



POLICE PUT THE BRAKES ON MOTORBIKE MENACES



Sgt Wayne Cooke

A POLICE CRACKDOWN ON NUISANCE MOTORBIKE RIDERS RECENTLY TOOK PLACE IN CAMP HILL, LEADING TO ONE ARREST, TWO VEHICLE CONFISCATIONS AND SEVEN FORMAL WARNINGS.

Police in the area called in a helicopter and eight staff and used tip-offs from residents to stage a weekend of action as part of an ongoing effort to stamp out the misuse of bikes across the estate.

Sergeant Dean Reid, of the

neighbourhood crime fighting team, said: "The riders of these bikes are not only committing offences but risking serious injury to pedestrians and themselves. We will endeavour to use all our powers, including seizure, to stamp out this problem and encourage the public to assist us in this task."

The police are keen to hear from any residents with information on where bikes used by nuisance riders are stored. Culprits could face a large fine of up to £1,000, loss of their property or, should an accident

occur, an unlimited civil claim.

To help continue the good work, new signs will be put up in Camp Hill warning people that bikes are prohibited from open spaces.

Residents are also reminded that riders of miniature motorbikes, which are often very difficult to control and cannot easily be seen by other road users, can also be found guilty of offences under the Road Traffic Act, leading to prosecution.

Sergeant Wayne Cooke said: "The issue is one we know concerns residents, so we are pleased to have

made some inroads into reducing the problem. The recent crackdown is part of an ongoing campaign to make the area safer.

"The message to those riding motorbikes illegally is that you will get caught."

Any residents with information on illegal motorcyclists can help the police by:

- Identifying the culprits and owners of the bike - including any known storage of the machines
- Getting a time, date and location that the problem took place

- Giving as much description as you can in relation to the riders and motorcycle.

To report nuisance bikes, you can contact nuisance officer Sam Stevens at Nuneaton Police Station, Criminal Justice Centre, Vicarage Street, Nuneaton, or phone 024 7664 1111 ext 3018.

You can also call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. You do not have to leave your name or address.

STOP PRESS • STOP PRESS • STOP PRESS • STOP PRESS • STOP PRESS

NEW STATISTICS FROM THE POLICE HAVE SHOWN A DRAMATIC DECREASE IN CRIME IN CAMP HILL.

The number of vehicle crimes,

burglaries and assaults are all down on last year.

In April 2004 there were 14 vehicle offences, including theft and taking without owner's consent. This April there were

only six - a decrease of almost 43 per cent.

Last month there was one reported burglary in the area, compared to the same period last year when there were

three offences.

The number of assaults has fallen from 14 offences last April, to six offences in April 2005.

During the past three months (February to April), vehicle crime

has fallen by 45 per cent, house burglaries have fallen by 66 per cent and assaults have gone down by 46 per cent in comparison to the same period last year.

For richer or poorer...



LOVE MIGHT NOT COST A THING TO WORLD SUPERSTAR JENNIFER LOPEZ, BUT FOR THE REST OF US MARRIAGE CAN BE ONE MASSIVE EXPENSE.

With the average wedding in the Midlands now hitting £11,785, loved-up couples in Camp Hill, following in Charles and Camilla's and Ken and Deidre's footsteps, could find tying the knot an expensive way to prove their love.

Following several low years, the number of couples saying 'I do' is on the increase with 593 romantics walking down the aisle last year in Nuneaton.

However, there are plenty of ways to help make your wedding cheap and chic. Sue Hammond, superintendent registrar at Nuneaton Register Office, offered some top tips.

She said: "Some people think getting married at a register office can be like a conveyor belt, but that is far from true. Couples can (as long as it's not religious), choose their own music and readings, and personalise their vows (as long as there is no religious content). We will always try to cater for special requests.

"With all the extras such as a choir and bell ringers, getting married in a church can be a costly business. To get married in a register office you are required to pay £30 per person to give legal notice of the marriage, and then £37.50 on the day. We allow up to half-an-hour per service with

plenty of time for photos, so there's no rushing anyone in and out."

The recent law change allowing couples to get married at approved licensed venues also increases the option of finding a location to suit your wallet.

In addition to the register office, which can accommodate up to 60 guests, other places licensed to hold weddings in Nuneaton include Chase Hotel, Higham Lane, and Weston Hall Hotel, Weston Lane, Bulkington.

Another way to shave pounds off the day is to save on the dress. High street stores like Debenhams, BHS and Monsoon all offer off-the-peg bridal wear that looks a million dollars, but doesn't cost it.

