



## Thatcham Neighbourhood Action Group

# Newsletter

### What is a Neighbourhood Action Group?

Neighbourhood Action Groups (NAG) are multi-agency problem-solving bodies in the UK which are focused on tackling the top priorities as identified by their communities. They are made up of volunteer representatives from the community. They bring together organisations and partners like residents, the police, local authorities, businesses and schools and normally meet every 4 to 8 weeks.

They are an essential element of successful neighbourhood policing. They plan on behalf of the community and organise tasks to be completed. This improves community safety and reassurance and reduces crime, disorder, disproportionate fear of crime, and local traffic issues.

### What has Thatcham NAG done so far?

Since its start in October 2006 the Thatcham group have worked on such things as speeding awareness, parking outside of schools, low level Anti Social Behaviour and much more. One of the great success stories which came out of your local Neighbourhood Action Group was the Roller Discos organised last year. Laying on the events was not cheap and grants had to be found to pay the Roller Disco company and for the hire of the Kennet Leisure Centre main hall. Volunteers from the NAG staffed the evenings, once a fortnight on nine separate Saturdays. From the first evening, when over 40 young people turned up, to the seventh disco when over 100 turned up and a few even had to be turned away, the events proved to be very popular with the younger members of Thatcham's community. Young people often say there is nothing for them to do in Thatcham and the Roller Discos filled that gap. Reports of anti-social behaviour declined while the discos were on offer. This is just one example of the outcomes from public consultations carried out by the NAG.

### Would you like more information?

All meetings are confidential, however if you are a resident or business in Thatcham and would be interested in joining the Thatcham NAG please send us an email: [Thatcham@ukNAGs.org.uk](mailto:Thatcham@ukNAGs.org.uk)

### Talking to the youth of Thatcham



Thatcham Neighbourhood Wardens patrol your town dealing with all those issues which affect your quality of life, such as reducing crime, environmental issues and low level Anti Social Behaviour. They asked a group of young people in the Broadway recently three simple questions. The responses they got may surprise you.

**Q.** Why do they gather in the Broadway?

**A.** It's nice and central, well lit and if there's any trouble we are close to shops that we could go to. It's safer here than at the park.

**Q.** Did they realise that they can appear quite intimidating to others?

**A.** No, hadn't really thought about it as we just want to hang out and have a chat and a laugh.

**Q.** And what were their thoughts on being accused of Anti social Behaviour in the area?

**A.** We know that we can be a bit loud and boisterous with each other but we are not trying to bother anyone else.

The Neighbourhood Wardens realise that not all young people are the same. Perceptions that day were wrong – not all young people are jobs out to cause trouble and intimidate.



Once again, Thatcham has a Senior Youth Club, which meets at **Moorside Community Centre, Urquhart Road on the Kennet Heath estate, every Wednesday, between 7 and 9.** The

club is supported by Thatcham Town Council, Berkshire Youth, Neighbourhood Wardens, Professional Youth Workers and Volunteers, with the aim of providing a safe and fun environment for young people aged 12 to 19 to come and enjoy a variety of activities that encourage participation and personal development.

We would also like to involve young people, who have found attending a youth club in the past to be a positive experience, to come and volunteer. Support us, as positive role models, in enabling our members to play an active part in designing a youth club that they find fun and engaging.

So pop along and see what we have to offer and have some fun.



Thatcham Vision is a non profit making organisation run by a group of volunteers who are passionate about improving our town for ourselves, our friends, our colleagues and the community around us.

The group administers the town's Parish Plan, and aims to action and facilitate projects that will benefit people and the environment of Thatcham and its locality. In 2012 Vision is refreshing its plan and will again be consulting the community to identify needs and opportunities for the benefit of the parish of Thatcham.

We need your help, whether it is giving us your opinion on Thatcham, collating questionnaire results and data for review, joining a working group to produce project plans or taking action to make a project happen. Help us make Thatcham an even better place to live, to work, and to be.

Contact 01635 294548 or email [tvpm@thatchamonline.net](mailto:tvpm@thatchamonline.net) to join in on creating, supporting or implementing Vision's Plan.



It's one of Sovereign's aims to work closely with the communities where we operate. So it's important for us to be

involved in the Thatcham NAG, so that we can support community initiatives and help to tackle problems that affect local residents. Most people know us as a provider of social housing, and indeed, we are the largest social landlord in Thatcham: we have 844 social rented properties in the town and 139 supported homes.

We also have 50 leasehold properties here, and we are increasingly providing affordable shared ownership

homes to first-time buyers. West Berkshire is an important area for us - our headquarters are in Newbury. But we are one of the biggest housing associations in the south and south-west of England.

Not only do we own or manage some 34,000 homes from Buckinghamshire to Devon, but we are also an important developer - last year, we built 957 new affordable homes.



Several offenders have been brought to justice for crimes committed in the Thatcham area during April 2012.

The Lakes, Lower Way - possession of cannabis -18yr old male - cannabis warning,

Ennerdale Way - possession of cannabis - 24yr old male - caution,

Ennerdale Way – possession of cannabis – 32yr old male – cannabis warning,

Shelley Road – criminal damage – 47yr old male – charged and bailed to court,

Park Avenue – ABH – 18yr old male – charged and bailed to court,

Lancaster Close – possession of cannabis – 19yr old male – cannabis warning,

Church Close – burglary – 18yr old male – adult caution,

Station Road – shoplifting – 37yr old female – charged and bailed to court,

Battalion Way – possession of drugs (excluding cannabis) – 23yr old male – charged and bailed to court,

Station Road – possession of cannabis – 20yr old male – cannabis warning.

If you would like your Neighbourhood Officers to visit your group or location in the coming months please contact them via the 24-hour Police Enquiry Centre on 101.

Future Newsletters will be available online at: [www.uknags.org.uk/thatcham](http://www.uknags.org.uk/thatcham)

