

Online – a newsletter for people involved in community safety in Stratford District

Foreword - Paul Lankester

Chair, Keeping Stratford Safer Partnership

I am writing to you regarding the forthcoming launch of a newsletter that will be of interest to all of us concerned with keeping Stratford safer.

Online will spread the good word around about current events in the field of community safety in Stratford. Its purpose is to tell you what has been happening, what is being done now and maybe to give you some ideas of what can be done in the future.

Whatever your own impression is, crime levels in Stratford are way below the national average for virtually all types of crime. However, fear of crime in our communities is above what it should be.

One issue that could affect the perception in Stratford that crime is much higher than reality is the communication of information; more information that may reinforce the fact that crime is not as prevalent as these perceptions.

However, this is not a propaganda tool. This electronic newsletter will feature links to other websites such as the Home Office's or Warwickshire Police's where you can access current factual information on crime levels in the area and nationally.

One of the things we will focus on is local action to tackle crime or build communities that is underpinning so much of what we are doing

You will see that it is divided into four area sections. This mirrors how we are organising our fight against crime in the district.

Stratford is pioneering a geographical approach to community safety. In essence, this will lead to people with knowledge of an area playing a key role in its policing. Partnerships involving County and District Council staff who work in that area, locally-based Police and the local community will increasingly be the way in which problems of community safety are tackled.

Please keep an eye on your email inbox for the newsletter. It should be with you in a few weeks and, as I say, will give you a very real picture about what is happening in our district and, of course, your own locality. I would welcome feedback on the newsletter and how we can make it more useful to you.

I would also like to take the opportunity to wish you a happy Christmas and a safe and prosperous 2006 and thank you for all your contributions to making our district the safest district in one of the safest counties in the country.



keeping Stratford safer