Oxfam also offers specialist bridal wear shops - including never-worn stock. There are nine such stores across the country, and luckily for Camp Hill brides, one right on the doorstep in Coventry, on Walsgrave Road, and another in Birmingham. There are currently 200 designs at the Coventry branch, bringing a whole new meaning to something old, something new, something borrowed and something blue.

Coventry manager Vicky Tracey said: "We always welcome contributions from women who want to support the charity and see their special dresses giving pleasure to another bride on a limited budget.

"But what few people realise is that we also receive some fantastic never-worn gowns and veils from specialist shops such

as Stella Liliana in Studley, south Warwickshire, which do not have to pay VAT on dresses if they give them to charity."

But if you want to splurge on the dress and a memorable location, there are plenty of other ways to stretch a limited budget whilst still having the day you want. One top tip is to choose a day out of season. Getting married in winter or on a weekday can save hundreds on a location, the photography and the food bill.

You could also consider having the cake as the dessert in a sit down meal, or take simple steps such as choosing flowers which are in season. And if you've a photographic friend, a colleague with a fancy car or an arty mate, then why not rope them into helping out as an extra-special wedding present - beats a toaster any day.

And if it all gets that bit too much, then don't forget - a marriage is about far more than a single day.

Cannon S Sneath, of the Vicarage, Cedar Road, said: "No matter where, or what the expense, 'for richer or poorer' has a far deeper significance.

"A wedding is a commitment of one person to another which encompasses all of life's ups and downs - for better or worse, in sickness and in health. The wedding day is intended primarily for two people, in the presence of friends and family, and should they chose a church wedding - in the presence of God - to commit themselves to the future together - whatever it holds."

PARTNERSHIP HELPS BUILD SUCCESSFUL FUTURE

THE PHYSICAL REGENERATION OF CAMP HILL HAS TAKEN A MAJOR STEP FORWARD NOW PRIDE IN CAMP HILL HAS NAMED THE PROJECT'S PREFERRED DEVELOPER FOR WORK TO THE TUNE OF £24 MILLION.

Lovell has been named as the preferred developer to take forward plans to build a thriving busy heart to the area, with housing, the build and letting of new retail units and

the construction of new community buildings.

Following full planning approval, work to build the community facilities will start in January 2006 and is expected to last 40 weeks. The total village centre works will take around four years to complete.

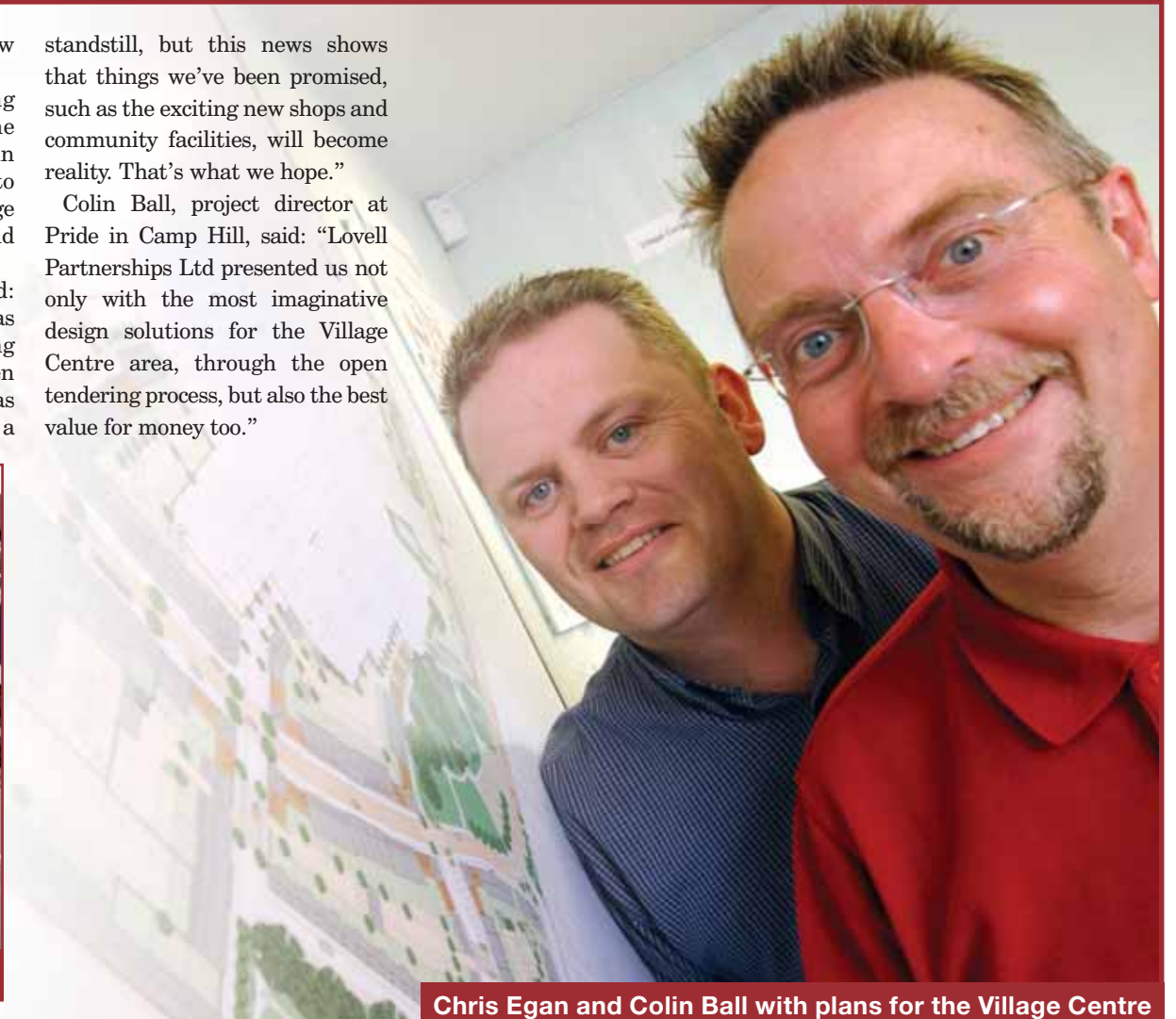
Resident Ann Corbett said: "This is good news for residents as it shows things are moving forward. The residents have been waiting for things to happen as they had reached a bit of a

