

February 2010

Freckleton Community Update

Your Top Priorities

You've told us your top problems for us to tackle are:

- Traffic is using the mini roundabout as a short cut in the morning at the Warton end of Lytham Road

Traffic Congestion at the Mini roundabout on Lytham Rd by boundary of Freckleton and Warton:

At last months meeting we asked you what problems you had experienced in the area. You told us traffic congestion. Traffic was monitored at the mini roundabout and 72 motorists redirected into Freckleton for incorrect use of turn left only lane on the

Freckleton bypass. 11 positive comments received.

Council related issues regarding school crossing patrol for Preston Old Rd, and Speed indicator signs on A584: The council are aware of the issue and are looking into the matter. The resident who raised the issue has been made aware.

Public consultation — all welcome

Date	Time	Location
3rd March PACT	5pm	Village Hall

Newsbeat >>>> Residents are asked to be wary of the following traders currently operating in Lancashire:

Thornton Cleveleys: Following the arrest of a gang of four for offences relating to work carried out on a pensioner's drive in Thornton Cleveleys on 18 January, Lancashire Trading Standards Service is warning residents that the gang is believed to have been targeting older residents throughout the county for some time. They operate from sites in various parts of the county, often giving Skelmersdale or Preesall addresses, and are described as white men, some with Irish accents, using a white Ford Transit and a white Ford Flatbed. They cold call and start work washing and digging up driveways almost at once. They also offer to mend gateposts or paint roofs. Free work (usually washing drives) may be offered initially though this may then be charged for. High pressure sales tactics are believed to be used and consumers are unclear exactly what has been agreed to. No written cancellation rights are given- a criminal offence. It is believed the work offered may be unnecessary.

The leader of the arrested gang is already being prosecuted by a neighbouring Trading Standards Service after targeting older consumers for unnecessary or work described incorrectly, and is believed to be based in Lancashire but working across the North West.

Residents are asked to warn all their neighbours about a group of Irish men cold calling and carrying out this type of work county-wide and beyond, and keep an eye out for anyone vulnerable in the area.

Consumers dealing with traders where the contract is agreed at the consumer's home should be aware that they will have a cooling off period to cancel any work agreed to, or any purchases made over £35, although in certain circumstances the customer may have to pay for any goods installed or work carried out so far when cancelling. Also be aware that the contract will not be enforceable against the customer unless information about your right to cancel is given in writing.

Warning issued by Dawn Robinson, Lancashire County Council Trading Standards Service, please call 01772 532763 for further information.

Crime continues to fall in Blackpool and the Fylde

THERE were more than 800 fewer victims of crime in Blackpool and the Fylde, latest figures reveal.

- The figures show that overall crime is down by 3.7 per cent, a reduction of 829 crimes from 22,435 to 21,606 between October 2008 and September 2009 when compared to the previous year.
- There were 110 fewer victims of violence against the person after offences fell by 1.9 per cent from 5,899 to 5,789.
- Robbery has fallen by 10 per cent from 201 crimes to 181.
- Burglary saw a slight increase of 1.5 per cent or 13 crimes, from 888 to 901 offences but these figures are a snapshot in time and burglary is now coming down which is being addressed through specialist burglary operations such as Operation Julius.
- Criminal damage has seen a drop of 603 crimes or 10.8 per cent from 5,573 to 4,970.
- Drug offences rose by 42.2 per cent from 682 to 970 and sexual offences saw a slight increase of 34 offences from 233 to 267 or 14.6 per cent.



Ch Supt Debicki

Chief Supt Richard Debicki, Divisional Commander for the Western Division of Lancashire Constabulary, said: "We are pleased with the latest position and these figures demonstrate that crime continues to fall in the area.

"Indeed crime is lower than it has been for many years in some categories and we have a determination to keep crime as low as it can be.

"To see that fewer people are now becoming victims of crime is encouraging and is a testament to the hard work and commitment of my staff and partner agencies.

"We are not complacent however and will remain committed to keeping our communities safe and improving the quality of life for residents in Blackpool and the Fylde.

"We believe that the reason sexual offences have increased is due to campaigns and initiatives such as rape awareness week, which is encouraging more victims to report crime. We have a specialist team of trained officers in Blackpool and the Fylde who will continue to support victims and endeavour to bring offenders to justice.

"I would also like to reassure residents that we will continue to target those responsible for dealing and using illegal drugs in our continued efforts to tackle this scourge. The more we target offenders, the more reported offences we have, but the safer our streets become."

Local Crime Figures

Figures for Freckleton Wards	January 2009	January 2010	%+ or -
ASB Incidents	14	29	107%
All criminal damage	5	2	-60%
Domestic Burglaries	1	1	0%
Vehicle crime (theft of and from)	1	0	-100%
All violent crime	3	4	33.3%