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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2012

CAMPAIGNING NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 40p

We'll save streets from sex and drugs menace

Community sets up peaceful patrols to tackle kerb-crawling near their homes

BY ALY WALSH

CONCERNED residents have set up nightly patrols to deter sex workers and drug dealers from doing business near their homes.

Community members living in the Normanton Road area have taken the action after seeing an increasing number of prostitutes and kerb crawlers in the area.

They say residents have been too frightened to walk down the street because of the problems and want to make the area feel safe using peaceful persuasion.

Uthman Ali, one of the organisers, told the Derby Telegraph: "There's always been a problem but recently it's got really bad."

"Every night now about 15 sex workers gather in Normanton Road. Along with that comes drug users and dealers and anti-social behaviour."

"It's got to such an extent that people don't feel safe walking along the road and there are families who are



The volunteers who have joined forces to patrol the streets of Normanton in a bid to stop drug dealers and prostitution.

Picture: Lucy Shaw DER.S20120808D-002_C

Public likely to have a say on closure plan for day centre

BY KIRSTY GREEN

A DAY centre for people with learning disabilities could be closed as part of an overhaul of the service.

Derby City Council is planning to begin a consultation asking for people's views on the service provided at the Wetherby Centre, in Gosforth Road.

Rumours first circulated about its closure in 2010 when a user was told by staff the centre would shut by 2013.

The council confirmed it was part of an ongoing review of the future of day service provision but no decision had been made.

Now, the authority's cabinet is to consider starting a 12-week public consultation on August 20 into the closure of the centre.

The council said that customers had been moving out of the Wetherby Centre in recent years in favour of smaller community bases. It is still used by 52 people and an additional 19 people with more profound disabilities are supported there in the Inspire unit.

Options put forward include shutting the building but allowing the council to continue providing daytime support, which people could use their personal care budgets to pay for.

MORE ON PERSONAL BUDGETS, PAGE 12

REPORTING LOCAL LIFE SINCE 1879

WEATHER: TODAY'S MAX 22C/TOMORROW'S MAX 24C

ENGLAND v ITALY
Wednesday 29 August, Kick-off 7pm
All Adults £3.00, Concessions £1.00

ENGLAND v PORTUGAL
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U17 ST GEORGE'S PARK INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT

DET12012081

Motorcyclist in road tragedy has been named

A MOTORCYCLIST who died in a collision in Leicestershire has been named as a 59-year-old Ilkeston man.

Ian Ball received serious injuries when his Honda Fireblade was in collision with a Volvo S60.

The collision took place in Stretton Road, near the village of Greetham, on Sunday, July 29, just after 9am.

Mr Ball was taken to the University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire, where he died last Wednesday.

The driver of the Volvo received minor injuries.

Detective Constable Pete Davies, who is investigating the incident, said the police were appealing for witnesses.

He said: "The yellow Honda was travelling from the direction of Stretton towards Greetham within a group of five other motorcycles and the red Volvo was travelling in the opposite direction when the collision happened on the outskirts of Greetham village.

"We are keen to speak to anyone who witnessed the collision or who may have seen either the Honda or the Volvo travelling prior to the collision."

Anyone with any information should contact Det Con 1761 Pete Davies on 101 or Crimestoppers, which is free and anonymous, on 0800 555 111.

Driver taken to hospital after bridge collision

A LORRY driver was taken to hospital after his vehicle struck a railway bridge.

The heavy goods vehicle and its trailer smashed into the bridge on the A6 at Ambergate just before 2pm yesterday.

Police said that there was a second bridge nearby and the lorry had smashed into the first and come to rest at the second during the incident.

Fire crews, police and ambulance crews were called and the road was closed northbound while the truck was cleared.

Traffic was diverted by police on to the A610 while the road was closed.

The driver was taken to Royal Derby Hospital with minor injuries.

He was said to be "shaken" by what had happened.

The lorry had been leaking fuel but this was cleaned up by emergency services.

A spokeswoman for East Midlands Trains said the damage to the bridge was not major.

She said that a handful of services - including routes to Matlock and London - had been delayed because of the incident but by 2.20pm, all trains were running as normal. The road was reopened by 3.30pm.



Community members are holding nightly peaceful protests to try rid the area of kerb-crawling, prostitution and drug dealing.

Picture: Lucy Shaw DELS20120806 095_C

Peaceful persuasion to stop sex trade

PATROLS FROM PAGE 1

considering moving from the area."

Over the past few nights, up to 60 men have been on the street between midnight and 2am.

The 27-year-old, who works with youths in Normanton, said: "Since starting the patrols we haven't seen a single prostitute out there, so it seems to be working."

Mr Ali said the group had the backing of local residents, businesses and mosques and they had assured police they were not a vigilante group.

