



Hello from the Communications Team!

Welcome to our fourth Police Authority Newsletter "Dialogue", aimed at providing you with information on issues that have arisen as a result of our Police Authority Community meetings and to alert you to any other information that we think will be of interest to you.

For this edition we thought we should introduce ourselves and give you a quick insight into our roles at the Police Authority.



Naomi Walker, Communications Manager

Description - An adorer of sour cream and chive Pringles, all things Flemish and a huge 'Lost' fanatic.

Role - responsible for the developing and delivering of public consultation activities, external publications and community events as well as coordinating internal and external communications, giving feedback to the public about the Authority and making sure that the public views on policing are fed into the Authority's performance scrutiny and planning process.

Why get out of bed in the morning? "I live such a hectic life... balancing the intricacies of my quest for the perfect lipstick between being a wife and mother and doing a job I really enjoy...give me a reason to stay in bed!"



Ian Dickinson, Administrator

Description - The proud owner of 'Dads taxi's', all things Maltese and a Preston North End Fan (well, someone has to be)

Role - to assist the Communications Manager in the delivery of public consultation activities, external publications and community events as well as co-ordinating the Authority's Independent Custody and Animal Welfare Schemes and servicing Police Authority Committees.

Why get out of bed in the morning? "My wife tells me to!"



Danielle Norton, Administrative Assistant

Description - I enjoy going to the theatre and the cinema, eating out and spending time with family and friends.

Role - to assist in the provision, maintenance and development of the Police Authority website including responding to all communication received through the site. I work with the Communications Manager to achieve delivery of public consultation activities and community events and assist the scheme administrator for the Authority's Independent Custody Visitor Scheme.

Why get out of bed in the morning?

Interesting question... "It's generally a struggle but I am lucky to have such a diverse and interesting role to undertake when I do get to work and outside of work, there is always shopping..."

what affects your confidence?

As you are aware the Police Authority regularly measures the public's confidence in Lancashire Constabulary through its resident's Panel "Opinion". Since the start of the panel in 2002 we have been asking how confident residents are in the police and what things affect the way they feel. From this we know what impacts on confidence and can take steps to address those issues that cause a decrease.

Currently confidence in the police is high at 88%. The table below details the most recent reasons given by our panel members. We will continue to keep you informed of the results in future editions of Dialogue.

Things that increase confidence:	Things that decrease confidence:
Positive/professional reaction from the police (31%)	No/slow response from police (27%)
Rapid response from police (27%)	Unhappy with police reaction/follow up (26%)
Increase in visible police presence (27%)	Negative media coverage (9%)

In this issue

Confidence

The Budget Process

Raising the Standards

Your Safety Our Priority

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.lancsc.gov.uk

Working in Partnership

Community safety leaders from across the Northern Division came together at the end of February to cement partnerships aimed at improving the quality of life of local residents.

Representatives from the police, fire, Wyre Borough and Lancaster City Councils, and the Environment Agency were among those who attended workshop days in Fleetwood and Lancaster.

The events saw the agencies involved give demonstrations on the work they do and how all the partners can come together to share both data and intelligence to provide a co-ordinated approach to community safety and problem solving.

Groups from different agencies joined together in workshops to show how they could work in partnership on various scenarios.

The workshops were a forerunner to the development of a Multi-Agency Partnerships (MAPS) team that is being established in the Wyre and Lancaster later this year.

The MAPS teams will work side by side at sites in Lancaster, Poulton and Fleetwood for the first time and see combined solutions for initiatives to tackle a wide range of issues such as anti-social behaviour and fly tipping.

The teams will work together to share

information, advice and expertise in order to solve problems being experienced by members of our community.

Ch Insp Tracie O’Gara, the Northern Division’s lead officer on Partnerships said: “The police have an excellent record of working in partnership with external agencies and we feel this enhanced partnership environment will positively contribute towards reducing crime and disorder levels.

With all of the relevant agencies together under one roof it provides a dynamic opportunity for partners to work together to provide sustainable solutions to further reduce crime.”