standstill, but this news shows that things we've been promised, such as the exciting new shops and community facilities, will become reality. That's what we hope."

Colin Ball, project director at Pride in Camp Hill, said: "Lovell Partnerships Ltd presented us not only with the most imaginative design solutions for the Village Centre area, through the open tendering process, but also the best value for money too."



Chris Egan with artists' impressions of the Village Centre



Chris Egan and Colin Ball with plans for the Village Centre

MISS CAMP HILL CROWNED

THE ESTATE'S BEAUTIES WERE OUT IN FORCE LAST MONTH AS THEY BATTLED TO BECOME THE FIRST EVER MISS CAMP HILL.

Twelve girls attended a special evening on April 22 to determine who would claim the prestigious crown and win pride of place on Camp Hill's float in the annual Nuneaton Carnival.

Following appearances by the girls, the 12 were whittled down to five, and after a tense moment of deliberation, 12-year-old Kelsey Biddle, of Beechwood Road, was crowned Miss Camp Hill for 2005.

The winner, who attends Hartshill Secondary School, said: "I am really pleased to have won and am looking forward to the Nuneaton Carnival."

Kelsey's best friend Darnah Boucher, aged 13, claimed a runner-up spot along with Robyn-Leigh Robinson.

Darnah's proud mum Dionne

said: "I'm just over the moon. It was a good night and I'm very proud. I've now entered my other daughter into the Nuneaton Carnival Queen competition, I'm hopeful she'll win."

The three girls will now take centre stage on a float in the Nuneaton Carnival on June 18 and will be attending the Camp Hill Festival on Sunday August 7.

Event organiser Maggie Smith said: "We had a good turn-out and all I've heard is positive comments. Everyone enjoyed themselves, and some of the girls are already asking whether we're going to hold the competition next year. All the girls looked great and the judges had a hard job."

"Thanks to Sid Tooth, his daughter Christine, and our other judges for giving up their time."



Miss Camp Hill Kelsey Biddle (with sash) picture with Darnah Boucher (left) and Robyn-Leigh Robinson (top)

News In Brief

Bright sparks

More than 100 residents helped make the Community Hub open day a fantastic success. Residents picked up more than 200 free light bulbs and also got the chance to meet their local Resident Forum members, county councillor Sid Tooth and local police representatives.

Reaching out

Residents are to be consulted on possible development plans for the church hall and its future usage. The Camp Hill Community Hall Committee is organising an area-wide mobile office to tour the estate in June. Residents can ask questions about the possible changes and complete questionnaires on the church hall.

The survey can also be found at the church hall, in schools and in shops. Completed forms should be returned to the church hall or vicarage, where they will be entered into a prize draw.

Board meeting

Pride in Camp Hill is holding its next Board meeting on June 8. The Resident Forum members will be attending, so if you have any questions for the Board please contact the forum members via Jayne or Amanda at the Camp Hill Community Office on 024 7639 9093.

