

Hambleton
Community
Safety
Partnership



COMMUNITY SAFETY NEWS

Changing Lives: Making Communities Safer

SHOCKING SPEEDSTERS



Shock tactics have been used to curb speeding drivers across Hambleton.

Four 'Operation Sirens' have been staged over the last few months - a major road safety campaign which brings together members of all the emergency services and the Hambleton Community Safety Partnership.

It has visited Easingwold, Huby, Sutton on the Forest and Chopgate.

Speeding drivers were stopped by police and given a simple choice – either take a £60 fixed penalty ticket (and three points on their licence) or spend 20 minutes being educated on the perils of bad driving.

Those who opted for the latter were shepherded into the town or village centre for a talk with officers from each of the services – and to see a shocking film on road accidents.

All drivers breaking the speed limit, driving in a dangerous manner or in cars with obvious defects were stopped during the operation.

“On average ten people die on Britain’s roads every day,” said Hambleton Community Safety Partnership Officer, Simon Gibson.

“Speeding is by far the biggest cause of those deaths - either by driving too fast for the road conditions or by exceeding the speed limit.

“Through Operation Siren we hope to have informed drivers of the harsh realities of speeding and its effect not only on the driver, but more importantly on others. Speeding is inconsiderate driving and contributes to the thousands of road accidents every year.

“The drain on the emergency services to attend these incidents is enormous – and can take us away from other serious incidents.”

More than 150 drivers were stopped during the campaign with 73% opting for the talk.

• Community Safety officers were also out and about with the portable speed matrix signs - visiting 21 different locations in the three months to June. The signs are used to record activity at known problem areas which can then be used as evidence in improvement campaigns. The parish councils are notified of the outcome of the recordings - whether speeding was found to be a problem or not - and both the police and North Yorkshire County Council’s Highways Department are given a report on the problem areas. Communities wanting to request use of the speed matrix should contact Simon Gibson on 07710 378489 or simon.gibson@northyorksfire.gov.uk Full details of the location – which must be within a 20, 30 or 40mph zone; the day of the week and the times major problems arise must be included with the request.

HOW SAFE IS YOUR HOUSE

As the winter draws near, the clocks go back and dark nights loom crimefighters are urging householders to be extra vigilant.

They want everyone to take the ‘burglary challenge’ to find out just how safe their house is. “Most burglaries are committed by

opportunistic thieves and take place when the house is empty,” said Vice Chairman of the Partnership, Carl Les. “A significant number of house burglaries in Hambleton are still committed by the offender walking through an unlocked door - especially the back door - to find items such as wallets, cash and car keys on display on the kitchen worktops.

“Simply putting away items like this into drawers and locking the house

doors might be enough to prevent many of these opportunist burglaries from occurring.”

And he said that once a home has been burgled it is very likely to be targeted again - but by taking some simple crime prevention steps homeowners can help reduce the risk of their houses being visited again:

- make sure doors are locked when in bed or in the garden and unlikely to hear anyone entering the house or if the house is empty
- use deadlocks where they are fitted; specialist locks on patio doors; and padlocks on sheds
- don’t draw curtains when you go away – if possible get a neighbour to close them at night and open them in the morning for you
- make sure downstairs windows are

closed and preferably locked overnight, and all windows are closed and locked if the house is unoccupied

- install timers to control lights and radios while you are away or working unsociable hours
 - do not leave valuables such as handbags and wallets close to windows where they may attract attention and keep Christmas presents out of sight
 - keep car keys in a secure place - there is a growing trend for houses to be entered, sometimes by using an implement through letterboxes, to steal vehicles rather than household possessions
 - never employ cold callers and never answer the door to anyone without first looking through a view finder or using a door chain
- To take the burglary challenge log on to www.safer-homes.org

Hambleton’s thirteen Police Community Support Officers will also undertake home security surveys – including tips on door and window security; alarms and advice on beating bogus callers. To access a survey call 0845 6060 247 and ask for your nearest Neighbourhood Policing Team.

• The Partnership now sells light timers and shed alarms for less than 50% of shop prices. The timers are £3 each or two for £5 and the alarms £7 each. The devices are available from District Council Offices in Northallerton, Stokesley and Easingwold. They are only available to residents of Hambleton - proof of residence (utility bill or driving licence) must be shown when purchasing.

KEEPING THE STREETS CLEAN

Pupils from Easingwold School joined a campaign to keep Hambleton’s streets clean.

They signed up for the Hambleton Community Safety Partnership’s ‘Don’t Mess with Us!’ project which sees young people taking part in organised litter picks around the towns and villages in which they live.

Year seven Easingwold pupils were joined by school staff, parish and district councillors to tackle the

open space around Chase Garth – an area popular with school pupils at lunchtime breaks.

They donned protective waistcoats and caps and used litter grabbers for the litter pick – bought by the Partnership from its Local Project Scheme pot – to spend an hour filling six bin bags with rubbish.

The pupils are pictured in Easingwold with parish and district councillors.

To take part in the campaign contact John Proud on 0845 1211 555



ROCK AROUND THE CLOCK

Thirsk youngsters were ‘rocking around the clock’ this summer.

For the opening hours of Thirsk Clock were extended thanks to a grant from the Community Safety Partnership. The ‘rock around the clock café’ at Thirsk Clock in the town centre was open from 4-7pm three days a week for the six months to the end of June.

The partnership ploughed £5000 into the project which saw membership increase and complaints drop. Almost 70 new members signed up and there were no complaints on young peoples’ anti-social behaviour when the café was open for business. Now organisers of Thirsk Clock are looking for further funding to keep the opening hours in place.