

# Safer Finsbury Park

How the police and the council are making your neighbourhood safer

Winter 2010



**We are Finsbury Park Safer Neighbourhoods team.  
You've told us your ward priorities include:**

- Drugs supply
- Anti-social behaviour by people with dogs.

Finsbury Park 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?

- Crime has fallen by 14% in the Finsbury Park ward since April?

From the Metropolitan Police Service in partnership with Islington Council



---

# Safer Finsbury Park

---

## Undercover operation in Hornsey Road

Finsbury Park Safer Neighbourhoods team (SNT) is aware of the community concerns around recent violent crime. Eleven people were recently arrested in an undercover operation to disrupt criminal networks involved in drug dealing and handling stolen goods in Hornsey and Blackstock Roads.

Finsbury Park SNT and other police units searched three addresses believed to be used for drug dealing. We are also working to establish whether these addresses are linked to a series of recent shootings across Islington, Hackney, Haringey and Enfield and involving members of the Turkish community.

At a boarded up café in Hornsey Road, we found a large quantity of cannabis and arrests were made for possession of cannabis with intent to supply. The same address had been targeted by criminals last November when shots were fired at the premises. Finsbury Park SNT closed the café for three months. Since the raids, two further premises, which police believe were being used as drug dealing bases, have been closed by Finsbury Park SNT.

## 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.

## Reckless dog owners bark up the wrong tree

Finsbury Park SNT and Homes for Islington (HFI) are working together to tackle the repeated criminal damage caused by owners who encourage their dogs to rip bark from trees to sharpen their teeth. Irresponsible owners are causing thousands of pounds worth of damage by encouraging this behaviour. If the bark has been ripped from the entire circumference of the tree, it will die. New trees will take years to replace the trees currently being damaged. A mature tree is worth thousands of pounds as well as a being key to making the area green.

HFI is offering substantial rewards for information relating to the criminal damage of trees. Any information received will be treated in the strictest confidence, and offenders will be prosecuted for criminal damage.

## X marks the spot for police action in Fonthill Road

Finsbury Park SNT has distributed 'X marks the spot' postcards to residents across the ward to find out what crime and anti-social behaviour issues matter to you most. We have received over 150 cards back, with theft in Fonthill Road being the biggest concern.

We are supporting a ShopWatch scheme in Fonthill Road, which is like Neighbourhood Watch for shops. Shops in the area have been given an AlertBox that allows local businesses to communicate and alert each other to shoplifters or pickpockets in the area.

We have also shut down a social club in Hornsey Road, which we believe generated crime including drugs and theft in this area. If you have any concerns about crime and anti-social behaviour in your area please contact us. We rely on information from the public to bring criminals to justice.

## 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 minicabs in Hercules Road. 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](http://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.

Finsbury Park 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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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:  
Finsbury Park SNT on **020 8721 2778**

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](http://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](http://www.met.police.uk/crimefigures). You can type in your postcode for information about your ward and the borough of Islington.

---

## Decide Finsbury Park's police priorities

If you don't agree with the 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 Finsbury Park SNT for more information.

---

### TEAM MEMBERS

Sgt Chris Walsh	PC George Thompson
PC Simon Hackworth	PCSO Katie Halsall
PCSO George Tsendis	PCSO Don Dickeson

---

### CONTACT

Finsbury Park Team, Holloway Police Station  
284 Hornsey Road, London N7 7QY

020 8721 2778 07717 432 750  
[Finsburypark-NI@met.police.uk](mailto:Finsburypark-NI@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](http://www.met.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods). Your SNT is not a 24-hour emergency response team. In an emergency always dial 999.

---

To request this newsletter in large print, Braille, audiotape or disk format please call **020 7527 3180**. To request this newsletter in another language call **020 7527 3180**.