

Welcome from our new Chief Executive

Miranda Carruthers-Watt was appointed as the new Chief Executive of Lancashire Police Authority in April 2007. Here she outlines some of her plans for her new role.

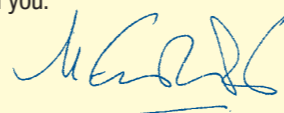
“As a Lancashire resident and Council Tax payer, I feel privileged to have been appointed to the role and want to make sure that the Authority works even harder to make sure that local people have their say in local policing.

Therefore, we have developed “Investors in Policing”, a new campaign that urges people to look upon their local police as a service in which they invest and in which they, rightly, should have a say in its direction.

Lancashire is a top performing force but to help improve performance and 'customer' satisfaction still further I believe that that the amount of 'red tape' in the police system needs to be reduced and that we must make even more effort to work with partners in Local Authorities, the Criminal Justice system and community and voluntary groups so that resources are targeted at problem solving. The role of the Police Authority is important: it makes sure that the Police use their resources efficiently and effectively and it monitors police performance. This means we spend a lot of time working with the police to look at those things

which people in Lancashire have told us are important.

I'm keen to build up awareness and understanding of the role of the Police Authority and demonstrate how we work with the Constabulary to ensure an efficient and effective police service, to clearly show how council tax contributions are used and to increase public confidence in policing. One of the things that I want to do is to make sure that the task of “holding the Police to account” is clearly understood across Lancashire. Please do keep talking to us, either through your local Police Authority Community meetings (dates can be found at the back of this newsletter) - these are your chance to be involved with Authority Members and the Divisional Commander for your area and to ask some of the difficult questions! - or through our website www.lancspa.gov.uk These are key elements (and challenges) of my role, which I am enjoying immensely. I look forward to working with you.




Miranda Carruthers-Watt

See the centre pages for more information on **Investors in Policing**.



“ALSO IN THIS ISSUE”

- Fix my street
- PAC meeting dates
- Custody Developments

We want to ensure that this newsletter is addressing the issues that are important to you. If you have any suggestions about any issues or topics you would like us to include in the next edition, please contact Naomi Walker on 01772 531214 or e-mail naomi.walker@lpa.lancscc.gov.uk

Policing Puzzle Solved!

Young Luke Britton enjoyed a VIP trip in a police car from the new Central Police Station in Preston on Sunday 8th July, courtesy of Lancashire Police Authority. Ten year old Luke from Preston, was the lucky winner of the Police Authority's Word Puzzle competition in the community newsletter 'Newsbeat', issued earlier this year.

Hundreds of entries were received and Luke's name was drawn out of a hat by the Authority's Chief Executive, Miranda Carruthers-Watt, who said: “We are keen to see young people taking an interest in policing and it is always a shame that there can only be one winner. However, Luke had

a wonderful time and hopefully will tell his friends all about it!”

Luke, who considers that the most important job for the police is 'catching criminals', was met by Sgt Nicholson of the Road Policing Unit at Central Division where he had his photograph taken with a patrol car as a memento of the day. This was followed by, in his view, the best bit of the day - a trip out in the police car to see all the gadgets first hand.

When asked about his journey in the police car, Luke said: “I thought it was great and would like another go!”



“POLICE CALL ON MOTORISTS TO CONSIDER CRIME PREVENTION”

Police chiefs in Preston are urging motorists to act sensibly and take responsibility for their belongings after a small rise in the theft of satellite navigation systems from cars across the city. Despite continued awareness campaigns some motorists across the region are still failing to take simple and sensible precautions to prevent them becoming victims of crime.

Police Inspector James Lee said: ‘We are doing all we can but I am afraid to say that many motorists are just inviting problems. They leave cars with expensive satellite navigation equipment in full view and they are shocked when they return to their car to find it stolen. Alternatively they remove the equipment and hide it under the car seat or stick it in the glove box. Car thieves are not stupid, they see the empty cradle and they know that there is a good chance that the owner has popped it under the seat and hey presto!’

As part of a new initiative, the police are handing out crime prevention packs which include a UV marker pen, advice sheet and car sticker, to prompt people to mark both their new and existing vehicle equipment. These packs are available free of charge through major retailers across the city such as Halfords, BASE Systems and Argos, and packs are also available at car retailers and petrol stations.



The message is simple. If you have a satellite navigation system in your vehicle, get a pack and mark your system with your post code and house number. Make a note of the model and serial number and keep it somewhere safe. More importantly don't leave your set in your car when it is parked unattended! And finally, if you have family and friends with a system give them this same advice - don't let them learn the hard way.

It's Congratulations as Preston comes out top of the POPs again!



