

Safer Caledonian

How the police and the council are making your neighbourhood safer

Winter 2010



We are Caledonian Safer Neighbourhoods team.

You've told us your ward priorities include:

- Anti-social behaviour by young people on the Westbourne Estate
- Prostitute advertising cards in phone boxes in Kings Cross
- Anti-social cycling and bicycle security.

Caledonian Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT) and Islington Council are working together to make your local area a safer place. If you have any concerns about crime or anti-social behaviour in your neighbourhood, please let us know (see back page for contact details).

Did you know?

- Criminal damage went down by 13% in the Caledonian ward this year?

From the Metropolitan Police Service in partnership with Islington Council



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Tackling anti-social behaviour on the Westbourne Estate

The Caledonian ward panel made the Westbourne Estate a priority for police patrols after problems with anti-social behaviour (ASB) from a group of young people. The young people involved were identified – most were not from the Westbourne estate – and their names were given to Homes for Islington (HFI), who manage the estate.

Those young people and their parents, were invited to the offices of HFI where they were all asked to sign Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs). There has been a reduction in ASB on the Westbourne Estate since this action was taken.

We looked around the estate with HFI and Islington Council to identify anti-social behaviour hotspots and to look at what we could do to discourage young people from gathering in these areas.

Youth clubs are taking place three times a week locally, which help to divert young people from crime. On Monday evenings a youth club meets at the Westbourne Community Hall, on Thursday evenings a youth club runs at Nailour Community Hall, Blundell Street, and on Friday evenings a youth club runs at Jean Stokes Hall on the Bemerton Estate.

More localised policing

Islington Police have responded to residents' concerns by increasing their focus on neighbourhood policing, developing a Safer Neighbourhoods (SN) Task Force who will work with the existing Safer Neighbourhoods teams to tackle problems such as large groups of young people gathering on estates, anti-social behaviour on mopeds, drugs and drug dealing and undercover operations.



And more police on the beat

Islington Council is funding a South Islington problem-solving police team. This new police team will provide extra cover at weekends and evenings, and will focus on problem areas such as housing estates and parks.

We already have a North Islington problem-solving police team, which has been working with Safer Neighbourhoods teams to tackle long-standing anti-social behaviour problems.

Preventing prostitutes advertising their services

A team of Special Constables, led by acting Special Sergeant Ray Brandon tackled the persistent problem of prostitute advertising cards littering the phone boxes in the Kings Cross area. This led to a reduction in the number of cards left in the kiosks and the arrest of a prolific offender.

Have you got what it takes?

A team of six Special Constables volunteer their free time to help make the Caledonian ward a better place to live. Acting Special Sergeant Ray Brandon has served this community for 21 years. You too could volunteer as a Special Constable and make a difference in your community. Call Sergeant Graham Henry on **020 8345 1548** for details, or for more information go to www.metpolicecareers.co.uk/specials

Safer, cleaner Cally

Teams from Islington Council, the police and HFI are teaming up in local areas across Islington for a blitz on litter, dirt, dog mess and anti-social behaviour in regular “Safer, Cleaner” days we will be holding throughout the year.

Teams have been out and about in the Caledonian Road area, carrying out a range of work, including grounds maintenance, clearing bulk refuse, litter and overgrowth, and graffiti removal. Caledonian SNT patrolled the area giving out information to residents on safety and how to report issues or concerns.

The aim of the days is to blitz a particular area, usually where we have had an increase in resident concerns or that have been identified as “hotspot areas” for anti-social behaviour. If you report a problem, we will act.

End of the road for illegal minicabs

Islington Council is working with the police, Transport for London and other partners to tackle:

- Illegal parking
- Illegal vehicles
- Misuse of disabled blue badges
- Large groups of cab drivers on the street
- Cab drivers dropping litter

Local residents and businesses complained to Islington Council about mini cab firms along Cally Road and Bridgeman Road and Bingfield and Northdown Streets. We ran checks on parking, drivers and vehicles to ensure they were not breaking the law.

Over the last year we have made 59 visits to minicab offices across Islington, and inspected 328 minicabs. Forty-two of these were found to be unfit for use. Please use a licensed minicab office – if you have any concerns or suspicions, please report them. Go to www.islington.gov.uk/safer to find out how you can check if your local cab firm or driver is licensed.

Make sure your bike isn't just for Christmas

If you got a nice new bike for Christmas, make sure you lock it securely to make it harder for thieves to steal.

Islington Police have been using decoy bikes in hotspots to catch would-be thieves, and have already made six arrests in one hotspot area. Two cycle shops are offering a 10% discount on all safety and security items to cyclists who have a safer bikes voucher. The shops taking part are Mosquito Bikes, 123 Essex Road, and Finsbury Cycles, 185 Seven Sisters Road.

Caledonian SNT will be handing out vouchers, contact us to find out how you can get yours.

For simple tips to prevent your bike being stolen, or to download a discount voucher, go to www.islington.gov.uk/saferbikes. Remember; **always** lock your bike – even if you are leaving it on a shared balcony or hallway.

And register your bike at www.immobilise.com so if it is stolen, police can return it.

And if you are unlucky enough to have your bike stolen?

- Report it! Call **0300 123 1212**

Islington Council are installing and upgrading sheds, stands and other safer parking initiatives. If you want safer cycling stands in your area, contact volkan.ulucay@islington.gov.uk.

Want to stop drinking or taking drugs?

If you would like help to make your 2010 a year free of drink or drugs, please contact the Islington NHS drink and drugs helpline on 08000 66 55 25 for information, advice and support. Don't leave it another year.

We are listening to you

You see it, hear it, report it. We deal with it.

Help us by reporting any problems so that we can take action.

Graffiti, fly posting, dog fouling, fly tipping:
Islington Council - **020 7527 2000**

Anti-social behaviour or drug dealing:
Caledonian SNT on **020 7421 0271**

For non-emergencies, or to report a crime which has already taken place call **0300 123 1212**.

Remember in an emergency always dial **999**.

If you are Deaf or have hearing difficulties you can use a textphone, dial **18000** in an emergency, or if your call is not an emergency - **18001 0300 123 1212**.

Safer web pages

You can find these numbers and other information about crime and safety at Islington Council's new webpages www.islington.gov.uk/safer. Please have a look and let us know what other information about crime and safety you would like to see there.

Want more information on crime figures?

Go to www.met.police.uk/crimefigures. You can type in your postcode for information about your ward and the borough of Islington.

Decide Cally's police priorities

If you don't agree with the three priorities on the front of this newsletter, why don't you join our Safer Neighbourhoods ward panel? Then you can tell us what is a priority for you as the panel sets local police priorities. Contact Caledonian SNT for more information.

Meet Caledonian Safer Neighbourhoods team

We hold regular drop-in meetings, where you can come and talk to us about any concerns you have.

For updated meeting information go to www.met.police.uk/teams/islington/caledonian

Here are the dates for our next meetings – all at Westbourne Community Centre, 43 Roman Way:
10 February, 6.30 – 7.30pm
10 March, 6.30 – 7.30pm
14 April, 6.30 – 7.30pm

TEAM MEMBERS

Sgt Davis Wiggins PC Carel Le Masson
PCSO John Argyrou PCSO George Motum
PCSO Saskia Van den Berghe

CONTACT

Caledonian Team, Islington Police Station
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020 7421 0271 07876 132 092
Caledonian.snt@met.police.uk

You can find a map of your ward and details of other Safer Neighbourhoods teams by using the online postcode search on www.met.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods
Your SNT is not a 24-hour emergency response team. In an emergency always dial 999.

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