



# NEWSLETTER

## July 2004

Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer

Direct Telephone Line sponsored by Billericay Lions  
01277 633090



**John Baron, MP for Billericay and Wickford**, attended our June meeting and as is usual I try to capture the main points that the speakers made. This time I have an easier job as John kindly noted his major points for me:

"Firstly, I would like to thank all members of our Neighbourhood Watch Schemes - such schemes are a valuable contribution in our fight against crime.

A number of issues were discussed at our meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> June.

With regards binge-drinking, I believe one of the best ways to minimise this is to stop more themed pubs from coming into Billericay High Street, otherwise it will suffer the same fate as some neighbouring towns and become just another 'pub alley'. To this end, we have been active in blocking undesirable planning applications.

Meanwhile, in order to combat rising crime, to me there is no substitute to putting a massive increase of police officers on our streets. Local residents rightly feel strongly about this, and 6,000 constituents signed my 'More Bobbies on the Beat' petition which I presented to the Home Secretary. We need as a country a step change in policing levels with an extra 40,000 officers on the beat - this would represent a further 1,000 officers for Essex.

In addition, we need stiffer court sentences, reform of our prisons and a zero tolerance approach to crime which worked so well in New York during the 1990s.

These extra police officers would largely be paid for by cutting down on the large number of illegal immigrants and failed asylum seekers who end up staying in this country because our systems have broken down, and humanely returning them home.

The proliferation of speed cameras was also discussed, as some appear to be simple revenue raisers. In my view, confidence can only be restored in these cameras if an independent audit of the number, need and position of existing cameras is conducted.

A recent report has highlighted that nearly half of the cameras nationally have made no difference to accident rates. In addition, the Government has admitted to creaming off £9 million from the £14 million raised in speeding fines from Essex motorists between 1997 and 2002.

Needless to say, should you wish to discuss any of these or other issues, then please do not hesitate to phone me on 01268-520765, or write to me at The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA."

### **Drug Related Crime on the rise**

Drug related crime is on the rise in the Queens Park and Lake Meadows area. If you see what you think is drug dealing, please report it to Crimestoppers (0800 555 111) or the local police on 01277 631212.

### **Operation Northern Outfall**

This is a Police operation targeting the problems at Billericay Railway Station and Lake Meadows. British Transport Police are now involved with the policing of the railway station.

### **Cash Machine Fraud**

The cash machine at Billericay Railway station has been the target for fraud and over £10,000 worth of fraudulent withdrawals have been related to this machine. The latest scam is for the thieves to install a device that reads your card number and a camera that records your PIN as you key it. British Transport Police are on the case, but please look out for any strange looking extra parts of a cash machine (see over for pictures).

### **Is this your tenner?**

Another scam to get your credit or debit card number is for someone to look over your shoulder as you key your PIN. As your card is ejected from the machine, an accomplice taps you on the shoulder and asks if you have dropped a ten pound note - while your attention is diverted, the other thief runs your card through a reader and puts it back in the machine slot. Remember to shield your PIN as you type it if there is anyone close behind.

### **Caravan Crime is on the increase**

Six caravans have been stolen from Snails Farm in the last eight months. If you have a caravan and you would like some more information on security, WPC Julie Dawes has some information packs available. Drop into the Police Station or call her on **01268 244028**

### **Fun Day Help**

Thanks to Alan Wood, Fred Good, George and Jean Smith, Erica Gilmour and Stephen Foggo for their help at the Fun Day Coconut shy. Additional thanks to Stephen for raising £300 for our funds by walking at the Barleylands Walk.

**We are at the Police Station from 10am to Noon on the first Saturday of each month.** Please come along if you have any property you would like marked, especially bicycles now the summer is on the way. **Cycle and property marking is free of charge.** We will also be pleased to see you if you just want to collect information, ask any questions you may have or buy any of our reduced cost security products.

**CASH MACHINE (ATM) FRAUD - THIS IS HOW THE THIEVES CAPTURE YOUR CARD DETAILS!**



Card copying equipment being installed on front of a cash machine. This gadget records your card details.



When in place it looks just like the real thing!



This is the camera that records you typing your PIN



Watch out for set-up with leaflet boxes attached to them!

**Who's Who**

Police Station	<b>01277 631212</b>
Police Inspector:	Richard Croft - <b>01268 245822</b>
Community Liaison Officer:	WPC Julie Dawes Direct Line - <b>01268 244028</b>
N.W. Direct Line	<b>01277 633090</b>

**Diary Dates**

Members meetings are held on the following dates at 8 pm at the Billericay Football Club, Blunts Wall Road, everyone is welcome at 8 pm on 11 August; 13 October and 1 December.