



Crackdown on Anti-Social Behaviour

A crackdown on yobbish behaviour, criminal damage and off-road bikes has been launched, in an effort to eradicate low-level crime in Derwentside. Police have launched a second Streetsafe Campaign in the district this year.

During the next two weeks, efforts will concentrate on Consett town centre, Moorside and Blackhill areas, where police teams will patrol the streets, and will seize alcohol from underage drinkers.

The beat officers are also joining forces with the DVLA, probation service, schools and debt recover service Phillips. Inspector Andy McConnell, of Consett Police, has said that the three areas are being targeted for specific reasons, "we are getting problems in the town with anti-social behaviour, often linked to night-time activities, and this behaviour can be seen at the bus station and on the streets".

"Moorside and Blackhill are key hotspots in the district for the use of off-road bikes and we will be sending the force's off-road team out to the area to tackle this".

The teams will also be working on themes of enforcement, education and environment. Litter-picking is one of the things that the Restorative Justice Team will help with, as they will be supervising a team of ex-cons working in various communities.

Covert operations will be carried out, with warrants being issued to people failing to attend court and outstanding fines will be collected.

The Youth Engagement Service is teaming up with the police's school officer, and will give talks to pupils about anti-social behaviour and criminal damage. Inspector McConnell also said "these are problems for us in the area and we want to educate young people about the consequences. We will also be leafleting homes warning about ways residents can prevent themselves from becoming Victims of burglary".

Taken from Chronicle Extra, Wednesday 3rd October 2007.