

ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR BULLETIN – DECEMBER 2008

Welcome to the Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) Bulletin. The ASB Unit within the Safer Communities Team is responsible for tackling ASB across the Bay. This monthly bulletin has been developed to keep you informed of the ASB issues throughout Torbay and to highlight the proactive work which is being done to prevent ASB and help keep the residents of Torbay safe.

ASB Statistics

Reported ASB

Figure 1 shows the amount of reports the ASB Team have received for the current financial year 2008/09. Over the Christmas and the New Year period it was pleasing to note that the number of reported incidents did not increase over the previous month and during the December the team received **35** new ASB enquires. As a result, from April 2008 to December 2008 the ASB team had a total of **370** reports generated by members of the public contacting the ASB hotline and referrals from our Partnership Agencies such as the Police, RSL's (Registered Social Landlords) and Street Wardens.

Types of ASB

Figure 2 shows the different types of ASB that have been reported to the team during the month and the numbers of such reported incidents. Neighbour dispute continues to be the most common type of reported ASB. For this reason the ASB team will be accessing mediation services to try and resolve these cases early on.

Source of referral

Figure 3 provides details of the referral source. Safer Communities is currently working closely with our partnership agencies with a view to improving internal procedures in order to increase the number of referrals which are made via sources other than the ASB Hotline.

ASB reported by Ward

Figure 4 identifies the different Ward areas throughout Torbay and the numbers of reported incidents of ASB that have been made within each Ward.

Figure 1

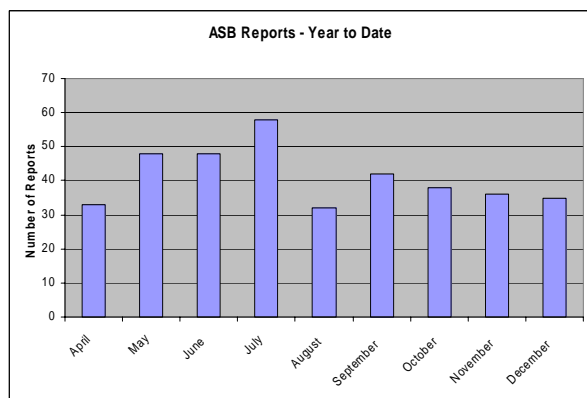


Figure 3

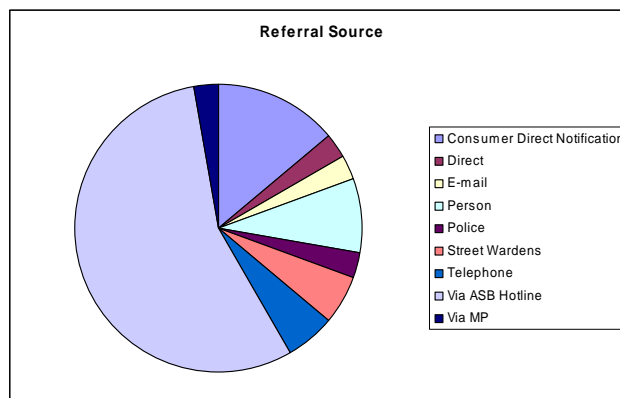


Figure 2

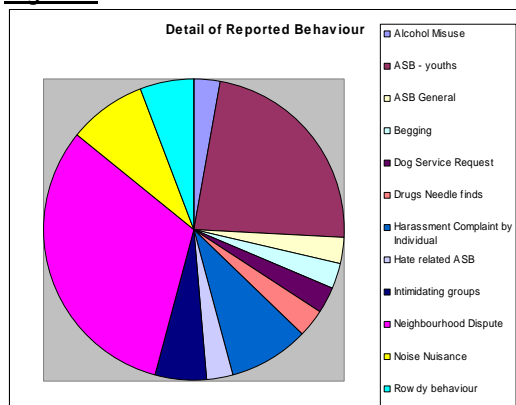
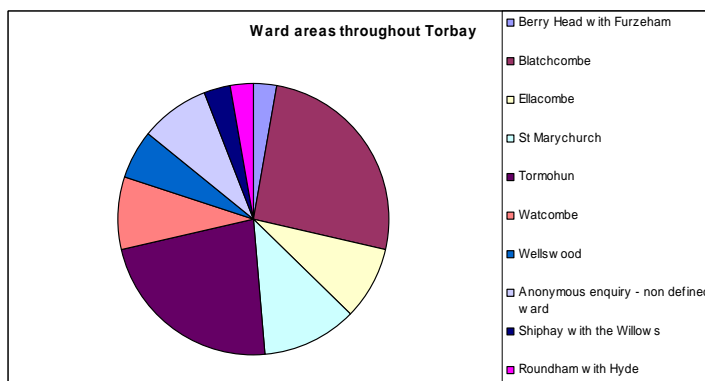


