

Safer Highbury West

How the police and the council are making your neighbourhood safer

Winter 2010



We are Highbury West Safer Neighbourhoods team.

You've told us your ward priorities include:

- Fear of crime and males loitering in Blackstock Road
- Theft of motorcycles and mopeds
- Drug dealing in Quill Street and Gillespie Park.

Highbury West 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?

- The number of people robbed in Highbury West ward has gone down by 43% since April last year?

From the Metropolitan Police Service in partnership with Islington Council



Safer Highbury West

Four properties raided and nine people arrested in Blackstock Road

Since last year we have received an increased number of complaints about groups of men loitering in Blackstock Road, blocking the pavement and being abusive to passers-by.

Highbury West Safer Neighbourhoods team (SNT) has been watching a number of people and businesses in Blackstock Road to gather evidence of anti-social behaviour and criminal activity, including robbery and the handling of stolen goods.

The suspects involved in these crimes used a number of shops to hide from police. We talked to the owners of these premises and asked them not to allow the use of their premises as a refuge.

Four owners did little to prevent their business being used as a refuge for suspected criminals, so in November we raided them and made nine arrests for a range of offences including illegal immigration, possession of crack cocaine and cannabis, and the handling of stolen goods.

One person has since been deported and three others are under investigation for immigration offences. Three people were charged with drug and theft offences, and two are on bail.

Two men were arrested for possession of stolen mobile phones, and the owner of one of the businesses was served with a three-month closure order. We continue to work with and support businesses to make Blackstock Road a safer place for residents, businesses and visitors.

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.

Free locks for motorcyclists

The rise in the number of motorcycles being stolen recently became a ward priority. Highbury West SNT has responded by distributing letters and leaflets that give crime prevention advice, and by providing free high-quality motorcycle locks to victims of motorcycle theft to help prevent a reoccurrence.

We have also been patrolling the ward, looking for motorcycles that look vulnerable to theft – we have then contacted the owner and in many cases give them a free lock.

So far we have given away 180 locks, and in the last few months there has been a reduction in motorcycle theft. The success of the scheme meant we were able to secure funding to roll this initiative out across the borough.

Tackling drug dealing in Quill Street and Gillespie Park

Highbury West SNT are carrying out an ongoing undercover operation to tackle the problem of drug use in and around Quill Street and Gillespie Park.

Since receiving complaints about the drug use we have arrested five people for drug dealing. Two of those arrested are currently on remand in prison awaiting trial. The police continue regular plain-clothed and uniformed patrols of the area.

We work in partnership with Park Guard, Islington Council, and Mosaic homes, who manage properties in Quill Street, so that we can address the anti-social behaviour caused by a small number of people living in the street. If you have any concerns about anti-social behaviour or crime, please report it. We rely on information from residents to help us 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 Blackstock Road and Gillespie 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 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.

Highbury West 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. 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 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.

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:
Highbury West SNT on **020 7421 0635**

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. 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. You can type in your postcode for information about your ward and the borough of Islington.

Decide Highbury West's police priorities

If you don't agree with the three 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 Highbury West SNT for more information.

Meet Highbury West Safer Neighbourhoods team

We hold regular drop-in meetings, where you can come and talk to us about any concerns you have.

For updated meeting information go to www.met.police.uk/teams/islington/highburywest

The dates of our next meetings are:

11 February, 7 – 8pm, at Elizabeth House, Hurlock St
23 February, 7 – 8pm, at Tesco Express, Drayton Park

TEAM MEMBERS

Sgt Rob O'Connor	PC Wes Harrison
PC Rosa Dimate	PCSO Leman Yozcu
PCSO Andy Goodwin	PCSO Muna Hoque

CONTACT

Highbury West Team, Highbury Vale Police Station, 211 Blackstock Road, Highbury, London N5 2LZ
020 7421 0635 07879 661 405
Highburywest.snt@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. 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.