Councillor Russell Forsyth, Leader of Wyre Borough Council, said: “We are committed to working collaboratively with the police and other agencies to reduce crime and fear of crime in the borough.

We know that problems like anti-social behaviour and environmental crime are top of our residents’ main concerns. Crime and grime blight communities and affect the way people feel about where they live so we’re determined to do everything we can to address such important issues.

By working together we can really make a positive difference to improve the quality of life for the people of our areas in the future.”

bobbies on bikes step up patrols in rural areas

Bobbies on bikes are set to step up patrols in the rural areas

The move comes after the Lancaster Neighbourhood Policing Team took delivery of the specially-prepared bikes funded by Lancaster City Council’s Cycle Demonstration Town Project.

Thanks to funding from the Cycle Demonstration Town project, Police Community Support Officer Tom Owen

can now be seen travelling regularly around his patch which includes Cockerham, Glasson Dock, Galgate and Dolphinholme visiting schools and businesses as well as offering advice to local residents.

Neighbourhood Policing Sergeant Martin Pearson, said the bikes will help improve the police’s links with the rural communities.

He said: “The bikes present an excellent opportunity to

further improve the quality of policing provided to the district. Using these bikes, beat officers and community support officers will be able to provide a highly visible and accessible service with the extra benefit of increased mobility not only in our rural areas providing higher visibility and reducing the fear of crime or possible victimisation for people who live on the outskirts of the city.”

The bikes will also be used by other community officers such as Castle Community Beat Manager PC Mark Finch who goes on two wheels to tour his area on a regular basis.

Added Sgt Pearson: “While Tom covers the rural areas Mark is often to be seen on his area which covers areas such as the quayside and the cycle track. The district has a large amount of cycle paths and cycle users and

the new bikes will improve the policing of those areas. It is apparent that a number of criminals favour bikes as their preferred means of transport and this will assist us in targeting those individuals. I would very much like to thank the project and City Council for providing us with this opportunity.”

Coun Gina Dowding, member of the Cycling Demonstration Town Project Board, said: “It’s great that through working with the police, the Council can make bikes and cycling more visible and therefore a more mainstream form of transport than has been the case in recent years. As far as encouraging more cycling is concerned it’s nearly always a ‘win-win’ situation and this is definitely the case with police now using bikes to get around the communities they serve”.



Custody Developments

Some people who come into custody have physical or mental problems. Problems around alcohol or drug-related abuse or misuse are common and police officers are often placed at considerable risk from prisoners who are violent. These problems however, are over shadowed by the impact of a death in custody for the family and friends of the deceased and also the police officers and staff involved.

Therefore, the Home office recently issued guidance on how police forces should put in place safeguards to help raise the standards of care for those in custody.

Over the next few editions 'Dialogue' will take a look at the guidance and focus on the practical issues



surrounding how the police, with the help of the community through the authority's independent custody visitors scheme; can minimise the risk to those in custody.

Make sure you don't miss the first feature on 'hands on' equipment (for example, ligature knives and defibrillators) in our next edition.

APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT LAY MEMBER ON THE AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Police Authority has an Audit and Standards Committee which has two main roles

- ensuring that ethical standards are maintained across the Authority, by both Authority Members and Officers.
- overseeing both internal and external audit activity and ensuring the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control systems

Two Independent Lay Members from outside the Authority are appointed to this Committee to help increase public confidence, provide a clear signal that the Committee is fair, and bring a wider perspective from their outside experiences.

Following advertisements in the Lancashire press, an appointment process has recently been completed for a new Independent Lay Member to serve on the Committee.

The Authority has appointed Mr Douglas Soper, for a four year term of office commencing on the 1st April 2007. Mr Soper is a CIPFA qualified accountant who has served at senior levels of management in the health service and elsewhere, and has recently retired from his post as Chief Executive of Wyre Primary Care Trust.

did you know...

That when a Police Dog is retired from active service they do not receive any financial support or pension? Police dogs are often retired ahead of schedule due to being injured in the course of their work; or even injured protecting their handler. They are an integral part of operational Policing within Lancashire and provide an invaluable service to our County, loyally serving the handlers and the people of Lancashire.