Elvis was in the building

Elvis lovers put on their blue suede shoes to get all shook up at a recent event at the church hall. Organised by local residents Norman Brown and Katrina Lyons, and Pride in Camp Hill's Jayne Watson, the musical evening saw 100 people attend. The money raised will be put towards a children's event or outing to take place this summer.

CRIME IS NOT THE ANSWER

RESIDENTS CAN SHAPE THE FUTURE OF POLICING IN THE AREA BY COMPLETING A SURVEY ON CRIME AND DISORDER.

Student David Cowell has joined the local force to address the community's perception of the police in a bid to tackle the issues affecting residents most.

A copy of the questionnaire is enclosed in this edition of Camp Hill News. Completed surveys can be dropped off at the Camp Hill Family Community Care Centre, the Camp Hill Community Office and the Church Hall, Cedar Road. Spare copies can also be found at these locations.

Each completed questionnaire will be entered into a draw to win a £50 gift voucher donated by Debenhams.

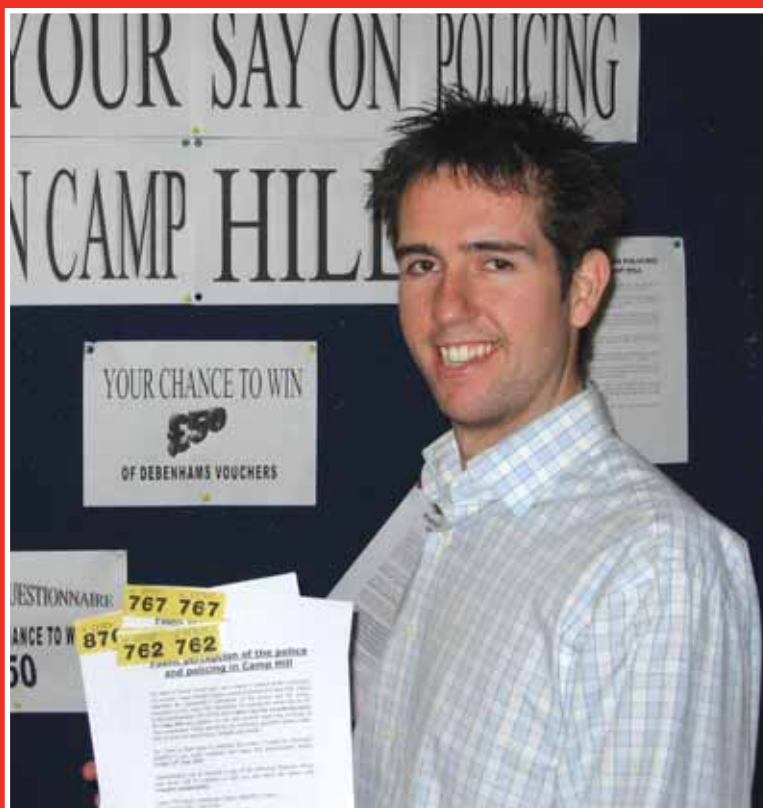
Topics in the survey include how much people fear becoming

a victim of crime, why residents might not report a crime, the police presence in the area, crime reduction initiatives and areas of improvement.

David said: "The survey is anonymous and will only take a short time to complete. By sparing some time to answer the questions, you can have your say on policing in Camp Hill and together we can work towards improving policing in the community."

All questionnaires need to be returned by June 24. If you'd like to request an additional copy, then email David at lamboonered@hotmail.com

The key results of the survey will be published in a future edition of Camp Hill News.



ANSWERS ON THE BACK OF A POSTCARD

CAMP HILL NEWS HAS PROVEN TO BE A GOOD READ AS MORE THAN 60 RESIDENTS POPPED THEIR POSTCARDS IN THE MAIL TO AIR THEIR VIEWS.

Of the 60 replies received so far, more than 70 per cent have stated that Camp Hill News overall is good or very good.

The paper's design got a massive thumbs up with 79 per cent of those responding giving it top marks and 42 people stating the photography

was good or very good.

Some respondents stated there was room for improvement in the breadth of coverage, with a need to focus on the whole of Camp Hill, whilst other criticisms pointed out the need to mention all community groups and negative stories.

All comments will be taken on board, with plans already to focus on Beechwood Neighbourhood Watch in the next edition. If you have a group you'd like

mentioning or something you want Camp Hill News to include, then please email us at community.office@prideincamphill.co.uk or call into the community office, in Ramsden Avenue.

All those who have stated they'd be interested in getting involved with Camp Hill News will be contacted shortly and invited to the next editorial meeting.

