



East and Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership

Spring 2011

WORKING TOGETHER - Local Action Groups Update

LOCAL ACTION GROUPS

Each main town area in East & Mid Devon has a geographically based Local Action Group (LAG). These were set up some years ago to tackle crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the towns and surrounding rural areas.

These are not public meetings but are attended by a variety of staff from organisations who work directly with, and in, local communities and who have a remit for resolving issues of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour.

Each LAG has local objectives and action plans which concentrate on the priorities of the Partnership and the local communities. Of the group, members are likely to include representatives from: District & Town Councils, Parish Councils, Victim Support, Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service, Local Police Neighbourhood Team, Devon Youth Service, NHS Devon, local voluntary youth groups, schools and Pubwatch.

If you have any issues that you would like discussed at your Local Action Group, please contact Gerry Moore.

Axe Valley LAG – covering Axminster town & surrounding rural areas

During the past year the Axe Valley LAG has supported and provided funding for a number of local projects including:

- **Community Messaging** - people in the Axminster area, including the town and rural villages, are being encouraged to subscribe to the Police Community Messaging Service. It is estimated that approximately one third of the population from the area is now signed up to the service.
- The Police in Seaton organised a **tag rugby tournament** for young people from the area. As a result they intend to arrange future events and the LAG has given some funding enabling more equipment to be purchased.
- **Kilmington Neighbourhood Assessment Day** - East Devon District Council Environmental Health officers arranged a Neighbourhood Assessment Day in Kilmington in July. Representatives from other agencies, including the Police, took part and made face to face contact with residents from the village about any concerns they had.
- Following on from the success of last year's **Commando Challenge**, Police at Axminster took 14 young people on the Snowden Challenge in Wales. Also later in the year after 15 weeks of training totalling over 300 hours, 15 young people again took part in the Commando Challenge at the Royal Marine camp, Lymptone. The LAG fully supported these two initiatives with funding.
- **Fun Day** - Devon Youth Service arranged a Fun Day at Axminster in the summer. This was aimed at young people but invitations were extended to older persons within the community as part of an intergenerational event.



Commando Challenge

Exmouth LAG – covering Exmouth town and surrounding rural areas

Projects that the Exmouth LAG has supported include:

- **Open Door Centre refurbishment** - A successful bid was made to the Safer Devon Partnership to equip and furnish the new youth rooms/cafe at the Open Door Centre in Exmouth. A grant of £3,670 was made as a result of which the rooms are now fully equipped and well used.
- **The Open Door Night Shift Team** now works additional early shifts on Saturday evenings in Exmouth Town Centre to assist young people, who for various reasons, are in need of help and support. The team continue to work Saturday nights until the early hours to help older persons on the streets.

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East and Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership



Switch Project

- **SWITCH** is a youth project delivered by East Devon District Council at Littleham in Exmouth. Supported by the Partnership with some funding it is proving to be very successful in engaging young people to do positive activities in their free time. It also seeks to recruit volunteers to help put on community events.
- **Operation Wyn** is a Police initiative to tackle underage drinking in Exmouth. Where groups of young people are thought to be involved in drinking alcohol in public areas, officers seize and dispose of the drink. Those young people who appear to be vulnerable are then taken to the Police Station and their parents contacted to collect them. A Restorative Justice type meeting is organised for the following week, where the young people and their parents attend to discuss the behaviour of the young people involved.
- **Devon Youth Service** is also working with 10 young girls from around the town on a project about risk taking and vulnerability when drinking alcohol. Using funding from the Partnership, the group are intending to produce a DVD about 'young people and alcohol'.

Honiton LAG – covering Honiton town & surrounding rural areas

Work of the LAG over the last year has included:

- A multi agency **Community Action Day** was held at Heathpark on 4th August, which proved to be a successful event despite the adverse weather. 150 houses were visited and each received a pack of community safety leaflets. Several referrals were made to different agencies for a variety of free services.
- **Homework Club/Heathpark Project** - The Homework Club at Heathpark continues to be well attended providing a valuable resource for the young people on the estate. Using funding obtained from different sources, including the Partnership, a number of activities are also provided for the families throughout the year.
- **Improvements to Honiton Youth Centre** - Devon Youth Service, assisted by the Partnership, obtained £600 from the Safer Devon Partnership to provide decking and benches at the rear of Honiton Youth Centre. This work will be done by young people from the centre in Spring 2011.
- **Keep fit** - Honiton Police engaged with young people during the summer period by encouraging them to keep fit. A course was designed to help build relationships with young people and to encourage them into off the street activities. At the end of the programme the young people who had completed it satisfactorily were rewarded for their efforts with a trip to 'Quasar' near Exeter, for laser fun. Some of these activities were funded by the Partnership.
- **Tackling speeding** - the Partnership paid for an article about speeding traffic to go in both the Dunkeswell Parish Magazine and the Autospeed Magazine distributed at race meetings at Smeatharpe near Dunkeswell. This was to tackle the issues of speeding traffic in rural areas.

Sidmouth & Ottery St Mary LAG – covering these towns and surrounding areas

Projects that this LAG has supported include:

- Devon Youth Service workers in both Sidmouth and Ottery St Mary have been working with young people on the **Linx Project**. This is a 10 week course for young victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse and offers advice, support and a referral service.
- The LAG made a donation of £200 to the **Sidmouth Junior Rugby Club** which has 350 members who want to build a new pavilion at Sidford. £20,000 is needed for this and parents are also involved in the fund raising effort. Several young people who have been involved in crime and anti social behaviour in the Sidmouth area have been diverted away from this behaviour by being encouraged to join the rugby club.
- The small number of '**Stop a Thief**' alarms for which the Partnership provided funding last year, are being deployed to good effect in the rural areas around Sidmouth and Ottery St Mary.
- **Litter pick** - During the course of the year Devon Youth Service staff co-ordinate a group of young people to collect litter from around the town but mainly from the beach. The litter picker devices are loaned to them by the Partnership.
- **Police Cadets** - The 17 young cadets recruited by the Police in Ottery St Mary took part in community projects in and around the town throughout the year. Partly funded by the Partnership, the cadets have been well received by the community.
- **Skateboard Park** - The Partnership managed to assist in securing nearly £10,000 from the Safer Devon Partnership Capital Fund which has enabled work to go ahead on the long awaited skateboard park at Ottery St Mary. A small group of committed local people have succeeded in raising the £70,000 needed to fund the project.

Agencies will work in partnership to reduce incidents of crime, disorder, and anti-social behaviour whilst improving public confidence and addressing the fear of crime locally.