



## EASTBOURNE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

“Making Eastbourne Even Safer”

# Newsletter - October 2011

### ROC on Eastbourne

The Bishop of Lewes, the Rt Rev Wallace Benn, joined Sussex Chief Constable Martin Richards and the Borough Commander for the Fire & Rescue Service, Julie Gilbert-King to launch ROC - Redeeming Our Communities - at the Winter Gardens on 12<sup>th</sup> October. A recorded message from Mayor Carolyn Heaps provided inspiration to all with her plea to ‘Roc on Eastbourne!’ East Sussex Police Commander Ch Supt Robin Smith, Eastbourne’s Ch Insp Jayne Dando joined around 400 people attended the event to hear the speakers explain that through faith, partnerships and action, relationships within the community of Eastbourne can be created, improved and energised.

Energy was not in short supply when the founder of ROC, Debra Green, told the audience how she had worked with communities in Manchester and elsewhere to develop community centres in conjunction with Partners such as the Police and Fire Service.

The evening was introduced by Chair of Churches Together in

Eastbourne, Martyn Relf, who thanked all those who had helped to bring ROC to Eastbourne.

The Chief Constable spoke about public service and likened the Police Service to that of the Clergy with many shared principles such as the desire to form strong, positive communities and promoting equality, fairness and respect for all.

The Community Safety Partnership was one of a number of organisations that



were represented at the meeting with information stalls. The Eastbourne Police stall was staffed by Sgts Fi Munro and Ed Ripley. There were numerous other information stalls for organisations such as Save the EDGH, Eastbourne Foodbank and Action for Change to name just a few.

A presentation by the Senior Head of Community at Eastbourne Borough Council,



Ian Fitzpatrick, highlighted how Neighbourhood Management relied on a partnership approach to help improve all aspects of community life including health, job creation and education opportunities.

Portfolio holder for Community at Eastbourne Borough Council and Devonshire Councillor, Margaret Bannister was also at the event. “The launch of ROC in Eastbourne will enable the different organisations and faiths to transform the lives of many people by working together much more closely. We know that the experience of ROC in other towns and cities has helped cut crime and anti-social behaviour which is already very low in Eastbourne. ROC will provide the opportunity for the community to continue to build a strong future for the town.”

As the evening drew to an end, Martyn Relf invited everyone to the next ROC event, which will be the first of many conversations, to be held at 7pm on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November at the Town Hall to develop the next stages for ROC in Eastbourne.

### As Summer Recedes ...

The long hot, well wet and windy, summer days are now behind us and the nights are drawing in. Darker evenings bring their own challenges as Halloween, Bonfire and then Christmas approach.

The roads present a danger to our most vulnerable road users, cyclists, but they in turn must ensure that they act responsibly. For those of you with children who cycle—as well as adult cyclists, here are a few pointers about responsible, and legal, cycling:

- Wear a helmet
- Wear bright clothing
- Check your brakes
- Use lights at night—see and be seen

For more information about keeping your cycle legal call the Partnership or speak to your local Officer.

Halloween presents its own concerns for the elderly in our community. Please don't let your children call at their doors wearing some of the masks that are on the market.



The Police have produced a leaflet which contains good advice on keeping safe—do pick up a copy.

Eastbourne has a very low house burglary rate. However, as the nights draw in, please ensure you take precautions to deter opportunistic burglars such as leaving lights on when you are out. This is particularly important on evenings like bonfire night when

many people will leave their houses empty.



## Quality Streets

Hartfield Park was the location of the Partnership's latest Quality Streets event which took place between 5pm and 7pm on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October.



Concerns about anti-social behaviour in the Park ranging from street drinking to dog fouling were put to representatives from the Neighbourhood Policing Team and the Borough Council's Community Enforcement Team whilst Councillors answered questions about facilities for residents.

Quality Streets events are held across Eastbourne to provide the community the opportunity to ask questions about issues that concern residents as well as providing information ranging from health to local facilities, waste recycling, education opportunities, home safety advice and dealing with crime.



Neighbourhood Inspector Steve Tullett said, "Crime is very low in this area of Eastbourne and at Hartfield Park residents talked to us about other issues such as street drinking and noise which we are working with Partners to reduce."



## October Focus

Current figures on crime in Eastbourne as of September 2011:

Following a period of small increases in overall crime in recent months, recorded crime for the 12 month period to the end of September 2011 compared to the 12 month period ending September 2010 fell slightly, down by 0.5% which resulting in 27 fewer victims.



Burglary of houses for the same period – the 12 months to the end of September 2011 is down by 6% from the 12 month period ending September 2010 – a reduction that means that 10 fewer people were victims.

In the run up to Christmas, additional focus is being put on shoplifting as in the past these offences have tended to increase as the shops get busier. However, shoplifting offences are continuing to reduce with a fall of over 5% for the 12 month period to the end of September 2011 compared to the 12 month period ending September 2010, this period resulting in 41 fewer victims.

Offences of violence in a public place has been showing an increase through the year but the increase has been halted with a small reduction that has seen 8 fewer victims for this period compared to the same period last year.

Following 10 months of significant reductions, the number of reports of anti-social behaviour has increased slightly last month by 4.7%, up by 318 incidents when compared to the same 12 month period last year. Operation Blitz continues to operate across Eastbourne to tackle low level anti-social behaviour and these slight increases are expected to reduce towards the end of the year.