Open windows and doors invite burglaries



Preston police are warning residents to remain vigilant to the threats of burglary throughout the summer months. Burglaries have been occurring across Preston during the day, a time when many residents leave doors and windows unlocked.

Brian Gresty, Community Safety Officer said: “When you are in your house please ensure that your front door is locked and use common sense when leaving doors or windows open. Door chains and window locks should be used if they are fitted.”

Police are finding the biggest problem with burglaries occur in student accommodation, particularly halls of residence.

Brian added: “Students are leaving their windows open and then going off to lectures. They need to be really conscientious as this affects not only themselves but others as well.”

So, don't leave your front windows or doors open when you're in the back garden and close downstairs windows when you go to bed.

Operation Detention, a Problem Oriented Policing (POP) initiative run by Preston Police, came out top of the POPs at this year's Lancashire Constabulary 'POP' Conference and will now be considered at national and international policing conferences.

Operation Detention, run by a local policing team made up of PC Abid Majid, PC Phil Spencer, PCSO Steve Moon, PS Tony Murphy and local partner from Brookfield School, Siraz Lulat, has dramatically reduced anti-social behaviour and criminal damage at Brookfield School.

POP is all about identifying and solving underlying problems in partnership with local communities, rather than simply responding to

individual incidents. So, once the school's problem areas had been identified, extra lighting and camera equipment was installed, out of school sports groups were started and a 'Surestart' set up. In addition, anti-social behaviour orders (ASBOs) were issued to repeat offenders and police patrols increased.

Operation Detention was so successful that criminal damage was reduced by 96%, saving the school £400 a month!

For more news about other successful POP solutions from Preston Police, including 'Operation Raikes Restoration' and 'Smash and Grab' contact 0845 1253545.



“YOU ARE AN INVESTOR IN POLICING”

July 1st marked the launch of the Police Authority's 'Investors in Policing' campaign, when hundreds of local people were brought in for questioning - but they weren't in trouble, they were helping us with our enquiries by sharing their thoughts on policing.

Views were captured by people either leaving a 'video statement' in the special video diary booth or by allocating '£125 policing pounds' across 16 areas of policing to show how they think that money should be spent.

The five top five choices were, in order of priority:

1. Terrorism
2. Tackling drugs crime
3. Tackling anti-social behaviour
4. Bringing criminals to justice
5. Keeping communities safe

People were also invited to 'grab' (and keep) real £5 notes kindly sponsored by the research company SMSR mingled in with 'fake' notes in the money grabber kiosk.

Looking for answers

The event epitomised the significance the Authority is placing on community involvement and its drive to include the views of the whole community in shaping local policing.

As Chief Executive of the Authority Miranda Carruthers-Watt explains, the Police Authority has a vital role in this - and so do you. “The Police Authority is the bridge between the public and the police,” she said. “As council tax payers the public has a right to have a say in the way their money is spent on all local services, and that includes policing. Giving people the opportunity to make their voice heard and taken into account is one of our key roles. Residents can give us their views in a number of ways, such as completing our online survey; attending Police Authority Community Meeting where they can talk to Police Authority members and

police officers; or by emailing (info@lpa.lancscc.gov.uk) or telephoning us direct on **01772 533587**.

It's important that people know what the Authority does, our role in holding the Chief Constable to account, delivering value for money services and how they can get involved. We really want feedback on the policing service residents receive so that we can drive forward improvements. Investors in Policing will help us do this.”

What Investors in Policing will achieve:

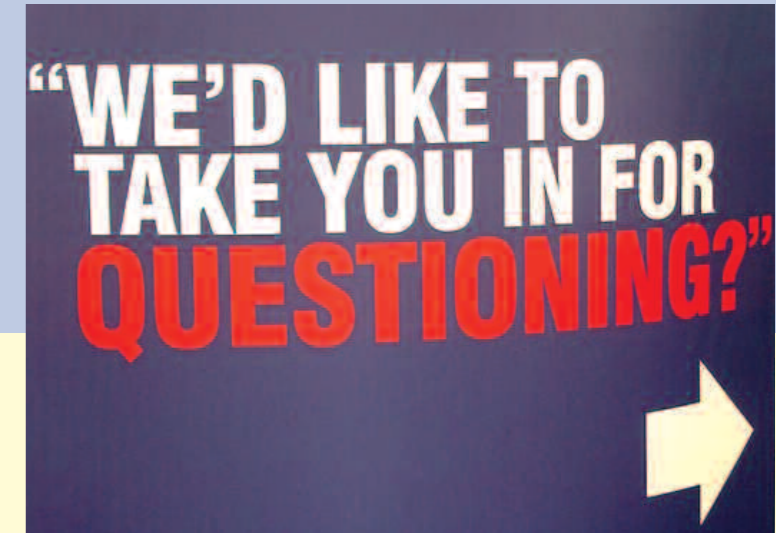
- Better dialogue with the whole community
- Policing priorities based on, and responsive to, local needs
- Customer-focused policing services
- Increased satisfaction with the police service
- Greater understanding of local issues
- An awareness of the role of the Police Authority
- Trust and openness between the police and the public

This new and highly pro-active campaign sends a clear message from the Police Authority. Talk to us and we will listen!