Mrs Jay Nicholas, Secretary of the Retired Lancashire Police Dogs Benevolent Fund said, "Most of the Lancashire Police Dogs generally retire to their handler, who then has to take over all financial responsibility.

The Retired Lancashire Police Dogs Benevolent Fund is a newly formed charity which has been set up by a small group of Lancashire residents to give financial assistance and support to handlers so



that the dog can stay with the family it loves and trusts for the remainder of its life. The Fund, which we believe is the first of its kind in the Country, is completely independent although we have received tremendous support and encouragement from both officers and staff of Lancashire Constabulary.

Children from Balshaw's High School in Leyland made a fabulous donation of £300 to the Fund which was raised through a 'Stars In Your Eyes' Talent Show which the children staged in School recently. There are some extremely talented children at Balshaws and now that the entry age of the X-Factor has been lowered, who knows, maybe we'll see some of them on the X-Factor next year!

Pictured - Year 9 children from Balshaw's High School in Leyland with Deputy Head, Mr David Croft and Mrs Jay Nicholas, Secretary of the Retired Lancashire Police Dogs Benevolent Fund.



www.lancspa.gov.uk
Visit our new look website

Lancashire Police Authority has updated and re-launched the website following consultation with the public. The new site offers greater levels of accessibility for visitors, provides access to agenda papers for the Authority's committee meetings and information about our public meeting dates. The usual interactive



facilities where you can email us or email members with your questions, comments and queries or take part in consultation to register your views continue to feature on the site.

So log on now www.lancspa.gov.uk and tell us what you think.

coppers for cash

One of the core jobs for the Authority is to set the police budget each year and before we set this we have to make sure we consult with local people.

Both the Authority and the Constabulary want to see the police service get even better, but cutting crime and keeping people safe costs money.

The problem we face is how to match low levels of government funding and a limit on the amount of money we can raise locally from residents, with the growing demands on the service.

This year the Constabulary calculated that it needed another £17.6m a year extra. The Constabulary has sought to use its resources as effectively as possible, but it is reaching the limits of what that can achieve on its own.

We know that residents like a visible and responsive police service and that local neighbourhood policing teams have been well received. So as an Authority it was very important that we did not reduce the investment we have made already in neighbourhood policing.

So how do we solve the problem?

From consultation we know that over half of residents surveyed were willing to pay at least £10 more per year for their policing.

That increase gains the Constabulary an extra £3.3million for the service. This amount together with the Constabulary's own savings of £2.6m would provide:

- more detectives to deal with major crime
- more officers to respond to calls for assistance from the public



- more investment in technology, equipment and buildings to support the police in their work.

The cost

At the full Police Authority meeting on the 14th February 2007 it was agreed that we increase council tax for policing by an extra £10 on a typical band B property in Lancashire from £87.96 to £97.96 a year.

For a Band D property, the increase will raise the current £113.09 cost to £125.95.

Setting the grade for policing

Thinking about what targets we set for the police each year, we asked residents to tell us how successful you thought the constabulary had been in delivering on last year's objectives.

Areas of success residents identified included:

- Keeping the public safe and secure,
- Responding well to dealing with alcohol related and other antisocial behavior
- Keeping the roads safe
- Tackling violent crime
- Dealing with crimes committed as a result of prejudice against another person or group for reasons such as age, skin colour, religion, disability etc

- Dealing with crimes committed as a result of the use of or sale of Class A drugs such as cocaine and heroin

When asked about your priorities for the police for next year, you wanted them to:

- Continue to be accessible to everyone and visible in the community
- Keep you safe and secure
- Deal with alcohol related and other types of anti-social behaviour
- Crack down on violent crime
- Fight Terrorism
- Bring more offences and offenders to justice

Objective 1: To reassure the public, particularly those who are vulnerable.

