

Contact us... for advice, to report crime and anti-social behaviour or to make a referral.

**Thurrock Community Safety Team** 01375 390000  
[www.shapingthurrock.org.uk/safer](http://www.shapingthurrock.org.uk/safer)

**Drug and Alcohol Action Team** 01375 652972  
[www.thurrock.gov.uk/drugs](http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/drugs)

**Thurrock Substance Misuse 24/7 Freephone helpline** 0800 633 5202

**Victim Support** 0845 456 5995

**Crimestoppers** 0800 555111  
[www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

**Fire Safety Team** for a free home safety fire check  
01375 376628

**Essex Police** 0300 333 4444  
contact your local neighbourhood policing team  
[www.essex.police.uk/yourarea](http://www.essex.police.uk/yourarea)

**Ngage/Community Forums**  
01375 389893  
[www.thurrockcommunityforums.org.uk](http://www.thurrockcommunityforums.org.uk)

#### Where to report Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB):

Are you at serious risk of, or are being attacked, or your property damaged? Contact Essex Police on 0300 333 4444 or the ASB Team on 01708 891394

Report abandoned vehicles, dog-mess, graffiti, fly posting, fly tipping and litter to the Be Smart team on 0800 581281

Report NON-URGENT INCIDENTS online at: [www.unwelcome.co.uk](http://www.unwelcome.co.uk)

**Thurrock Racial Unity Support Taskgroup (T.R.U.S.T.) Ltd**  
01375 385316 [www.thurrock-trust.org.uk](http://www.thurrock-trust.org.uk)

**In an emergency dial 999**

The Thurrock Community Safety Partnership is one of the programme boards sitting under the umbrella of the Shaping Thurrock Partnership.

The Thurrock Community Safety Partnership includes, Thurrock Council, Essex Police, Essex Fire & Rescue Service, South West Essex Primary Care Trust, Probation and the Voluntary Sector.

*Making Thurrock Safer*

Monday - Friday  
9.00am - 5.00pm

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# Safer Thurrock

**SPECIAL ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR EDITION**

Thurrock Community Safety Partnership

Issue 7 [www.shapingthurrock.org.uk/safer](http://www.shapingthurrock.org.uk/safer)

page 3  
Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour

page 5  
A safer place to live

page 7  
Community Cohesion



As a Council we are working hard to tackle anti-social behaviour and environmental crime such as littering.

We know that you, our residents, want to live and work in a place where you feel safe in the day and the night. You also want to live in a clean and green environment.

We continue to work with our partners and crime is falling but we know that as residents you are still fearful of crime and that we still have a significant amount of work to do to ensure that we are making a difference to your lives in terms of making you feel safe.

We are looking forward to introducing some new communications tools over the coming months which will enable us to tell you more about what we are doing, what you can do, and to enable us to better engage with our communities.

This magazine is just one of those tools and I hope it helps you to help us in the fight against anti social behaviour and environmental crime.

Lucy Magill  
Head of Service, Public Protection,  
Thurrock Council & Chair of  
TCSP Executive Group

*Making Thurrock Safer*

## Community Forums working to make Thurrock safer



Getting involved in your local community forum is one of the most rewarding ways to help make you feel safer in your community. In Thurrock, they have had major successes in championing the issues that are important to residents and creating a closer relationship with local police.

Community forums are open to all residents, groups, schools and businesses and are attended by neighbourhood police, councillors, and other public agencies. They look at a variety of major issues for residents including regeneration, road safety, anti-social behaviour (ASB) and crime. They include Neighbourhood Action Panel's (NAP) set up by the Police, to identify and resolve residents' concerns.

Some successes last year include:

- Essex Police worked with residents and Thurrock Council Housing office to stop youths engaging in ASB in Chadwell.

Although an ongoing initiative, the number of ASB calls has reduced.

- Residents raised concerns about speeding in East Tilbury. Since then Essex Police have used mobile police stations and speeding devices. This has resulted in an improvement in the situation.
- Residents in Grays raised concerns about ASB caused by drinking. High visibility patrols have been used to move these persons or arrest and convict.
- An increase in burglary in the Orsett area resulted in Police walking the beat and door knocking, along with leaflet drops to deter offenders. Ongoing crime prevention days are being held with residents.

More reports on ongoing local priorities and successes can be found at [www.essex.police.uk/yourarea/y\\_nap\\_01.php](http://www.essex.police.uk/yourarea/y_nap_01.php)

More information about your local community forum can be found at [www.thurrockcommunityforums.org.uk](http://www.thurrockcommunityforums.org.uk) or contact Ngage, the Thurrock community organisation that supports community groups and forums, on 01375 389 893.



## Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour

A main concern of residents' is anti-social behaviour (ASB) in Thurrock. A new Community Protection team has been set up to help alleviate these fears and tackle the issues. The team investigate reported incidents of ASB and environmental crime. Working in partnership with the Neighbourhood Policing teams they act on information from the public, ward councillors and MPs.

With eight high visibility, uniformed community protection officers, the team investigates allegations, by interviewing complainants, witnesses and suspects, taking statements, conducting observations and deploying cameras. Appropriate action is then taken.

The team try to resolve ASB issues by using various methods such as advice, mediation, warnings, civil and criminal court action. They



also work with the police who supply evidence.

Since the team was formed in late 2008, working with other council departments and the Police, it has dealt with 175 incidents of ASB and environmental crime with 128 positive outcomes, including 5 ASB injunctions, 1 ASB order, 23 acceptable and good neighbour agreements, 95 warnings and 5 evictions.

Contact us on: **01708 891 394** or

**0800 581 281** or email [knockknock@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:knockknock@thurrock.gov.uk).

**REMEMBER:  
In any emergency dial 999**

## Alcohol units

**Did you know 1 in 10 adults in the UK are drinking at harmful levels? The Department of Health advises that men should drink no more than 3-4 units a day and women no more than 2-3 units a day. Here are a few examples of how many units are in some alcoholic drinks:**

**One 125ml small glass of wine (11-12%) is the equivalent of 1.5 Units.**

**One pint of lager/beer/cider or One 500ml can (4-5%) is the equivalent of 2 units.**

**One 25 ml measure of spirits (40%) is the equivalent of 1 unit. Some pubs serve 35 ml measures.**



If you would like further information on sensible drinking visit [www.thurrock.gov.uk/drugs](http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/drugs) or contact:

**The Drug and Alcohol Action Team on 01375 652972**  
**OASIS (Adults) on 01375 374411 Network (Young People) on 01375 376111**

## Tilbury Man Handed ASBO

A prolific offender from Tilbury has been given an Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO) to restrict his ability to commit crime.



Stuart Parsons, aged 34, of Adelaide Road, Tilbury, is a prolific offender predominately known for

offences of dwelling burglary and vehicle crime, which are priority areas for Thurrock Community Safety Partnership.

The ASBO was submitted and granted on 19 February 2009 at Southend Magistrate Court.

The conditions of the ASBO are valid only in the Thurrock district and means that Mr Parsons is prohibited from carrying any controlled drugs or needles; entering public or private car parks unless no other access to premises is available; touching any motor vehicle without specific permission from the owner or user; and entering or attempting to enter any private dwelling.

Cabinet member for Public Protection, Cllr Ben Maney, said: "Anti-social behaviour causes alarm and distress for law-abiding citizens making them fearful in their own community and decreasing everybody's quality of life.

People who insist on engaging in this form of intimidating or threatening behaviour will be dealt with according to the law."

## Licensing Department-Making Thurrock Safer

Maintaining and enhancing the quality of life for those who live, work or visit Thurrock is at the heart of what the licensing department does.

This is achieved by providing a high quality licensing and enforcement service including alcohol, public entertainments, taxis, animal welfare and charitable collections.

This department deals with an array of licensing issues from alcohol and entertainment to betting. Licensing also work to prevent crime and disorder.

The department is also responsible for ensuring that licensed premises such as pubs and clubs are complying with the conditions of their licence.

The majority of time is taken

up with ensuring that taxis, private hire vehicle operators, drivers and vehicles are properly licensed. This includes carrying out Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks.

Thurrock does not have any major problems regarding businesses breaking the terms of their licence, however there are some pubs which are regularly reported for causing problems.

Breaches of the Licensing Act can result in the business losing their licence or, as a last resort, prosecution.

Working with the police licensing carry out enforcement visits and take appropriate action, thus ensuring that public protection and safety are upheld.

Contact us on: 01375 652187 or email: [licensing@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@thurrock.gov.uk)



## Trading Standards Goes Proactive!



Trickster play, Tilbury, March 2009

Many see the Trading Standards department as an avenue of reporting rogue traders or to complain about improper practices. However, the department also works with a number of agencies in Thurrock to prevent these instances from happening in the first place.

Through its Underage Sales Programme, Trading Standards recruits teenage volunteers to help determine whether local shops are complying with under-age rules regarding cigarettes, knives and alcohol purchases.

On the majority of attempts our volunteers have been unsuccessful in purchasing age restricted products.

