

**VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE - 18TH JUNE 2014****SUBJECT: ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR - GWENT POLICE****REPORT BY: GWENT POLICE**

Operation Bernie

This is a multi-agency project to prevent fires in the grasslands of Caerphilly County Borough which has been recognised as a place of high frequency for such matters. This is the 3rd year of the project which involves patrolling in vulnerable grasslands and mountainside for 6 weeks over the Easter period. At the same time youths in the highlighted area (greater Bargoed) are provided with outlets for their energies. The message of fire prevention is continually driven. Obviously the Fire Service, Police, CCBC Community Safety and Education as well as Countryside Wardens participate.

Caerphilly After Dark

This is a gain a multi-agency effort to reduce violence in the hotspots of Caerphilly County Borough. A PC has been identified as the driver within the LPU with a view to driving collaborative work and information exchange for those involved in the nighttime economy. PC Adam Lang has recently assumed the role after the previous officer resigned from the Force.

Criminal Damage Strategy In Schools

Criminal damage in Caerphilly LPU accounted for 20% or so of all reported crime. This damage has been viewed strategically and some tactics have fallen out of the process. One of these was to raise awareness of the value and effect on owners who have their cars damaged. Comprehensive schools are being visited by SLO and CADRO and a car utilised as a hook for youth attention in the schoolyard. The youths' participate in a competition with a view to raising their knowledge of the impact of criminal damage and thus prevent them getting involved in that sort of behaviour. Prizes are provided.

Rogue Traders Week - 7th to 13th April

Recently a week was identified Force wide where our attention and efforts would fall upon those preying upon the less fortunate or more trusting people in our community by rogue trading. A multi-agency approach was taken with colleagues from CCBC Trading Standards and Department of Works and Pensions. Checks were carried out on vehicles and drivers who met the offender profile as well as raising the communities awareness of such people and activity. Older peoples groups were attended by PCSO's with a view to equipping people with techniques to dissuade such approaches by rogue trader types whom they may interact with.

Police Stations – Front Counters Open

Blackwood Police Station - (Mon – Sun) - 8am – 8pm
Caerphilly Police Station - (Mon – Fri) - 9am – 5pm
Risca Police Station - (Mon - Fri) - 9am – 5pm
Ystrad Mynach Police Station - (Mon – Fri) - 9am – 5pm

Summer Drink Drive Campaign – Month Of June

Gwent Police once again along with other forces across Wales will be running a campaign to reduce the numbers of drink drivers by advertising and actively seeking out offenders. This hopefully will deter people from this unacceptable and illegal behaviour.

Caerphilly County Borough Cadets

The Cadet Volunteers aged 16 years to 18.5 years have recently had their programme examined and adjusted with a view to making their volunteering more enjoyable experience. The older cadets have joined the younger ones and are being lead by former military staff who also run ATC Cadets in the areas. The recruiting process will recommence in September.

Retiring Police Officers

These last few Months have seen Police Officers who have served in our community retiring after 30 years of Service.

Locally – PC Steve Dyer who retired from Caerphilly Police Station. Inspector Gareth Lintern will have his last working day on the 13th June. He has attended this group previously.

Blackwood Street Pastors

In June the Pastors are celebrating 5 years of voluntary work in our communities, assisting people in the late evenings who need help whilst in out busy Town Centres and the like. A big well done to them.

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