

CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING, PUBLIC SAFETY AND ENFORCEMENT – COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL

Private Sector Housing/ Licensing

Good progress is being made on the both the western and eastern parts of the Rigby Road housing development site. Hollinwood Homes will be handing over the first tranche of the 70 homes for Great Places before Christmas. An additional 56 homes for private sale are being constructed concurrently and 20 of these have already been reserved off-plan.

Work has commenced on reducing the height of the Seaside Way wall and replacing it with a fence and the tenders are out for visual improvements to the Princess Street bridge.

Only a small number of objections have been received to the Tyldesley Road/ Rigby Road Compulsory Purchase Order, but a decision on how to deal with them is still awaited from The Department for Communities and Local Government. Meanwhile, negotiations to acquire the remaining property in the Tyldesley Road/ Blundell Street block continue at a steady pace. Some relocations, of for example Blackpool Build Up, are being pursued to ensure business continuity.

Hollinwood are also preparing public realm proposals for the surrounding area to ensure that the development has the best setting possible and to help spread the full benefits of the development are trickled out to the surrounding neighbourhood.

Building Homes

Construction activity is well underway at Queens Park with 70 of the 92 units at varying stages of construction from foundations through to kitchen and heating system installation. Infrastructure construction is also advanced with deep sewer connections and highway construction underway. The programme is currently showing a six-week delay (down from eight weeks) due to over-running demolition operations. A recovery programme is in place with expectation that homes in the phase will be completed by 31 March 2015. Planned activity in the coming weeks includes progression of all units currently under construction, commencement of a further eight units and completion of the drainage infrastructure. First handovers remain on track for 31 October and continue at regular intervals thereafter up until the phase completion on 31 March 2015. At the end of July, there were eight apprentices on site, including bricklayers, joiners, plasterers and ground worker apprentices.

The Phase 2 Compulsory Purchase Order was made on 2 May and submitted to the Secretary of State on 13 May. Negotiations with leaseholders and other commercial interests continue with acquisition of a number of properties at various stages of completion, including recently completed properties. Occupation of properties on the remaining parts of the estate has stabilised with those residents wishing to remain in new properties following development having been offered properties. A tenants' choice process has also been completed.

Trading Standards, Food Hygiene and all Enforcement activities

Sunbed Operations

Officers of the Public Protection Division have visited every premises in the town to deal with issues around safety and allowing underage use of their premises. Even after being initially advised, 60% of premises failed underage test purchasing exercises and 70% were using bulbs, which exceeded recommended safety, levels re UV light. The first two prosecutions have been completed, with guilty verdicts and five further prosecutions are listed for trial at Blackpool Magistrates Court.

Problematic Beggars

An ongoing joint operation with the Police is underway to tackle repeat offenders who will not engage with offers of help and assistance. In the last two months, four problematic beggars have been reported for prosecution for a total of 49 separate offences. These are already listed for trial at Court and all four face CRASBO applications to ban them from begging anywhere in the town.

On street Car Sales

Following a dramatic increase in complaints from residents, a proactive ultra robust targeting of this issue has been undertaken by officers. Initially vehicles have a Warning Notice attached to instruct the owners to remove them and this is confirmed when officers contact them. If not complied with this is followed up by the issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN). In the last two months, 141 Warning Notices have been issued, with 18 having to be followed up by FPN's. All of the 141 vehicles have subsequently been removed. During these operations, a "disguised" car trader has been uncovered trying to restrict consumers rights and he has been reported for prosecution.

Tattooists Code of Practice

Officers of the Public Protection Division are working with colleagues in Public Health and representatives of the tattooing industry to improve standards and protect health and safety. This will include the production of a Voluntary Code of Conduct and the publishing of a Council approved list of traders (to mirror the Safe and Secure directory). Breaches of the Code will be published and such operators will be struck off the list.

Operation Wellbeing

This is a joint operation that occurs seven days a week and pairs up officers from the Police with those in the Public Protection Division with the aim of clearly demonstrating that the agencies have control of streets in the town centre and Promenade. All issues are being tackled robustly, head on, from begging (as mentioned above) to illegal street trading, charity collectors, heather sellers, drunkenness, lewd behaviour, commercial waste etc. This has led to the highest ever number of matters being detected and handled, as appropriate. Amongst the issues already tackled are a Licence Review of the Underbar leading to restricted opening hours, bogus charity collectors being reported for prosecution, multiagency operations in the early hours of weekend mornings tackling takeaways over ASB, Notices being issued over commercial food waste and street traders being reported for prosecution regarding sales of fake vodka and whisky relating to major public health concerns.

"BSafe" – Blackpool Community Safety Partnership

Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Performance

All crime in Blackpool showed a 4% decrease in April to June 2014 when compared to the same period the previous year. This equates to 177 fewer crimes.

Individual breakdown of other crime categories include:

- Anti-social behaviour has remained at the same level
- Vehicle crime has decreased by 17% (equivalent to 46 fewer crimes)
- Domestic burglary has increased by 7% (12 additional crimes)
- Domestic abuse has decreased by 2% (eight fewer)
- Assaults have increased by 4% (34 additional)
- Sexual Offences (not including rape) have decreased by 16% (eight fewer)

Anti-Social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conference (ASBRAC)

Between June 2010 and June 2014 a total of 51 Anti-Social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conferences (ASBRAC) have been held.

