
Community safety update February 2014



We won't let crime and anti-social behaviour blight the lives of local people and working with the police and the community, we'll take decisive action to make Islington safer for everyone.

Cllr Paul Convery
Executive Member for Crime and Community Safety

Islington Crime and Safety Summit - 22 March 2014

The Council, in partnership with Police in Islington, is hosting the first Islington Crime and Safety Summit at Islington Assembly Hall from 10am-1pm on Saturday 22 March. This collaborative community event is open to everyone, giving residents and other community members a chance to get involved in influencing how we tackle crime and anti-social behaviour in Islington over the next year. There will be interactive workshops and attendees will get the chance to hear from key community safety leads and special guest speakers. The summit will also be used to announce the new Safer Neighbourhood Board, and attendees will be able to express their interest in becoming a community representative on the board. Lunch will be provided. For more about the event and to book visit www.islington.gov.uk/crimesummit

Finsbury Park tri-borough clean up operation

On 16 January, Islington Council worked with police and neighbouring boroughs Hackney and Haringey to do a big clean up of Finsbury Park. In addition to tackling anti-social behaviour around the area and reminding residents how to report ASB, council officers worked alongside police to conduct 24 licensing visits to local off-licenses, issued eight penalty notices for littering, removed graffiti and did a deep clean of the streets. Outreach services were also on hand to help street drinkers, drug users, beggars and rough sleepers in need of support and advice. Parkguard (the Council's parks patrol service) assisted with weapon sweeps and provided a dog to detect drugs around Finsbury Park station. It was a very successful partnership operation, resulting in 17 arrests, approximately 70 penalty notices and over 100 penalty fares issued.

Calling time on noisy neighbours

The Council's Out-of-Hours ASB Response Team has been busy recently dealing with a range of complaints related to noisy neighbours. Following 38 complaints, officers seized equipment from a flat in Patrick Coman House under court warrant after the tenant repeatedly ignored warnings and a formal abatement notice. An injunction has since been served on the tenant requiring that no noise is audible outside her flat at any time and that she may not have more than two guests after 10pm. A further seven noise abatement notices have been served in the last month, four regarding alarms, two for loud music and one for machinery noise.

Tougher action in dog hotspots

The Out-of-Hours ASB teams have increased their patrols of dog fouling hotspots on council estates and are also carrying out some daytime patrols to address residents' concerns about dog fouling. This has resulted in an increase in the number of fixed penalty notices issued for dog fouling. This has recently become a very important issue for many Islington residents and is one of the Council's priority areas for the coming months.

Reduce the strength – reducing availability of high strength beers and ciders

The Council's licensing team is working with licensees to remove high strength beers – 5.5% alcohol volume and over – from off-licenses in the borough. The pilot is being run in areas where there are on-going problems with street drinking – Nags Head, Seven Sisters Road, Kings Cross and Elthorne Park. During December and January, 45 off licenses in these areas were visited and asked informally to remove the products. Follow up visits are planned over the next weeks to see how effective this has been, with action to follow: off licenses that refuse to engage may be subject to enforcement action and license reviews.

Police domestic violence crackdown – Operation Big Wing

In January, more than 4,500 officers were out in force across London targeting suspected domestic abuse offenders as part of Operation Big Wing. Over 37,000 incidents of domestic abuse were reported in London from 1 April 2013 to 12 January 2014. Police in Islington arrested 31 people during the operation, including nine for suspected domestic abuse. Islington parks patrol officers assisted in conducting drug warrants, as well as weapon sweeps of local parks and open spaces with general purpose dogs.

Consultation on water cannon

MOPAC has launched a consultation for Londoners to have their say on the purchase and use of water cannon. The consultation closes on 28 February, and there will also be a public meeting hosted by the MPS and the Deputy Mayor at City Hall on 17 February. City Hall says the results of the consultation will be used “to address any concerns people may have” and will be shared with the Home Secretary who must authorise any use of water cannon on the mainland. Find out more here:

<http://www.london.gov.uk/priorities/policing-crime/consultations/water-cannon>

Police in Islington raise counter terrorism awareness

Officers from Islington took part last month in a major pan-London operation to increase awareness of security and counter terrorism policing. The initiative – known as Operation Penna – involved co-ordinated activity focussed on reminding the public, as well as police officers and staff, of the vital role they can play in protecting London from terrorism. Islington’s officers carried out additional patrols around major transport hubs, as well as extra officers and young people from the Islington Volunteer Police Cadets being on duty at a match at the Emirates to raise awareness. Further information is available at www.met.police.uk/terrorism

Watch out for copycat websites

Islington residents are being warned to be aware of copycat websites that are charging extra to process applications for items like passport renewals, driving licences, congestion charge, European Health Insurance Cards (EHIC), driving test appointments, tax returns and foreign travel visas. You might not realise you’ve used a copycat website until you see that the fee charged is greater than the official cost. Trading Standards is also aware of residents handing over money to people posing as council officers. For more information on both of these scams visit www.islington.gov.uk/tradingstandards

Community safety contacts

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Reporting anti-social behaviour to the Islington ASB team:

Telephone: 020 7527 7272 Online: www.islington.gov.uk/reportasb

We will respond to your report as soon as possible, certainly within 24 hours. Our officers can make visits between 4pm and 2am Sunday to Thursday, and 5pm to 4am Friday and Saturday.

During office hours, Council tenants and leaseholders should report ASB to the ASB team at their Area Housing Office, on the phone or in person, and Housing Association tenants should report ASB to their landlord. Out of office hours, all residents should report ASB on 020 7527 7272.

Your local Safer Neighbourhoods Team (police): Contact details for your local team and dates of local meetings at http://content.met.police.uk/Page/TeamFinder?scope_id=1257246764070

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If you would like this document in large print or Braille, audiotape or in another language, please telephone 020 7527 2000.

This newsletter has also been made available in Word format. In case of editing, the final PDF versions are available at www.islington.gov.uk/safetynewsletter or by emailing cspueteam@islington.gov.uk