By providing high quality, flexible and responsive policing services which give emphasis to:

- Accessibility and Visibility
- Anti-social behavior, including alcohol-related
- Diversifying our workforce
- Equitable service delivery
- Positive engagement with young people
- Road Policing
- Safer environments
- Support of victims and witnesses

Objective 2: To reduce and investigate crime, particularly those offences that are of concern to the public.

By providing high quality, flexible and responsive policing services which give emphasis to:

- Acquisitive crime
- Counter- terrorism
- Crimes arising from prejudice (Hate crime)
- Crimes associated with Class A drugs
- Offences brought to justice
- Serious and organised criminality
- Violent Crime, including domestic violence

The Budget Process Explained

Who is involved in the budget process?

The Lancashire Police Authority

Lancashire Police Authority has a statutory requirement to approve and monitor the annual police budget and to set the police element of the council tax.

In doing this the Authority aims to provide the Chief Constable with the necessary financial and manpower resources to enable the delivery of an effective and efficient policing service across Lancashire.

The Authority has a Treasurer, supported by a Finance Team, who provides policy and financial advice to members and recommends a budget strategy to the Authority.

Members of the Public

Members of the public are consulted by the Authority

about levels of council tax and how much they would be prepared to pay before it is set.

For 2007/08, more than half of our citizens' panel indicated they were prepared to pay at least a £10 increase in their council tax bill for policing.

The Chief Constable

As well as being responsible for the day-to-day operation of the budget, the Chief Constable in a specific document 'Blueprint2', has reassessed the needs of the policing service for Lancashire, particularly in relation to 'protective services' which include serious and organised crime, major incidents, vulnerable people and counter-terrorism.

As a result, a review of force-wide operational policing services was undertaken to see how far the existing budget could be re-allocated to assist with these protective services.

How is the Lancashire Police Authority Funded

The main sources of funding are as follows.

Police Grant

The Government allocates this grant which is the largest source of funding for the police service. The Government, within the framework of central government spending plans, decides the overall size of the grant which is allocated by way of the police funding formula. In recent years however the formula has been overridden by a flat-rate percentage increase for all police authorities.

Revenue Support Grant

The Revenue Support Grant is allocated by the Government and like the Police Grant is distributed according to the police funding formula, but again more recently this has been overtaken by a flat-rate increase.

National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR)

The NNDR is based on the rateable value of properties other than houses and flats. The rate at which the NNDR is charged is set nationally by central government and can increase every year by up to the rate of inflation. Income raised from this is collected by local authorities and paid into a national pool which government then shares out

among police authorities in proportion to their resident population.

The sum total of the Police Grant, Revenue Support Grant, National Non-Domestic Rates equates to 77% of the Authority's budget.

Specific grants

The Authority also receives a number of special grants from the Government each year to assist in the funding of specific national projects and initiatives. For instance, the Authority currently receives a specific grant to assist with the recruitment of Police Community Support Officers

Council Tax

Police Authorities are able to raise additional funding through local council tax to meet their budget requirement, subject to any restrictions that the Government may impose by way of "capping".

At present in Lancashire, the contribution made by council taxpayers in the whole of Lancashire to the total budget is 23%.

The Budget Process - who does what and when?

Who?	What?	When?
LPA	Review of the previous year's actual expenditure	May
Constabulary	Review medium term financial forecast (5 year financial review)	October
Constabulary	Blueprint2	
LPA	Public Consultation on police budget	November -January
Government	Announcement of the provisional Financial settlement for all authorities	November
LPA	Consideration of draft policing budget	December/January
Government	Announcement of final financial Settlement.	January
LPA	The LPA makes decisions in relation to final budget and Council Tax	February
Constabulary	Provisional Allocation of budget to department (police divisions etc)	March
Constabulary	Revision of budgets by departments in line with Divisional Policing Plans	March/April
Constabulary	Revised Budgets entered into Accounting System for monitoring purposes	April
LPA	Monitoring of performance against the budget	Ongoing

STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS

Police Authority Community Meetings help us to gain the views of local people and hold the Divisional Commander to account.

