

## **Report for Tangmere Parish Council meeting 14/05/09**

My injury and Dawns operation has made for a difficult couple of months. Whilst we have been absent for a while, the area has been covered by patrols from other Wardens. Declan based himself here and did regular patrols, as did Carol, Drew and our manager Andy Pilley. This has enabled a high level of service to the area to continue.

Breakdown of incidents since May 2008:

Total of overall incidents dealt with was 1,257 an increase of 200. Even with the change in personnel 6 months ago and the training of a new warden, we have still managed to keep a high level of service. The percentage spread across the different areas of our job are quite even, with ASB and environmental problems being the highest. We dealt with 165 incidents of Behaviour, 65 of Damage and 77 of Intelligence reported to other agencies. Due to our unique position within the community and our role as the 'eyes and ears' we find out a lot of information that can be passed over to agencies such as the police, Social Services and departments within CDC and WSCC. Many residents are very reassured that they can call us and speak to someone they know, rather than a call centre. Many issues are dealt with by the CWs when residents do not know who to contact or feel their concerns are not serious enough to report to the police. This is especially true of some of our older residents who do not want to 'bother anyone'. This is why we make it a priority to regularly visit the elderly and vulnerable both in their own homes and at community groups. I have been working in Tangmere for four and a half years now – the longest period of time any Warden has stayed in an area. This has ensured a continuity that is valued by many of the residents of the village and also provides a mine of information and background for any new CWs or police officers coming into the area.

The way we approach the problems of ASB are twofold – we are Reactive as we are regularly out and about within the village if we receive a call we can react within minutes to deal with a situation (Dawn at weekend, arson at skidpan), our very presence deters much of the bad behaviour. We are also Proactive – by Dawn regularly attending the Youth Club, by my work with the Primary school children we can engage the youth of the village, build relationships and be in a position to modify behaviour. We always expect a certain standard of behaviour and set firm boundaries for the young people we work with, which is sometimes absent in other areas of their lives. It is unrealistic to think we can stop bad behaviour completely, but by working alongside our colleagues in the police and with the help of residents, we are managing the situation and compared to other areas, Tangmere has a low level of problems. I think we have come a long way in getting on top of the issues that confronted me when I started here in 2005.

We have reported and had 112 incidents of fly tipping removed in the last 12 months. It is a real problem in this area, but by regular patrols to fly tipping hotspots and reports from residents, we can get the mess removed within 3 days. Some people seem surprised by the amount of effort that goes into clearing fly tipping, but it is an environmental form of ASB. Where it is left uncleared, more will be added over time, until you end up with an area that seems neglected and gives a perception of crime and disorder. By removing it promptly it reduces the

risk of escalation and shows that people care about the area and have a genuine pride in its appearance.

The JW scheme that I set up 4 years ago has attracted much interest from the both the media and other CW schemes across the UK and generates a lot of positive publicity for the village. It is now held as a model of best practice that opens the eyes of young people to community issues, promotes a positive perception of youngsters and reduces the fear of crime. Audit Commission figures in a 2009 report states that one person in the criminal justice system costs the taxpayer £200,000 by the age of 16. By having positive engagement with the youngsters of Tangmere, we hope to influence some of the young people who might otherwise go down the road of youth offending. The success rate so far of the 50 children I have had pass through the JWs over the past few years is extremely positive, with only 1 or 2 of them coming to police attention since going onto senior school and becoming teenagers.

- Beat Plan and priorities

Priorities coming up are to continue with a visible presence around the village – we have a very large area to patrol, stretching from Tangmere to Oving, Colworth and over the 259 to Merston and nearly to Runcton. This is a huge area of lanes and farmland to monitor as well as the villages. However, as far as breakdown of our time is concerned, we spend on average 75% of our time patrolling in Tangmere. For the 3 days of the week when we are both on duty, we make sure we split the shifts so that a warden is present from morning through to early evening.

- Airfield gate and signage for airfield. WSCC flytipping on airfield, control tower updates
- We welcome the closer links we now have with NW which is mutually very helpful and extend our thanks to Brian Wood for his encouragement and support in our work.

Dawn to round up events attended and coming up:

We are regularly doing litter picks and monitoring the skatepark area for broken glass. I have recently discovered one of the perpetrators of the glass smashing and passed the details to the police.

This year Sue, Carol and I have been involved with projects such as Make the Commitment road safety campaign, Army Activity Day, Safety and Me, SNAP disco, sports diversionary projects, partnership working with police and WSF&R during Operation Fender and Operation Petra, and multiple clean-up days. We regularly write articles for the Parish magazines and websites and deliver our own Warden newsletters so that the community know what we are doing. New ones are out this week and we have left some out in the foyer.

- Bike week at school – bike marking and assembly
- Village Day – we will have a marquee with information and offer bike marking, also attending Scarecrow Day and Oving Fete.
- JWs (half term trip, Chloe in Observer, and coverage in Initiatives magazine).