The winner of the £25 voucher is Mrs M White.



GROWING FOR GOLD IN BEECHWOOD ROAD



Green-fingered kids hard at work

KIDS ARE DOING THEIR BIT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE COMMUNITY BY STAGING A CLEAN-UP PROJECT AND CREATING A GARDEN, WHICH THEY HAVE NAMED CAMP HILL KIDS' HAVEN.

Armed with safety gear and garden tools, donated from Crime Beat, a tidy-team of 18 children, aged from five to 12 years old, gave up their Saturday mornings. So far they have cleared 30 bags of rubbish with the help of Nicola Jones, housing officer. They are also recycling flowers from the demolition houses on the estate.

The work is one of the many projects for the children spear-headed by Beechwood Road Neighbourhood Watch committee members.

John Booton, project manager, said: "The project is very hard work for the youngsters, but they are enjoying every minute, they have been fantastic and I

would like to thank them all for giving up their weekend to achieve this project. With all their hard work it would be nice if anyone would like to donate any flowers to help finish it off."

The green-fingered youngsters are going to help elderly neighbours in their gardens and are staging a competition for flower boxes which they will donate to the most elderly residents. All the children will receive prizes, and the three winners will all get certificates.

See next month's edition for more information on Beechwood Road Neighbourhood Watch. If you have a community group you'd like Camp Hill News to feature, please call the Camp Hill Community Office on 024 7639 9093.

HOME IS WHERE THE ART IS

ARTISTIC MASTERPIECES BY CAMP HILL'S YOUNG PEOPLE ARE NOW ON DISPLAY ABOVE THE CEDAR ROAD SHOPS.

Following weeks of hard work during Easter, young artists aged between 13 and 19, can view the fruits of their labour. The project, organised by the Camp Hill Youth Detached Project, saw kids across the estate give up their free time

to paint security boards to brighten the area.

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council erected the boards, depicting Camp Hill and local activities, at the end of April.

Detached youth worker Zeb Ghumra said: "It was great to lead and manage such a project, which engaged about 15 young people. The project was delivered

from the Opportunities Centre in Pool Road, and Nigel Bond, centre manager, also said that the young people's attitude and behaviour reflected very positively.

"Special thanks to Shola, Danny, Steve, Lewis, Steve Timms, Jodie, Cory, Abigail, Hannah, David, Foxy, Shaun, Steve Moore and Jamie."



SOAP BOX

THIS FEATURE GIVES YOU THE CHANCE TO AIR YOUR VIEWS ON LOCAL ISSUES CLOSE TO YOUR HEART.

THIS MONTH MAXINE MCDERMOTT LOOKS AT HOW BEST TO GET AROUND NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH.

If you do not live near a bus stop or bus route, don't have a car, or perhaps have a mobility problem or a disability, getting around can sometimes be far from a walk in the park.

However, help is at hand. One option to help is the CHAT service which runs two buses taking passengers to George Eliot Hospital, Bermuda Park, Nuneaton Town Centre and Prologis Park. Call 01788 535555 if you want to be picked up and dropped off at home.

You can also use the Flexibus 206 or 208 to head into the town centre for a spot of shopping. Those

wanting to be picked up and dropped off at home, should call 0500 212225.

Other options include Car-Go-Bus which runs voluntary community transport (01827 722617) or Medicar which offers a car-scheme for medically related appointments (024 7631 5151).

For more details on any of the above, call me, Maxine McDermott on 024 7635 1493 or 07899 023 226.

Why not let us know about your favourite read, best place for a family day out or mouthwatering recipe? If you have something to tempt our taste buds or a tip or review you think other residents in Camp Hill will like, email us at community.office@prideincamphill.co.uk or call us on 024 7639 9093.

Q & A

Q: WHERE CAN I GO TO TAKE MY LIVELY THREE-YEAR-OLD TO PLAY WITH OTHER CHILDREN?

A: Camp Hill Early Years Centre, Hollystitches Road, has been running a successful 'Play and Stay' for over two years. Based in the new Early Years Centre, in the Rainbow Room, children aged 0 to four and their parents, grandparents and carers can come and play in a wonderful environment.

The sessions are held from 9am to 11.30am on Tuesdays and 1pm to 3pm on Wednesdays. Each session costs just 50p. For more information, call Denise on 024 7634 6155.

Camp Hill Community Office, Ramsden Avenue, Camp Hill, Nuneaton CV10 9EB

Tel: 024 7639 9093 • Opening hours: Monday to Friday 9am to 1pm and 1.30pm to 5pm

Evening appointments can be made by prior arrangement