In recent years, the authority has widened out its consultation mechanisms to increase public engagement. There has also been an increase in other public meetings, such as the

introduction of PACT by the Constabulary and an increasing use of area committees by local authorities. Therefore, the authority is about to embark on a review of its public meetings and in the coming months will be seeking your views on how the authority can effectively engage with the diverse communities of Lancashire.

RAISING THE STANDARDS

In the next few editions of 'Dialogue' we will be taking a look behind the scenes of the Professional Standards Department who are responsible for dealing with complaints against police officers and police staff.

In the first of our in depth look at the Professional Standards Department (PSD) we focus on the Department's Reactive Unit.

The Reactive Unit's role within PSD is to respond to any incoming allegations from members of the public or employees and is staffed by 25 employees.

The unit deals with approximately 1,250 cases per year which range from the most common of allegations of incivility or assault, which can more often than not be rectified locally in Division, to the more serious allegations of corruption. At any one time, the Unit can have around 150 'live' cases on the go.

The total number of cases per year of 1,250 may seem high; however it is a lot lower than previous years. It may also be of interest to know that many complaints are received as a direct result of a member of the public being arrested.

Superintendent Tony Ronan said of the Reactive Unit's work, "To ensure the highest standards are maintained and our quality of service is not compromised, the Reactive Team works extremely hard to ensure that all cases are treated fairly and in a proportionate way."

So, when a case is received, what happens then?

Timeline

STEP ONE - Assessment

On receiving a case, an assessment is made looking at its severity and the speed with which it must be dealt with.

STEP TWO - Allocation

There are two ways cases could be dealt with. One is a local resolution whereby the matter is solved, explained, and settled with the

complainant by the local policing division or two, for more serious allegations, a full Professional Standards Department investigation would take place. For the most serious allegations, for example deaths in custody or corruption, the Independent Police Complaints Commission would also be involved.

STEP THREE - Investigation and Resolution

If referred to the PSD, two operational teams, under the command of a Detective Chief Inspector, would then fully investigate the case and be supported by an Investigation Support Team.

Direction and Control

If a complaint does not concern the conduct of an officer or member of staff, it may be about the organisation or procedures of the Force such as Operational Management Decisions, Operational Policing Policies and Organisational decisions. These complaints are Direction and Control issues.

All such complaints will be recorded and allocated to the appropriate department so that a complainant can be contacted to discuss the issues raised and give explanations as required. Organisational learning is a key consideration in dealing with Direction and Control matters, and action will be taken to rectify any failures in process.

RAISING STANDARDS NEXT MONTH:

Focus on the Intelligence and Anti-corruption team within PSD

crimestoppers

CRIMESTOPPERS is a way of giving information informally and without telling us who you are.

Every day hundreds of ordinary citizens use the scheme to help the police solve many crimes - not just the most serious. It is highly successful and proves that it is possible to do something to make society safer after all. One in ten calls to Crimestoppers results in an arrest.

How does it work?

- Phone any time at all on 0800 555 111. Your call is Free and the person you speak to will be understanding and helpful.
- You will NOT be asked your name, address or phone number.
- The police will NOT contact you - if you want to ring them back, they will give you a code number.
- You may get a cash reward if your information results in an arrest and charge.
- Any reward is paid out by Crimestoppers without you ever revealing your identity to anyone.
- You won't have to go to court.
- No-one will know who gave us the tip-off.

So, if you're fed up with seeing and hearing about crime, help stop it. If you have any information about any crime phone 0800 555 111



Your safety, our priority

In Opinion our residents' survey, we asked respondents about how safe they felt in various situations. Most felt safest at home and least safe in their nearest town centre both during the day and after dark. The two main things that made them feel less safe referred to-

- No/slow response from the police
- Unhappy with the police reaction or follow up.

The two main reasons that made them feel less safe were related to problems associated with groups of young people hanging around and seeing or hearing about anti-social behaviour.

