

# BOBBIES ON THE BEAT

**FUNDED BY:** Greet's Green Partnership and West Midlands Police are funding the Greet's Green Crime Fighting Team for five years from April 2005. It has a total budget of £2,366,441, with £499,000 contributed by Greet's Green Partnership.

**PROJECT IN ACTION:** In order to cut the number of recorded crimes in Greet's Green to below the Borough average, and at the same time reduce the fear of crime by providing positive visible policing, a Crime Fighting Team was created, specifically dedicated to policing Greet's Green.

The project has funded a sergeant, eight constables and an admin officer for the Greet's Green area, provided special liveried vehicles, and created an operational budget which enables the Police to bring in additional resources for special operations to reduce crime.



*On the beat .... positive, visible policing is proving to be a big success in Greet's Green.*



One of the most common complaints raised by local residents was the lack of visibility of the Police on local streets and estates. Bringing in these extra resources to Greets Green has helped to significantly address this. Plus, it has increased the ability of the Police to undertake targeted campaigns, promote crime reduction measures and build positive relationships with residents. Other potential benefits in the future include setting up Neighbourhood Watch schemes and increasing residents' confidence in reporting crime to the Police.

The liveried vehicles feature instantly recognisable Police and Greets Green Partnership logos. Their aim is to give the Crime Fighting Team an even greater visible presence on local streets and estates so that would-be criminals are deterred and residents feel safer. The marked cars are being used to respond to incidents as well as patrol the area.

Creating a real partnership effort to tackle crime and improve safety lies at the heart of the project. In July 2005, Ally Allerson, Executive Director of Greets Green Partnership signed an 'Early Impact on Crime' Service Level Agreement with Chief Superintendent Paul Scarrot to show their commitment to working together. The Agreement establishes protocols for closer working, such as sharing information on crime and crime statistics, so that Greets Green can become a safer place for everyone.



*Two new high profile vehicles featuring instantly recognisable Police and Greets Green Partnership logos are giving the crime fighting team an even greater visible presence on local streets and estates.*

By working in partnership and strengthening the Police frontline in the fight against crime, the project aims to:

- Reduce the number of recorded crimes in Greets Green to the Borough average
- Reduce the number of people who feel unsafe after dark to the Borough average
- Improve satisfaction with the Police to the national average
- Reduce the fear of being burgled to the national average
- Reduce vehicle theft by half

While the project forms a central part of Greets Green Partnership's Crime & Community Safety Theme, it also works with the Housing Theme to address crime and safety issues around the clearance areas, as well as help with home safety improvements.



Team members are also working to build positive relationships with local businesses and residents by maintaining a highly visible presence across the area. Earlier this year, the team helped staff at Subway in the High Street stay safe by handing out personal attack alarms funded by Greets Green Partnership.

Local group meetings, such as Neighbourhood Forums and Youth Forum meetings, are regularly attended by officers to reassure all members of the community that crime is being tackled head on.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:** Within two months of its launch, the Greets Green Crime Fighting Team had achieved significant results including:

- Completing a pub raid in connection with drug dealing which led to six arrests
- Arresting and charging two burglars following a chase on foot
- Arresting two people for attempting to rob a girl in the street

Since then, high profile operations have included Operation Thalia in Summer 2005, which saw two uniformed officers patrolling areas identified as requiring a greater Police presence, in addition to the usual resources. The officers arrested 10 people, 38 people were stopped and searched, 50 intelligence reports were submitted, and weekly crime figures for the area dropped from around 40 to an average of just 15.

Other targeted campaigns have included Operation Rednose, which in December 2005 led to almost 100 people being stopped in connection with suspicious activity. The aim was to provide a high visibility Police presence by officers patrolling on foot, and visiting homes to find out what issues residents felt the team should be tackling. Campaigns have also seen the team targeting issues such as vehicle crime, burglary of business premises and drugs.

The work of Greets Green Crime Fighting Team also includes:

- Joint patrols with the Neighbourhood Wardens
- Truancy patrols
- Leaflet drops about specific community safety issues
- House-to-house visits in areas where there have been burglaries
- Tackling anti-social behaviour issues in the clearance areas
- Analysing crime patterns to identify current and seasonal trends



*Members of the Greets Green Crime Fighting Team.*



In addition, team members work with local businesses and organisations. One project saw the team working with SWAN - Sandwell Women's Agency Network – which led to 'bleep' alarms being installed in the homes of local domestic violence victims.

As a result of all the work by Greets Green Crime Fighting Team, statistics for April 2005/06, compared with the previous year from April 2004//05, revealed:

- Residential burglaries are down by 43%
- Vehicle crime is down by 9%
- Robbery down is by 37%
- Violent crime is down by 27%
- All crime is down by 19%

Overall, there were 305 less victims of crime this year in the Greets Green Partnership area, compared with the previous year.

“This huge success has been brought about by the strong partnership work that has enabled the Police to concentrate on hotspot areas and target persistent offenders. This year we intend to drive down crime even further in Greets Green.”

Phil Hartley, Crime & Community Safety Theme Leader, Greets Green Partnership

**For more information about the Greets Green Crime Fighting Team, call Phil Hartley, Crime & Community Safety Theme Leader at Greets Green Partnership, on freephone 0800 953 0215, or contact the team direct on 0845 113 5000.**

Greets Green Partnership was awarded £56 million in 2000 to deliver a 10 year regeneration programme under the Government's New Deal for Communities (NDC) initiative. It is has funded more than 100 projects throughout the area, covering community empowerment, crime & community safety, education & lifelong learning, health, housing & urban form, jobs & enterprise and neighbourhood management. The Partnership area, which is adjacent to West Bromwich Town Centre, is home to just over 12,400 residents living in 4,900 households.

**To find out more, call Greets Green Partnership on freephone 0800 953 0215.**

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