A total of 309 high risk cases to date have been referred to ASBRAC since June 2010 and have had comprehensive action plans put in place to address the risk caused to victims by anti-social behaviour.

A total of 284 high-risk cases (92%) have been either completely resolved or resolved to such a level where there is no longer risk of harm to the victim.

Crime reduction and substance misuse initiatives

Modern Slavery Campaign Launch

On 31 July 2014, the Home Office launched a campaign to raise awareness of modern slavery. The campaign features a television advert, which depicts various exploitative circumstances in order to highlight the existence of modern slavery in Britain.

The aim of the campaign is to educate members of the public about different types of slavery and how to spot key signs that a person is being exploited. The Home Office has also set up a new website and a helpline dedicated to modern slavery, which will provide information and allow referrals and reporting.

Assessment of Police Performance

The HM Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) has launched a public consultation on its new approach to assessing police performance. A specific set of criteria will be utilised in the proposed assessment method and each force will be assessed on:

- How well the force provides value for money (efficiency)
- How well the force cuts crime (effectiveness)
- How well the force provides a service that is fair and treats people properly (legitimacy)

These criteria will then be rated, allowing a user-friendly way for the public to ascertain how well their local police force is performing. This will also give police forces a chance to make changes and any improvements will be demonstrated through the rating system for the public to see.

Serious Crime Bill

On 5 June 2014, the Serious Crime Bill was introduced into the House of Lords. The bill proposes powers that can be used by law enforcement agencies to pursue, disrupt and bring to justice those who are engaged in serious and organised crime. The Bill also includes measures to protect vulnerable women and children and to guard against the threat of terrorism.

Domestic Burglary Initiative

Lancashire Constabulary has recently started a new approach to directly targeting domestic burglary. The product, called Optimal Forager, stems from research carried out by the Jill Dando Institute. One of the predominant features of this research is the theory that a burgled premise is at a heightened risk of being burgled again following the initial offence. Moreover, properties in the immediate vicinity of a burgled property are also at a heightened risk of being targeted following the initial offence. The parameters set for these criteria specified properties within a 400-metre range, within two weeks.

The Lancashire Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Analyst Team ran a testing process on six months of domestic burglary data, and determined that Blackpool was the key risk area for 'near repeat' offending (47.1% of burglaries were identified as near repeats during that period).

Domestic abuse

Interpersonal Violence and Abuse Update

Blackpool continues to have the highest number of high risk victims per 10,000 female population in the North West, currently 105 (this is an increase since December 2012 when the rate was 96.4 per

10,000), the national average is 27.4 per 10,000. The figure is provided by Co ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA) each quarter and is derived by analysing the prevalence of high risk victims including those who report, and those that do not report, to the police and by taking into account local factors such as population density, deprivation and the range of referral agencies available.

Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

During 2013/ 2014, there were 655 referrals to MARAC, an increase of 10% on the previous year with an average of 27 referrals per MARAC. During the first quarter of 2014/ 2015 there have been 153 referrals into MARAC, this represents a reduction in high risk domestic abuse referrals to MARAC, but remains an area which requires monitoring.

DV Disclosure scheme

Clare's Law came into force on 8 March 2014 enables:

- Right to Ask requests are triggered when a member of the public contacts the police directly to request a disclosure. This can be the individual who is in a relationship with a potentially violent partner, or a third party who has concerns.
- Right to Know requests are triggered by the police where they receive indirect information or intelligence (from police or partner agencies) that indicates an individual is at a risk of harm from their partner.

Work is continuing to raise awareness across communities in relation to 'Clare's Law' and it is envisaged that there will be an increase in uptake of 'right to ask' requests as awareness is raised further.

DV Protection Notices / Orders

These are now in place and offer the Police (and agencies working in partnership) the opportunity to use additional powers to protect vulnerable victims in the immediate hours after an incident has occurred. The police will issue the notices where they have reasonable grounds to believe a victim is at risk of future violent behaviour but where other sanctions cannot be put in place. The case for the protection order must be heard in a magistrates 'court within 48 hours. The notice or order will state that the named perpetrator must not return to the home for a period of time. This is to give the victim the breathing space to decide if they want to remain in the relationship or if they want to use the time to make necessary arrangement to separate, intense support will be made available during this period in order to encourage the victim to engage with services.

Early Intervention Foundation Demonstration Project-

Early Help services in Blackpool were recently successful in gaining funding from the European Social Research Council to commission a comprehensive evaluation of a new Domestic Abuse Project due to begin in Autumn 2014. The project aims to support those families who experience lower risk domestic abuse and to stop this escalating to higher risk and dangerous levels. The work will help to develop resilience in families and develop tools and services to support this work. Research evaluation will be undertaken by the University of Central Lancashire over four years to build and evaluate an evidence based early identification assessment and response pathway for Children in Blackpool living with domestic abuse.