Both of these issues are high on the Constabulary's agenda as Superintendent Bill McMahan, the Force lead on Citizen Focus

explains:

"We continue to work with local people and partners to make full use of the tools we have available in order to tackle these issues. These include making full use of our Youth Referral Scheme, Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs), Dispersal Orders and, in appropriate cases, Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs). The Constabulary also works closely with other agencies to tackle anti-social behaviour. Taken together, we are committed to delivering neighbourhood policing and ensuring local people have a real chance to influence the way their local policing services are delivered. We will continue to work to address these issues and keep you updated on any developments".

garstang pubwatch

No incidents of drink-fuelled anti-social behaviour in pubs around Garstang have been reported to police since November, and Community Policing Team Sgt Matt Kneale says it's all down to PubWatch.

The scheme was set up in October last year to help landlords clamp down on persistent offenders, and they began by banning seven people from their pubs in November. Since then more pubs have joined the project, and Sgt Matt Kneale and ex-licensee Joe Curran, who introduced the initiative, are pleased with the progress it has made.

Neighbourhood Policing Team Sgt Matt Kneale said: "It's working and we want to reassure the public that it

has been a success. The licensees have all said it's working and people are now fully aware of what will happen if they cause anti-social or criminal behaviour within pubs or outside pubs - they will be excluded.

There hasn't been one reported incident of anti-social behaviour in the pubs around Garstang and Over Wyre since November - none over Christmas and none in January. The licensees are working together and believe that the scheme is beneficial to the community."

Landlords are just as happy with being part of a successful scheme. Jane Gregory, landlord of The Flag, A6, said: "We've got a really quiet pub but it's

always handy to have PubWatch to back you up. I think 'how lucky are we?' when we hear this, that and the other. But you know which people you're looking for. I think it's really good. Everyone's quick to help one another and we can keep in touch."

Geoff Wallwork, landlord of The Crown, Garstang, added: "It's been a success and made people think twice. There isn't an atmosphere around town anymore. It's made them sit up and think. It makes you feel more comfortable certainly on busy nights. You could have a scenario before where I would throw someone out and they would go up the road to another pub. I used to have to ring people to warn



them. But now they're not going to mess you about."

Joe Curran, who is employed by the Wyre Community Safety Partnership to work with licensees, said: "We have seen a reduction in alcohol related crime and disorder. It is significant that only 8 or 9 banning orders have been issued. The message is getting across to individuals that if they commit anti-social behaviour in pubs they will be subject to a banning order. I am pleased to see a significant drop in alcohol related crime and the evolution of the PubWatch scheme in Garstang."

Local police launch Community Safety Player Card Scheme with Morecambe Football Club

An innovative campaign to help children understand important safety messages has been launched by local police and Morecambe Football Club.

The club has produced a set of 21 player cards featuring varied advice on community safety issues covering topics such as anti-social behaviour, criminal damage, bullying

and racism in the community.

The cards will be available until the end of the season with two different cards being released to correspond with Morecambe's final 11 home Conference games. "Swapsies" days are also set to be planned later in the season so that people can catch up on their

collection. A player signing session is also set to be held later in the season.

The cards are also being distributed by the club's successful community team, which visits schools and local organisations in their quest to promote awareness of the club.

The scheme has been organised by the local police's media manager Derek Quinn who has strong links with the Shrimps. He said: "The player-card initiative has been running for a number of years in Burnley and proved to be very successful in educating young people about community safety and moral issues.

"Morecambe Football Club is a main focal point in the local area and the card scheme will also hopefully help them raise their profile

even further in the community."

Inspector Steve Anderton, a former professional footballer himself with Preston North End and now a representative from the Lancaster Community Safety Partnership said: "We have taken this opportunity to highlight issues surrounding community safety with each card endorsing a different message relating to issues surrounding community safety."

The funding for the cards has come from the Lancashire Partnership Against Crime (LANPAC).

Ian Groundwater from the organisation said: "This is a great way of getting important messages through to youngsters and we are delighted to be able to support it."



Morecambe FC manager Sammy McIlroy and midfielder Craig Stanley with Insp Steve Anderton, PC Lance Thomson and Insp Brian Quinn at the launch of the Shrimps' community safety player cards scheme.

misbehave and be caught on camera

That's the warning from police in Morecambe who are taking to the streets on Friday and Saturday nights with a video camera in an effort to reduce anti-social behaviour and criminal damage on the outskirts of the area.

