

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.

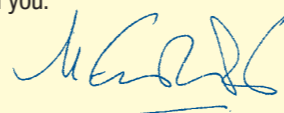
“As a Lancashire resident and Council Tax payer, I feel privileged to have been appointed to the role and want to make sure that the Authority works even harder to make sure that local people have their say in local policing.

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 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!”



“RESPECT AWARDS - CONGRATULATIONS”



The Winners. From left to right - Bryan Ward FBC Community Safety Manager (nominator) Louise Casey, Respect Co-ordinator, Alan Clayton, Chairman of the WCPT and Paul Stevens, WCPT Treasurer.

Congratulations to Wesham Community Pride Trust (WCPT) on winning £1,000 at the Respect 'Take A Stand' Awards at Birmingham on 19th April for their part in the Wesham and Kirkham Cleansweep which was held in October 2006.

Alan Clayton said “We are absolutely delighted to have been nominated and receive this award which we will certainly put to good use in Wesham.”

‘MOSQUITO’ KEEPS YOUTHS OUT OF TROUBLE

The local village of Warton has taken drastic steps to deter trouble-making youngsters gathering near the local Co-Op.

PC Paul Edson said, “In December 2006 there was a serious juvenile nuisance problem at the Co-Op on Harbour Lane. Working with the Store Manager we approached the Co-Op security team with the result that a “Mosquito” device was authorised and fitted at the store. The ‘Mosquito’ works by emitting high pitched sounds of 70 to 80 decibels. Most adults can’t hear the noise, but youngsters find it irritating and it usually dissuades them from hanging around.

Since its introduction there has been a steady reduction in juvenile related problems outside the store, which has reduced the impact on Police resources and improved the quality of life for local residents.

Both residents and police officers have commented on the change and the positive impact it has had on the area.”

The number of problems has been reduced by some 30%.

Local police support Weeton ‘Walk to School’ Week



Local officers in the rural village of Weeton have supported local school children as they took part in ‘Walk to School’ Week in July.

PC Sharon Lyons said, “Each day the children from Weeton St Michaels Church of England Primary School walked from the village hall up to the school and hopefully learnt that walking to school has enormous benefits for both them and their environment.

We know that research suggests levels of pollutants inside a car are much higher than they are on the pavements so the children are actually being healthier as well, breathing fresh air and getting some additional exercise. The Eagle and Child public house kindly sponsored the children and paid for the high visibility tabards which the children and their teachers wore for the week.”

As part of the week’s events, Community Volunteer, Will Hull and his famous Morris Minor ‘Old Bill’ came along to speak to the children about

road safety in one of the teaching sessions. Everyone had great fun learning all about crossing the road and how to keep themselves safe whilst getting to school on foot doing practical exercises in the playground. Many of the children also had the opportunity to have a ride in the famous Morris Minor ‘Old Bill’, the oldest police car still on active duty in the UK.

The children were also given a talk by PC Lyons on various aspects of keeping themselves safe in the summer holidays, including topics such as ‘Stranger Danger’, Internet safety, Mobile Phone Safety and Bullying. Sharon also gave the children advice on how to keep themselves safe on their bikes, including wearing safety equipment and securing their bicycles.

Kirsty age eight said, “This has been the best day of my life.”

Nightsafe - enforcing sensible drinking in the Fylde



Police in Lytham, St Annes and Kirkham are using ‘Nightsafe’ teams to police town centres as part of the Operation Summer Nights campaign. The aim is to advise people to drink sensibly and work closely with local licensees to get the message across in pubs and clubs while providing a high visibility police presence in the town centres and reassurance to the residents and visitors of Fylde.

Sergeant Laura Lawler who has responsibility for the Fylde Nightsafe operation said: “Officers will be working with colleagues from the local Neighbourhood Policing Teams to prevent and deter crime. They will conduct rotating patrols at pubs, clubs and late night refreshment places in the area. We don’t have a specific problem and levels of violent crime are actually decreasing but this is the time of year when warm summer evenings can encourage people to have one or two too many. We have always had a very good relationship with licensees in the Fylde and they are all totally committed to ‘Nightsafe’ principles. Each and every one of them is putting energy and effort into making sure their customers are aware of the behaviour we expect.

We will also be monitoring behaviour at pub closing times. Residents should be able to expect their evenings not to be interrupted by noisy or rowdy behaviour, so officers will be asking people to respect communities when they are on their way home.”



“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:

