

July 2010

Freckleton Community Update

Your Top Priorities

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

- Youth related problems leading up to and including Freckleton Club day

Youth related problems leading up to and including Freckleton Club day: At last months public meeting we asked what problems you had experienced. You told us youth issues. The team identified all possible problematic areas and individuals

and targeted those constantly over the weekend. Any alcohol found was seized or poured away. As a result the club day weekend passed successfully with few incidents of note and no arrests made.

Public consultation — all welcome

Date	Time	Location
4th August PACT	5pm	Village Hall

Newsbeat >>>> Roofs and Driveways- Trading Standards Warning

Lancashire Trading Standards are warning that June has brought an increase in the incidents of cold-calling driveway and roofing complaints, and that residents are asked to be on guard against the gangs of workmen targeting towns across the region, and to look out for any vulnerable or older neighbours who may be pressurised by cold callers. No one gang is responsible for the complaints- descriptions of the traders vary vastly.

Complaints about cold-calling roofers have come in from Hutton, Bamber Bridge, Burnley, Nelson, Barnoldswick, Leyland, and Skelmersdale and include aggressive practices, cracked tiles, vastly increasing prices throughout the job, newly-installed cappings hanging off, peeling paint, and fairly new roofs painted with 'sealants' for extortionate prices. Typically the traders are uncontactable when things go wrong or promise to return to fix problems but never arrive. In some cases the roofers have pestered householders until they have finally given in and reluctantly agreed to the work.

Complaints about cold-calling paving and driveways companies have been received from Morecambe, Preston, Leyland, Ormskirk and Fleetwood and include persistence until the resident agrees to the work, messy concrete or broken tarmac, blocked drains caused by the work, and in one case a resident left unable to open the shed door due to the tarmac outside it. Yet again faults remain unfixed since the workers often leave uncontactable numbers. Residents are advised to use reputable traders with land lines, local addresses and references. Alternatively check for a trader on the County Council-backed Safe Trader website www.safetrader.org.uk.

Please refer any complaints to Lancashire Trading Standards Service, 55 Guildhall Street, Preston, Lancs PR1 3NU via Consumer Direct tel 08454 040506 and ask them to pass the information to trading standards straight away. If there is any fraud or criminal damage the matter should also be referred to the police.

Warning issued by Lancashire County Council Trading Standards Service.

Operation Rogue Trader catches Trading Standards target

A TRADING STANDARDS target has been caught by Lancashire Police as part of Operation Rogue Trader.

On Thursday 1 July, police stopped a transit van at a checkpoint on Queen Victoria Road in Burnley. A Trading Standards investigation is underway into paperwork that was found in the vehicle that could be fraudulently displaying various organisations' logos and quality marks.

The vehicle also was seized for no insurance and the driver, a 44 year old man from Nelson, and the owner, a 46 year old man from Burnley, were reported for summons.

The joint operation between Police, Lancashire County Council Trading Standards and other partners sought to warn people about the dangers of rogue trading and doorstep crime.

It was run across the force last week and was hugely successful with 247 police and 92 separate trading standards offences identified and a further 182 offences from other agencies such as VOSA, the DVLA and the Environment Agency.

Over 6,500 leaflets were distributed and nearly 3,000 visits were made to homes of the most vulnerable members of our communities, in addition to 82 visits to repeat victims of crime.

1158 vehicles, mostly traders and builders were stopped by officers on targeted patrol and check sites across Lancashire and 439 businesses were also checked.

Superintendent Bill McMahon who led the operation for Lancashire Constabulary said: "This was a very successful operation which raised awareness with both the public and potential rogue traders, remind-

ing them that law enforcement agencies are out in Lancashire safeguarding the public against those who target the elderly and vulnerable.

"Doorstep criminals are a problem facing the safety of our communities. The only effective way to tackle and help combat this issue is by all agencies working together and using all the tools available to them to clamp down on the rogue traders."

Jim Potts, Chief Trading Standards Officer for Lancashire County Council Trading Standards Service, said: "Tackling rogue traders is a high priority for Trading Standards. Each year we receive hundreds of complaints from Lancashire consumers who have had problems with doorstep traders. Elderly and vulnerable people are victimised, paying large sums of money for work that is substandard, overpriced and doesn't need doing.

"Unscrupulous rogues and distraction burglars can have a devastating impact on peoples' lives and their activities are often linked to a vast network of crime.

"The rogue trader operations that took place last week involved a number of agencies including Trading Standards and the Police. Partnership working is an integral part of tackling the scourge of rogue traders - work that is carried out relentlessly by numerous agencies throughout the year. Initiatives like the Rogue Trader Day are an important opportunity to raise awareness and to give consumers the confidence to say no to cold callers.

"If anyone thinks that they have been the victim of rogue traders or uninvited doorstep callers, they should report the matter to Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06."

Anyone with information that would lead to the arrest of any distraction burglar or rogue trader should ring their local police or call Crimestoppers, the national charity, anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Local Crime Figures

Figures for Freckleton Wards	June 2009	June 2010	%+ or -
ASB Incidents	33	28	-15.1%
All criminal damage	7	4	-42.8%
Domestic Burglaries	0	0	No change
Vehicle crime (theft of and from)	0	0	No change
All violent crime	3	4	33.3%