

Community Action Day
19th October 2005
Paignton

Safer Communities Torbay organised the Community Action Day in the Merritt area of Paignton to tackle anti-social behaviour and help improving the quality of life for the local residents.

The Council provided 3 skips, which were filled with unwanted furniture and appliances, and 2 vehicles are being investigated as potentially abandoned. The Probation service provided help gathering all the goods and filling the skips and the Crime Reduction team visited in excess of 50 properties, giving crime reduction advice and taking referrals for their "Safe 'n Secure" scheme.

The Fire Service received in excess of 40 referrals for smoke alarm installations and the Police handed out over 120 packs of information on Crime Prevention, Domestic Abuse, Safer Communities and the Know the Code Campaign.

This initiative aimed to rid the area from the unsightly rubbish that can sometimes be found in the area, to increase public reassurance and reduce the opportunity for such offences as arson and fly-tipping. The Community Action Day aimed at giving people back their neighbourhood and providing them with ways of reporting such activity as dumping abandoned vehicles or old sofas.

Crime Reduction Sergeant David McCaffery noted: "Today's event was a resounding success and has raised awareness of how seriously Anti-Social Behaviour is viewed, promoted personal safety and provided detailed crime prevention advice. I have spoken with several residents, many of whom have lived in the street for over 15 years and offered the continued support of Safer Communities Torbay in making their area even safer"

Philip Vandenhove, ASB Co-ordinator for Torbay said: "It's excellent how people from a wide range of agencies can come together in an area and bring their expertise to improve the quality of life in the neighbourhood, whilst tackling anti-social behaviour. It was very beneficial for us to speak with the community and find out what concerns them in their day-to-day life. There was a very positive response from

DO Roger Barr, Divisional Community Fire Safety Manager added: "A very successful event showing partnership working at its very best.

We would ask local communities to actively request these type of events in the future to take advantage of the benefits we and our partner agencies can offer"

DO Roger Barr Divisional Community Fire Safety Manager.

LFF Dave Roddy, Community Fire Safety Co-ordinator said: "This Community Action Day has been yet another outstanding success. We have received 44 smoke detector and fire safety check referrals from the day. We have spoken to many local people regarding Fire Safety and they are delighted to use our Free Smoke detector fitting and Home Fire Safety Check service.

Working with our partner agencies is always very productive and we are looking forward to the next Community Action Day to be organised by Safer Communities Torbay in the New Year".