

NEWS RELEASE

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Draft

Street Warden Scheme expands

A successful bid was today announced by Torbay Council which will see the Street Warden Scheme expand to the Foxhole and Queen Elizabeth Drive areas of Torbay this autumn.

Funds to the tune of £210, 351 over the next two and a half years were awarded from (GOSW) Government Office South West under the European Regional Development Fund (Objective 2) which will see the scheme expand from 3 to 6 wardens.

The Street Warden Scheme was introduced by Torbay Council working with the Safer Communities Partnership and form part of the Governments policy on tackling anti-social behaviour. The first wardens were introduced in Hele in 2002 with the addition of an extra warden in the Torre/ Castle Circus area in 2004.

The aim of the scheme is to build safer, stronger communities by reducing anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime through patrolling. The wardens are there to be the focal point of contact for the community, reporting resident's problems or concerns to the relevant agencies and assisting with community projects and visiting vulnerable people.

Tara Fowler, Environmental Health and Consumer Protection Officer commented,

"We are delighted to announce the expansion of the scheme. We have monitored progress from the beginning looking at complaints to Torbay Council, Police crime records, and incident reports to the wardens themselves. We are extremely pleased to say that all have shown a decline. This success has been backed up by two resident's

surveys, where the schemes have been strongly supported, with 75 % of residents supporting the scheme and saying they did they want street wardens.”

Cllr Alan Faulkner, Executive Member for Environmental Services went on to welcome the news,

“This is wonderful news, the wardens do a fantastic job working at grass roots with the police and others to deter crime and tackle anti- social behaviour. The residents who have experienced the scheme have commented on a greater feeling of safety and improvements to their neighbourhoods which as a council we are 100% committed to. Although a lot of schemes have struggled, street wardens are still going strong nationally and I am pleased to say are a success story in Torbay.”

The scheme will be remaining in Hele and Castle Circus/ Torre it will also be expanding to encompass the area between the two schemes stretching up through Tormohun.

Notes to editors

Safer Communities Torbay is a partnership between Torbay Council, Devon & Cornwall Constabulary, Devon & Cornwall Probation Service, Devon Fire & Rescue Service, Torbay Voluntary Service and other local supporters.