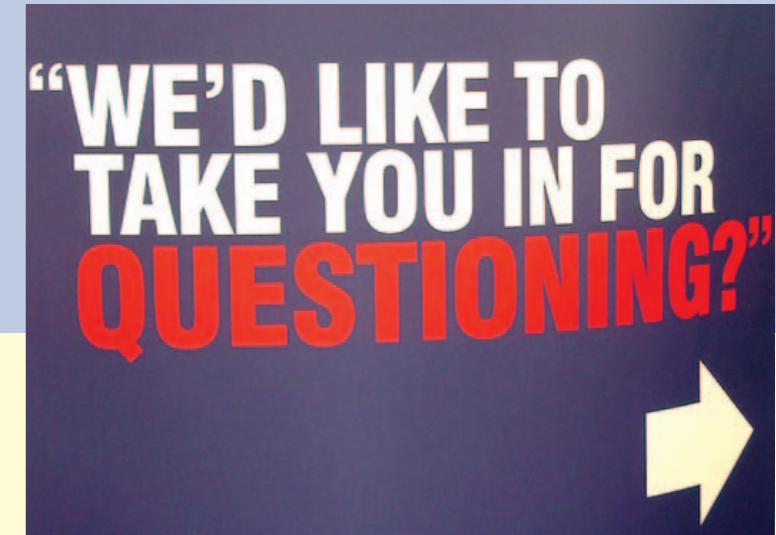
- Better dialogue with the whole community
- Policing priorities based on, and responsive to, local needs
- Customer-focused policing services
- Increased satisfaction with the police service
- Greater understanding of local issues
- An awareness of the role of the Police Authority
- Trust and openness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



‘OLD BILL’ TARGETS SPEEDING MOTORISTS IN SINGLETON

The oldest police car on active duty in the UK is being used to tackle a speeding problem in the rural Fylde village of Singleton.



Pic 'Will Hull with 'Old Bill'

The car is proudly owned by Will Hull, formerly a police officer with fifteen years police service. The 1960's Morris Minor 1000, fondly known as 'Old Bill' is being used to promote the 'Thirty or Less' campaign. Will said, "I have over forty years experience with classic cars and when I came back as a Police Community Volunteer, it seemed an ideal opportunity to promote the road safety message in our communities.

It's amazing the effect that simply seeing the car has on drivers and even those that aren't speeding, slow down to have a look. It's all about prevention rather than cure and I've been going into schools with my police colleagues to educate young people and children about the need to practice good road safety procedures and to raise awareness about the dangers associated with excessive speeds, especially on rural roads."

'Old Bill' has a stage one tuned MG engine with modifications, which in Will's words, makes the old campaigner a veritable, "Wolf in Sheep's clothing."

Nightsafe - making Blackpool town centre safer at night

Every year Blackpool plays host to millions of people who visit the resort to have a good night out, whether it's for an 'early doors' drink, a meal, to take in a show or really make a night of it by going clubbing. This summer, the resort's Nightsafe Team are ensuring they can do so safely, by reminding local licensees that drinks discounting leads to increases in crime and disorder.

In 2003, when the Nightsafe initiative was launched, discounted drinks promotions were the norm and everyone suffered. Since the introduction of the drinks discounting protocol when the majority of licensees in the town centre signed up to the scheme, Blackpool has seen levels of violence decrease in the town centre.

Sgt Billy Giffin heads up the town's Nightsafe Department. He said: "The majority of our local licensed premises have signed up to our responsible drinks discounting policy and are to be congratulated because their willingness to co-operate with Nightsafe and work with us to improve the night time economy has made an enormous difference.

"However, there are still the odd few licensed premises that are not signed up and over the next week we are sending out letters to everyone, to remind them about our protocols and that drink discounting is a breach of their operating conditions."



Nightsafe
Reducing alcohol related violent crime

"We strongly believe that working together with the industry is part of the solution to addressing the problem of alcohol-related violent crime and anti social behaviour and it is very encouraging to see that the majority of our licensees are willing to put energy and effort into making sure our visitors are aware of Nightsafe and the behaviour we expect in the town.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY



On World Environment Day (5th June, 2007), Fylde Community Safety Partnership provided over thirty hanging baskets to Our Lady Star Of the Sea Primary School in St Anne's with instructions from one of the Parks Gardeners in how to plant and look after the baskets.

There was an enthusiastic response by the children from Year 6 and the baskets resulted in a colourful display, some World Environment Day of which have been hung on the school building and the remainder taken home by the local children.

Brian Ward, Community Safety Manager for Fylde, said "We decided to become involved in World Environment Day to enhance the local environment and to raise awareness amongst the younger members of the community about the benefits of improving their town and appreciating the work that goes into producing such displays."

NIGHTSAFE WELCOMES VISITORS WITH NEW CARD SCHEME

As part of the successful Nightsafe scheme, Blackpool Police have launched a new Code of Conduct card. The Nightsafe card aims to be welcoming whilst still letting people know that any inappropriate behaviour will be dealt with.

The card says:

- Welcome to Blackpool**
- Enjoy yourselves in a responsible manner
 - Respect the town and other visitors
 - If you act inappropriately you will be dealt with by the police accordingly

The vast majority of people have fun responsibly, with a small minority spoiling it for the others. Groups of people entering the town for the busy

weekends will be warned that any inappropriate behaviour will be met with swift police action.

Inspector Keith Ogle says, "We hope that the cards will remind people that this is a family resort and bad behaviour is unacceptable. Cllr Maxine Callow, cabinet member for Regeneration and Tourism said: "We are working alongside local police to promote the message that Blackpool is a place of family fun; but for the sake of yourselves and others, please don't over step the mark and ruin your stay."

Ted Pierce who runs a local KFC franchise is fully supportive of the Code of Conduct Cards and is part-funding the production of the cards. He said, "I feel very strongly that we should be able to take pride in our town and welcome visitors into an environment that is friendly and trouble free. That is why I am happy to support the police and their partners in their endeavours."

“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.