

In the Loop

Hertfordshire Constabulary Stakeholder Newsletter

Eastern Area

Welcome to the first edition of In the Loop for the Eastern Area for 2008 – one of a series of updates on police activity in the Area which covers Broxbourne, East Herts, North Herts and Stevenage.

This edition includes an introduction from Eastern Area Commander, Chief Superintendent Al Thomas. We will also be looking at what's been happening in your boroughs and districts over the last few months.



In my first In the Loop message for 2008, as the Eastern Area Commander I would like to start by offering you my best wishes, and those of all officers, staff and volunteers who work in your area. As another financial and policing year draws to a close it is important to look back over the past year and to look forward to the challenges we face over the coming year. 2007 was a busy year across the Area and I am grateful for all of the hard work and commitment from officers, staff, volunteers and partner agencies.

The Eastern Area continues to enjoy good performance results against many key measures; contributing to safer communities, improved justice and reassurance, particularly for more vulnerable groups.

Later this year we will see the opening of new police station facilities at Stevenage, Hertford and a brand new Neighbourhood Police Station for Ware – putting policing back into the heart of the communities .

Chief Superintendent Al Thomas
Eastern Area Commander



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LAUNCH OF PUBWATCH AT STEVENAGE LEISURE PARK



Police, Stevenage Borough Council and other agencies have joined forces with over 45 licensed premises in Stevenage to launch the PubWatch Banning scheme which will be keeping a watchful eye on drinkers .

The PubWatch scheme allows these premises to exchange information about potential troublemakers and share information about those known to be involved in violent, aggressive or criminal behaviour on licensed premises.

If an individual is banned from one premise they will be banned from all of them. Current bans are for one year.

There is a clear message, Banned from one, Banned from All," he said.

Mark Atkins, Manager of Jumpin Jaks on Stevenage Leisure Park, is also the Chairman of Pubwatch. Mark states, "PubWatch is a scheme which brings licence holders together and empowers them to work together to keep their premises and customers safe".

"In the near future all our members will be in radio contact with each other, the local taxis and the town CCTV control room. We operate a strict 'Banned from One, Banned from All' policy in all our premises. The members of PubWatch propose nominees for banning, detailing the anti-social behaviour. If agreed by the members, a letter is issued to the banned person which is hand delivered by Local Police Officers and photos are distributed to all premises within the scheme. After a year, the banned person can apply to PubWatch to have the ban lifted."

Sergeant Mike Dring, from Stevenage Safer Neighbourhoods Team, said: "This scheme is well attended by publicans and licensees and partner agencies who all share a common interest – that we want people in Stevenage to enjoy themselves when they go out but also to feel safe. We will not tolerate anti-social or criminal behaviour which ultimately can ruin the night of other revellers in Stevenage. Our message is clear, behave – or you will face the consequences."



LAUNCH OF DPPO - HERTFORD

Hertford's Designated Public Place Order (DPPO) came into force on Monday February 4th

The signs warn people they're entering an area where the police have the authority to ask people to stop drinking and surrender their alcohol. They'll be installed at set locations along the boundaries of the DPPO, which was approved by East Herts Council in November, and covers most of the town centre, including the castle grounds.

It's not an alcohol ban, but if police officers and PCSO's believe that people drinking in public within the boundary are creating disorder, they can take action. Anyone who refuses to stop drinking or dispose of their alcohol can be issued with a £50 fixed penalty notice or they can be arrested and face a maximum fine of £500.

The launch was attended by Cllr Tony Jackson, Leader of East Herts Council; Cllr Malcolm Alexander, Executive Member for Community Safety; Ward Constable Melanie Perriman; Sgt Twm Turner.

SUCCESS OF SECTION 30 DISPERSAL ORDER

OFFICERS and council officials in East Herts have hailed the success of the Section 30 dispersal order in Ware which was granted in November.

It was signed by East Herts District Council after police officers from Hertford and Ware Neighbourhood Team applied for the order to help them to tackle Anti- Social Behaviour and nuisance youths in the area.

The Order is made under section 30 of The Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 and came into force on Saturday 1st December 2007 and will remain in place until midnight on Saturday 31st May 2008.

The area includes all highways and public places within the border of Amwell End, Station Road and Broadmeads.

This order gives powers to police officers and police community support officers allowing them to disperse groups of two or more persons that are causing or are likely to cause harassment alarm or distress to members of the public.

OPERATION TARANTULA IS LAUNCHED – EAST AND NORTH HERTS



CAR criminals beware – that’s the message from senior police officers and district councils following the launch of Operation Tarantula – biting back at car thieves – earlier this week.

The Operation was launched on Monday (January 7th) in East Herts and on Tuesday (January 8th) in North Herts.

A key part of the campaign is encouraging drivers to help stop car thieves by not leaving any valuables on display in their vehicles.

Inspector Andy Piper, who is the project lead for the Operation across both North and East Herts, said: “Hertfordshire is a safe county; however we cannot be complacent. Operation Tarantula is offering prevention advice to motorists as it is a preventable crime. If you do not leave anything on show in your car then thieves will not be tempted

to break in.

“This is a joint year-long initiative and we are working closely with our partner agencies to prevent this crime from taking place.”

The campaign will involve updating the media on a regular basis and will also include a number of proactive initiatives which engage the public and inform them on how to prevent themselves from becoming a victim of crime, including: demonstrations in car parks showing how easy it is for a would – be thief to break into a car.

There will also be high visibility publicity and posters displayed at car parks across the area.

Live tarantulas were present at both launches earlier this week and members of the press and partner agencies including Neighbourhood Watch representatives and crime prevention panels and Crimestoppers.

Chief Inspector Geoff Camp, Chief Inspector for North Herts, said: “We want North Herts to remain a low crime area and the public have a key role to play in this. You can protect yourselves from becoming the victim of this type of crime by taking basic crime preventative measures.



MOVES TO NEW POLICE STATIONS ON TRACK

The move from the existing police station on Ware Road, Hertford is on track to start in April. The move will include the closure of the existing enquiry office and relocation of the police Station to Solartron House with an additional Neighbourhood Police Station due to open by this summer in Ware.

Building work at Stevenage is also well under way with phase one seeing units move into it from May 2008 and the completion of phase two in December with an official opening in January 2009.