Another initiative is the introduction of 'no cold calling areas'. These are set up with the local residents to discourage cold callers and raise the awareness of distraction burglars and

rogue workmen. To date Crammavill Street, Stifford Clays has one with another planned for Aveley.

Other initiatives through Thurrock Community Safety Partnership includes the free "Trickster" play which was held in March with a performance highlighting the potential problems caused by bogus callers. Using humour and song, the theatre production emphasised the dangers associated with doorstep cold calling while helping to reduce the fear of such crimes.

We are always looking for more 13 to 16 year olds for our Underage Sales Programme, please get in touch as it is a worthwhile cause and volunteering looks great on your CV too!

Contact us on: 01375 652955 or email: [trading.standards@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:trading.standards@thurrock.gov.uk)

## Thurrock: A safer place to live

Residents perception of Thurrock as a safe place to live is improving, according to the 2008 Quality of Life Survey.

The annual survey, commissioned by Thurrock Council and conducted by mruk research, is designed to provide key information and identify priorities for Thurrock.

This year's survey shows an increase in the number of residents reporting they feel 'very safe' in the area in the day (91 per cent) while the number

of people feeling unsafe alone after dark has decreased by 2 per cent to 47 per cent.

Residents most significant fears about personal safety relate to potential harassment and intimidation from gangs of young people, however young people have the same concerns and are often in groups so they feel safer.

Although these teenagers may not be engaging in anti-social behaviour (ASB) or criminal activity, there is a

negative perception associated with seeing a group of young people on the streets after dark which makes some people fearful.

The council, local agencies and residents all need to continue working together to ensure everyone within the community feels that Thurrock is a safe place to live.

To access the full findings of the Quality of Life Survey please visit [www.thurrock.gov.uk/i-know/consultation/](http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/i-know/consultation/)

# Graffiti Initiative



The Thurrock Community Safety Partnership has joined forces with Thurrock Council's Be Smart Environmental Education Programme, Youth Offending Service, Connexions, Brave Arts and Essex Police to help prevent graffiti in the Borough through the Beyond Graffiti Project.

The project, designed to educate young people on the negative aspects of graffiti and the positive aspects of art and design, saw them work together to research, design and create an artistic and historical wall painting at the walkway on Crown Road, Grays. Participants, including ex-graffiti offenders, had to pledge not to tag in Thurrock for the duration of the 12 week programme and involved them cleaning graffiti off the streets.

The Urban Art Project saw the pedestrian walkway cleaned and transformed into an historical mural depicting images from the dinosaur and stone ages through to the modern era, including The State Cinema, and the future.

Catherine Ruddick (Youth Services and Connexions), Cllr Pearce (Deputy Mayor), Sue Bloss and Steven Greener (Community Safety Manager - Essex Police).

Tagging and graffiti without permission is criminal damage and may cause intimidation and fear of crime. It can generate a cycle of disrespect leading to more excessive forms of vandalism, anti-social behaviour and crime.

BeSmart Education Officer, Sue Bloss, said: "This project encourages young people to put their artistic and design skills to a more positive and legal use. Participants have also spoken of their desire to pursue careers in design rather than in the criminal activity that graffiti and tagging represents."

We are seeking to roll this project out to all areas in Thurrock via youth service centres.

## Community Cohesion -

### So what is community cohesion?

Community cohesion is best described as the glue that holds an area together.

It is about people from different backgrounds coming together across different cultures, faith groups, ages and abilities and is key to all of us feeling safe and happy within our society. Integration, citizenship, effective engagement, strong leadership, developing a sense of place and positive communications are considered essential ingredients of achieving cohesion.

Thurrock Council considers improving community cohesion to be one of its top 20 priorities.

### What is being done to improve community cohesion?

Recent activities to address this include:

- The Seabrook Rise Community Association's Family First Aid Fun Day.
- Thurrock Disability Network's "It's Your Community" open house meetings to promote tolerance.
- Thurrock Play Network's "Save Our Bees" activity day, which brought young people with disabilities together with the local community for a variety of activities.
- Thurrock Christian Fellowship's street party in Grays, planned for May, will target an area with a history of anti-social behaviour.



Community Showcase, 21 March 2009

- Increased audio facilities for The Parkinson Disease Society Thurrock Support Group.

These are just a few examples of what is being done to improve community cohesion and a plan has been put in place to help us continue to improve.

Further information about Thurrock's community cohesion plan can be found at [www.shapingthurrock.org.uk](http://www.shapingthurrock.org.uk) or by calling 01375 652885.