As Miranda concludes: “We are making it easier and more enjoyable for people to get involved in policing, whether as individuals, community groups or via our partners. By working together we can develop a police service that really reflects the needs and priorities of local communities which, in turn, will lead to more confidence in the police.



People were invited to 'grab' (and take home) real £5 notes mingled in with 'fake' notes in the wind machine



We took hundreds of people in for questioning!



A bustling marquee



A visit by officers from the Constabulary



A lucky winner



“PACT MEETING STOPS THE STRIKERS IN GREYFRIARS”



Residents in the Greyfriars Crescent area used to complain regularly about children playing football on a small area of land, right in the middle of the street. Youngsters came from all around to take part in the game. The grass made the perfect football pitch and the trees fantastic goalposts. However, even Ronaldo hits the odd wayward shot and a football was regularly sent hurtling into the surrounding gardens causing damage and upset all round.

The issue was raised at the local PACT (Police and Communities Together) meeting and, working in partnership with the Council’s Parks Department, local councillor, Dave Hammond was able to gain

permission and secure funding to carry out changes to the landscape to prevent budding Beckhams from perfecting their skills in such a public place.

Councillor Hammond said, ‘We have had quite a few success stories in Cadley and Greyfriars over the last couple of years. This is just one example of what can be achieved when we all work together and P.A.C.T. gets involved. There are one or two other projects in the pipeline and I’m sure I’ll be reporting to you fairly soon with more good news.’

If there is an issue driving you mad in your community, come along to this or any other of Preston’s community PACT meetings and see what can be done. Tell your friends!

Check out your local policing team and the date of the next PACT Meeting by visiting the Lancashire Constabulary web site at www.lancashire.police.uk or if you don’t have access to the web contact your local police on 0845 1 25 35 45.

Dispersal order for St. Georges Ward



Preston police have taken serious action following complaints from local residents. People from St Georges Ward, Preston were concerned about incidents of anti-social behaviour, criminal damage, vehicle crime and domestic burglary being carried out by a group of troublemakers.

To address the growing anxiety of residents the local police successfully gained a six month dispersal order in May 2007 for the area known as The Saints – a section of the St George’s Ward in Preston.

Inspector Steve Evans said, ‘Our local policing team had this action set for them by local residents who attend the Saints PACT Meetings.

Despite us having some early successes through Group Intervention Panel Referrals and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts local people told us that the problems had not gone away. For them this issue had become a priority and we have taken the ultimate step and successfully sought this dispersal order.

“This allows us to disperse any groups within this area during the evening hours whilst also giving officers the power to take home those aged under 16 between the hours of 9pm – 6am. The message to local people is that gangs of youngsters roaming the local streets will not be tolerated and they will be removed.”

Police warn motorists

Preston police are warning motorists to curb their speed following an increase in the number of accidents on a busy city route. Traffic police in Preston are reminding motorists that the speed limit on Guildway is 30 mph.

PC Dave Taylor of the Road Policing Unit told Dialogue, ‘We have recently noticed an increase in the number of collisions on Guildway, and sadly this includes a fatality. Many of these collisions are directly attributable to excess speed. Recent speed checks have detected vehicles travelling in excess of 60mph. We would remind drivers that the speed limit on this road is 30mph up to the point where the 40mph signs are. Speed limits are set for one reason only and that is to make the roads safer.’

Police are hoping that this warning will encourage drivers to watch their speed before the enforcement aspect begins and people start to get points on their licenses.

PC Taylor went on to say, ‘We are committed to reducing the number of casualties on the roads of the City and to achieve this, motorists may well notice an increase in Police enforcement activity on this road and at other collision hotspots. Drivers exceeding the speed limit can expect a fine, penalty points on their licence and in the most serious cases could face a period of disqualification.’

Your Questions Answered

On your behalf we have asked the Constabulary to answer a number of questions that were asked by the public at the Police Authority meetings. If you have any questions that you would like us to answer please contact us via email to: info@lpa.lancscc.gov.uk

Did the Authority get recompensed for any cost occurred during the merger?

In respect of Lancashire, the Home Office has paid the full claim of £725,000 for costs incurred in preparation for the merger, which included the staffing and accommodation costs of the Joint Programme Office.

Is it illegal for plain clothes officers to enter a house without identifying themselves to the owner?

