mindless damage done in our village.



Police Community Support Officers

Cllr Peter Humphreys reports: The role of Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) comes from the Police Reform Act 2002. PCSOs work alongside the police in a supporting role, providing a visible presence and helping to reassure the public. They patrol their local area, providing assistance and dealing with incidents which don't require full police powers.

They are sometimes given the power to direct traffic, issue fixed penalty notices and detain someone whilst waiting for the arrival of a police constable. The work may also include assisting at large public gatherings, such as sports events at the Rose Bowl.

They work under the direction of the police commander in their area and work in pairs or small teams in response to the needs of the local area. For more information see :-

<http://www.national-pcsos.co.uk/id3.html>

Borough footnote...

The Borough Council has in the past improved the village centre, installed some CCTV, offered to assistance businesses and is actively looking at ways to extend the CCTV system.

Focus Team Member Profile: **Bruce Tennent**



• **Bruce Tennent**

Cllr Carol Boulton reports: Bruce was born in the West Country and as the son of a member of the armed forces led a nomadic life traveling to new postings on a regular basis. By the time he reached his teens the family had settled in Hampshire, where at the age of sixteen Bruce started an apprenticeship in Haslar at an admiralty research establishment connected to Portsmouth Dockyard.

After a life spent working in manufacturing, Bruce has recently undergone a career change following the reduction in manufacturing jobs in the area and now works in information technology, currently helping out County Councillors like me with their computer problems.

For the last twenty years he has lived in the borough of Eastleigh and seen many changes as the community has grown, for the last ten years Bruce has been a helpful member of my West End North focus team. He lives off Barbe Baker Avenue in Holly Gardens is a keen supporter of many of the recent improvements regularly mentioned in your West End Focus.

Moorgreen Youth Centre improvements



• **Moorgreen Youth Centre & Recreation ground due for £32,000 plus of improvements**

Bruce Tennent reports: At the Borough Council's recent local area committee meeting I attended I was very pleased to see further improvements for the Youth Centre in Moorgreen Road.

The following improvements will be made :-

- Resurface the car park to remove the loose stones
- A new pathway and patio area for young people to meet (at a point furthest from local residents)
- Additional electric shutters to new doors and windows to improve security
- Additional CCTV for greater coverage of the recreation ground
- Improvement to internal layout and coffee bar area

The full project proposals will cost about £32,350 and the committee agreed to allocate £25,406 to this Parish council run facility.

Policing is a Local Matter

**Policy Point:
Police Mergers**

Cllr David Goodall reports:

The Government's answer to any problem to make things more efficient appears to be to centralise control. This control mania started with hospitals, is spreading to schools with central funding there and now to the police service with plans to merge police forces like Hampshire and Thames Valley.

The vast majority of police work is not fighting international terrorism and drug runners. The bulk of police work concerns local issues, like problems in West End High Street. In this brave new Labour world police officers within the new larger forces would be moved around the new area. This would leave either Hampshire or say Thames Valley with fewer police than they currently have, as they are moved around. Yet no police force is saying we need fewer officers.

Eastleigh's MP Chris Huhne, with his economic background has looked at the financial side. Not even that side makes sense and he said :-



Chris Huhne MP

"...the council tax payers of Hampshire will be paying more but getting no discernible improvement in their policing. Indeed, there is a clear risk that a larger force will be less responsive, accountable to local people."