Operation Night Owl, funded by the Lancaster District Community Safety Partnership, will see police officers, community support officers and special constables patrolling the routes away from the city

centre on Friday and Saturday evenings in a van provided by Lancaster City Council and a mobile camera.

The camera and patrol team are a visible deterrent to anyone intending to commit acts of damage or anti-social behaviour, knowing that any evidence caught on camera can be used against them.

Sgt Andy Williams from Morecambe's Neighbourhood Policing team said the operation had already proved

valuable with video evidence taken at a fight on Westgate recently leading to guilty pleas from the offenders.

He said: "Night Owl has been used effectively in Lancaster recently and the early signs are that it will prove as valuable here. Criminal damage is on a downward trend in the area and operations like this can help us to improve the quality of life of our local residents. If people are having problems in their areas I would ask them



to get in touch with the Morecambe Neighbourhood Policing team on 01524 63333 and give us details about where and when."

Poulton Business Watch

Police in the Wyre are encouraging more local companies to help keep an eye on crime after launching a new advice leaflet.

The leaflet advises businesses to be aware of suspicious activity and take crime prevention measures to protect them from theft from the Poulton Industrial estate.

Crime prevention officer PC Ian Hill said: "The main aim of the leaflet is to make members more aware of the basic security measures that they should be taking to prevent further incidents and to provide a system where any information could be shared quickly between members and the police and vice versa. If anyone sees a vehicle or person acting suspiciously, we encourage that person to get in touch with the police as soon as possible."

PC Hill added: "As offenders may travel from one site to another and between towns, it is vitally important to ensure that every employee of each member business is aware that they can make a difference and be aware of anyone or anything that they may feel is suspicious and report it to the police and other scheme members."

Chairman of the Poulton Business Watch group Mr Peter Swire said the first leaflet had been well received.

He said: "There was recently a sudden spate of crime on the business park which we were led to believe was mainly from out of town gangs. Fortunately both our business watch security and local police were quick to react and due to increased surveillance the problem went away nearly as quickly as it arrived. This is an excellent example of how well the partnership works and we are extremely pleased with the continued support from our local police."

The next scheduled Police Authority Community Meetings for Northern

WYRE

**Garstang United Reform Church Hall,
Croston Road, Garstang
Wednesday, 6th June, 2007 at 7.00pm**

LANCASTER

**Victoria Institute, Brookhouse Road, Caton
Tuesday 12th June, 2007 at 7.00pm**



Lancashire Crimestoppers is looking for people in the Northern Division to join its management board.

The charity, the only one in the country devoted to solving crime, is aiming to recruit local volunteers to help raise its profile throughout the county.

The chair of Lancashire Crimestoppers Mrs Gail Porter wants to hear from people who could help publicise the work of Crimestoppers in their communities by attending events on their behalf.

The charity is also looking for people who have fundraising or marketing experience. Said Mrs Porter: "The success of Lancashire Crimestoppers is due to a number of volunteers who do a wonderful job in promoting the Crimestoppers brand throughout Lancashire. We want to build on that success and would

welcome more volunteers particularly in the north of the county. We would like to hear from anyone who feels they may have some skills they could offer.

Jobs could be anything from representing Crimestoppers at major events, visiting schools and business organisations to talk about Crimestoppers or simply placing posters and information cards throughout your community.

Any help would be greatly appreciated. You really could make a difference."

Ch Supt Gary Stephenson, the head of the Northern Division, said: "We work very closely in partnership with Crimestoppers and we fully support the work they do in our communities."

If you would like to be involved in Lancashire Crimestoppers please contact vice-chairman Geoff Sage on 01253 625194.

Contact Details

In an emergency when you need an immediate response dial 999

Police Non emergency number - **0845 1253545**

Call Crimestoppers anonymously on **0800 555 111**

Lancashire Police Authority - **01772 533462**

Remember...

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