It is considered good practice for all police officers to identify themselves when dealing with members of the public, and certain powers require this to be done by law, eg stop/search, execution of warrant etc.

Will Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) in Lancashire be given any extra powers?

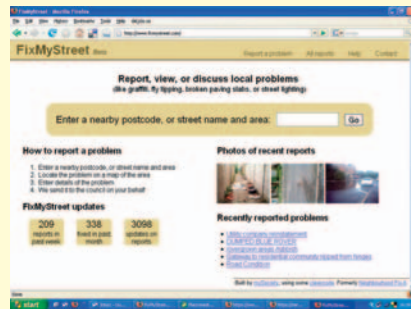
PCSOs in Lancashire have some powers, and across the country forces are piloting different levels amongst their own PCSOs. There is an ongoing national debate regarding the breadth of powers that a PCSOs should have and Lancashire is contributing to this debate as we have an excellent reputation in relation to Neighbourhood Policing.

“DIALOGUE”

Police Authority Community Meetings - September to October 2007

| District | Venue | Date | Time |
|-----------------------|---|--------------------------|------|
| Lancaster | Morecambe Town Hall, Marine Road East, Morecambe, LA4 5AS | Tuesday 4th September | 7pm |
| Wyre | Wyre Civic Centre, Breck Road, Poulton-le-Fylde, FY6 7PU | Wednesday 5th September | 7pm |
| Ribble Valley | Ribble Valley Borough Council Offices, Church Walk, Clitheroe, BB7 2RA | Wednesday 12th September | 7pm |
| Preston | St Stephen's C of E School, South Meadow Lane, Preston, PR1 8JN | Monday 17th September | 7pm |
| Blackpool | Park School, 158 Whitegate Drive, Blackpool, FY3 9HF | Thursday 20th September | 7pm |
| West Lancashire | Digmoor Community Centre, Birleywood, Digmoor, Skelmersdale WN8 9HR | Monday 24th September | 7pm |
| Chorley | Coppull Youth & Community Centre, Springfield Road, Coppull, PR7 5EJ | Monday 1st October | 7pm |
| South Ribble | Penwortham Community Centre, Kingsfold Drive, Penwortham PR1 9EQ | Thursday 4th October | 7pm |
| Blackburn-With-Darwen | Greenfield Community Centre, Green Lane, Blackburn BB2 4SR | Monday 8th October | 7pm |
| Fylde | YMCA, St Albans Road, St Annes on Sea, Lancashire, FY8 1XD | Thursday 11th October | 7pm |
| Burnley | Howard Street Community Health Centre, Tay Street, Burnley, BB11 4PQ | Monday 15th October | 7pm |
| Pendle | Foulridge Village Hall, Parkinson Street, Foulridge Colne, BB8 7PS | Wednesday 17th October | 7pm |
| Hyndburn | Norden High School & Sports College, Stourton Street, Rishton, Blackburn, BB1 4ED | Thursday 18th October | 7pm |
| Rossendale | The Riverside Whitworth Civic Hall, Market Street, Whitworth, OL12 8DP | Thursday 25th October | 7pm |

www.fixmystreet.com



Launched in February 2007, **FixMyStreet** is a new website to help people highlight local problems to the council simply by locating them on a map.

Simply visit the website at www.fixmystreet.com and

follow the instructions. A spokesperson for Fylde Borough Council said: "The site is very good, nice and simple to use with good mapping facilities. We have received about 10 requests so far with pictures detailing the problem - all of which have now been resolved."

“CUSTODY DEVELOPMENTS”

The valuable work of Lancashire Police Authority's Independent Custody Visitor volunteers largely goes unseen. They are members of the community who not only provide an extra level of protection to detainees but also help to provide community reassurance and improve public understanding of Custody Procedures. Through the scheme Lancashire Police Authority strives to ensure that custody areas are a safe environment for all people who come into contact with the police.



To promote the important role of the Custody Visitors and provide a training aid, the Police Authority is currently developing a multi-media DVD with the help of Lancashire Constabulary and a local theatrical group. Filming recently took place at the new state of the art custody suite at new police operation centre in Preston. The new custody centre opened on Wednesday, 18th July and replaced the old police cells at Lawson Street Police Station.

The Lancashire Evening Post came along to film the day. The newspaper article and film footage can be found at <http://www.lep.co.uk/features-av?articleid=3044514>

Further information on the scheme can be found at <http://www.lancspa.gov.uk/contribute/volunteers/icv>

“CONTACT”

In an emergency when you need an immediate response dial 999
 Police Non emergency number - 0845 1253545
 Crimestoppers - a confidential phone line - 0800 555 111
 Lancashire Police Authority - 01772 533462

Remember.....If the police don't know about a problem they cannot do anything about it.