

Dear Sarah,

I attended the Wollaston and Norton Pact meeting last night and heard further reports about the above plus anti-social behaviour around the canal area.

Dealing with the above first, from 4.30pm until early evening on most days young people, including those under age, acquire alcohol and drink around the Kingsway area. Specifically, Devon Road, Firmstone Street, Kent Road Park and Caslon Crescent appear to be particular problem areas. As well as street drinking and associated anti-social behaviour drug dealing is also carried out in full view of passers by who are concerned about the impact on the local primary school there.

The PCSOs present mentioned that there had been some arrests made for drug dealing in Neighbourhood 25 and mentioned the pro-active team as being a resource that could be used to target this area. May I ask how many arrests have been made for drug dealing in Wollaston over the past twelve months?

When we met in August I raised the problem of anti-social behaviour in the Kingsway area and around the canal. Based on what I heard last night it seems that things are not improving and I would like to ask you if it would be possible to conduct some pro-active policing in these areas? I think residents would appreciate a greater police presence during late afternoons. I know you can't be everywhere at once so would it also be possible please to put a bid in for the portable "Sherpa Cameras" to cover the area for a while?

There is another, and related issue, and that is that I keep getting reports that much of the vandalism and threatening behaviour experienced by residents around the Firmstone Road area (as it joins Vicarage Road) that can be traced back to one family who live in Council accommodation on the Kingsway. In other areas in which I have worked the police and the local authority's housing officers have worked with such problem families in ways that have either lead to improved behaviour or eviction. This problem family have apparently had the run of the local streets, without impediment from the Police or the council, for a couple of years now. What sort of co-operation exists between yourselves and Dudley MBC Housing? Is this something we can leverage to identify and work with this family?

I look forward to your response, and am available any day next week to discuss the problem further by telephone if needed.

Best wishes

Margot