Mr Ali, who is formerly of Normanton but now lives in Littleover, said: "We are a peaceful group.

"We realise a lot of the sex workers are in difficult situations and if we can speak to them and help them, then we will do.

"But our main objective is

to deter the kerb crawlers because if there are no kerb crawlers then there will be no reason for the prostitutes to be there."

Police said officers in Normanton and Roschill had been running an operation since August 2009 to tackle prostitution in the area which is a known red-light spot.

Inspector Richard Keene, who is in charge of policing in the area, said: "Prostitution and the associated problems like drug use is an issue we are tackling head-on.

"Our operation is very much a partnership with local agencies and it's important that people living in the area are protected and feel reassured that something is being done to tackle their concerns."

He said police were aware that "a group of concerned local residents" had decided to walk the streets with the intention of discouraging

prostitution-related offences.

And added: "We acknowledge their concerns and have no issues with their desire to patrol. Local officers keep in contact with the group throughout the night.

"We will carry on monitoring the situation and have no problems with the group

"If there are no kerb crawlers then there will be no reason for the prostitutes."

UTHMAN ALI

patrolling, as long as they conduct themselves in a peaceful fashion."

Another organiser of the patrol is Zubair Ahmed, of Speedy Tyres and Exhausts, who said they had decided to step in because what the police were doing had not been effective.

The 36-year-old said: "It's increasingly bad problem, which needs to be solved. Po-

lice either haven't been doing their job or they don't have the resources to do it."

He said their own patrols had scared off pimps and drug dealers.

He added: "If we see any prostitutes then two of us will go up and ask if they need help and tell them we can introduce them to female agencies in Normanton that can help them."

Since the patrols, organisers say they have had positive feedback from worried residents and local businesses.

Imran Hussain, who owns Mr Chippy in Normanton Road, said he supported the patrols.

The 24-year-old said: "The police have been trying for ages and it hasn't really made a difference.

"But over the last few nights there haven't been any prostitutes or junkies out there and we've had more customers.

"It has meant families and young people feel safe to walk the streets."

But not everyone is supportive of this new approach.

Dionne Reid, chief executive of charity Women's Work, which helps street workers, said that she would not "sanction" the approach being taken.

She said: "I do not know what they expect to achieve and I don't think they have the interests of the women at heart."

She said their presence could prove intimidating and they should leave the job to agencies set up to deal with these issues and to the police.

The main focus of the police operation is to deter kerb-crawlers. Since the start of this year, officers have dealt with more than 100 individuals for a variety of offences associated with prostitution and kerb crawling.

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'Harsh lesson' not to leave keys in sight of thieves

A MOTORIST has said he has "learned a harsh lesson" after thieves reached through a letterbox and hooked his car keys from a table and stole his vehicle.

Brett Frost discovered his black Peugeot 207 was missing from the driveway of his Hilton home when he woke at 10am on Monday.

At first the 25-year-old thought his father may have moved the car while he was asleep.

But when he called his dad he was told it was not on the driveway earlier that morning when he left for work.

The car, which carries a

2011 number plate, was taken from outside the family home, in Wyston Brook, in the early hours of Monday.

Mr Frost said: "I had been out on Sunday and got home at around 7.30pm.

"I was carrying a takeaway and would never normally drop my keys on the table as it is only a few feet from the front door, but I did this time because my hands were full.

"I have certainly learned a harsh lesson and my father told me that as well."

Forensics officers called to the scene told Mr Frost they believed thieves had reached

through the letterbox, possibly using wire, to hook the car keys.

Mr Frost said: "I work in a warehouse in Barton-under-Needwood and there is no bus service there from Hilton.

"I have a courtesy car from the insurance company for three weeks but if the car isn't found I don't know what I'll do after that.

"I would ask people not to leave their car key within easy reach of the door as I did."

Similar incidents of car theft have happened in South Derbyshire recently but police have said there is not

currently a spate of incidents. On July 19, a VW Polo was stolen from outside a property in Bretby Lane and on July 2 a VW Golf was taken from outside a house in Woodville.

Inspector Paul Cannon said: "This is another type of burglary or theft that we have to deal with but there are no more or less happening in South Derbyshire than we would ordinarily see.

"I would urge people to keep their car keys locked away or out of sight and not on show or in places where burglars or thieves can get easy access to them."

Back injury fears after cars crash

A DRIVER had to be helped by paramedics after suffering suspected spinal injuries in a two-car crash.

The incident happened on Ashbourne Road, at the junction with Wirksworth Road, in the Cowers Lane area of Belper, at about 4.15pm yesterday.

Fire crews from Belper and Duffield laid the casualty on to a spinal board, before leaving them in the care of paramedics.

It was not known how serious the motorist's injuries were.

There were no other people hurt in the incident.