Figure 4



Current Caseload (as of December 2008)

The ASB Team are currently dealing with 30 cases, from the point of early intervention through to enforcement action. These actions include:

- Warning letters – to inform offenders of the anti-social behaviour being reported and the consequences of such behaviour continuing.
- ABC (Acceptable Behaviour Contract) – Should behaviour continue following receipt of warning letters and/or visits, the next step is for the alleged offender to sign up to an Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABC). This is a voluntary contract which provides support to address the anti-social behaviour.
- Home visits – these occur to encourage offenders to stop their anti-social behaviour and reinforce to them the consequences of their continued behaviour; additionally the team visits victims to offer advice and support.
- Multi Agency Meetings – these are held to discuss alleged on-going anti-social behaviour with key partnership agencies where an action plan will be agreed to provide further support or to decide what action is to be taken should the anti-social behaviour escalate.

A warm welcome to Gael Hammett

Gael joined the ASB team as ASB Case Manager at the beginning of January and has responsibility for ASB issues in the Paignton and Brixham areas. Gael has previously worked as a Neighbourhood Beat Manager with Devon and Cornwall Police and relishes the prospect of working in the community once again.

Gael deals with reports from members of the public and ASB referrals from partnership agencies across the Bay including Riviera Housing Trust, Westcountry Housing Association, Street Wardens, Devon and Cornwall Police and Environmental Protection with a view to reducing the amount of anti-social behaviour in our towns and helping people to feel safe in their communities.



ASB News

“Meet and Greet” event @ Foxhole on Wednesday 10th December, 6.00-7.30pm

On Wednesday 10th December 2008, a “Meet and Greet” session was held in the new flats, Foxhole Road, Paignton. This was an event to provide new tenants, and existing ones, with an opportunity to meet and speak with representatives from local agencies. Agencies present included Riviera Housing Trust, Neighbourhood Watch, Street Wardens, Police, Crime Reduction Officers and the Anti Social Behaviour team from Safer Communities Torbay. Advice was given out to those who attended, along with soup and rolls!

Credit Crunch Events

The Safer Communities Anti-Social Behaviour Team attended the following dates and venues: Thursday 4th December at the ‘English Riviera Centre’ Torquay, 5th December at the Paignton Community College, Paignton and 8th December at the ‘Our Lady Catholic Church Hall’, Brixham. The team were on hand to provide advice and support with reference to issues relating to Anti-Social Behaviour. This advice included informing individuals how they can report any incidents of ASB on the **ASB Hotline 01803 207900** but also emphasising to the public that incidents must be reported in order for the ASB team to be able to take any action. This was an opportunity for the team to inform the communities that they must take a stand in supporting us and help us to stamp out ASB in the Bay.

KNOW THE CODE

During December the Safer Communities team promoted 'Know the Code'. This was rolled out to all licensees in Torbay with daily adverts on Palm and Gemini radio.

Plainmoor shop

On Monday 15th December a Crime Prevention and Anti-Social Behaviour event was held at Mandowdies, St Marychurch Road, Torquay between 10.00 am – 3.00 pm. Members of the Public dropped in throughout the day to receive advice and literature on crime prevention and ASB. There was also an opportunity to report any incidents direct to the Officers who attended.

Community Action Day

On Tuesday 16th December the ASB team attended a Community Action Day which was organised by Devon Fire and Rescue Service in partnership with Safer Communities' Road Safety Team, Crime Reduction and the Anti-Social Behaviour Team. Advice and literature was handed out to members of the public who came to Victoria Street, Paignton for practical advice on home safety, information on road safety and reassurance on ASB related matters.

Forthcoming Events

Moped Event

On 24 January Sgt Chris Lancaster, Road Safety Officer based at Paignton Police Station, has organised an educational event at Victoria Car Park, Paignton (10.00 am - 2.00 pm) aimed at raising awareness of road safety issues relating to young moped riders, including giving advice on vehicle maintenance, road safety and ASB resulting from poor riding habits. A member of the ASB team will be on hand to give advice or information to anyone who has any issues they wish to raise. Later on there will be an enforcement operation which could result in mopeds being confiscated in certain circumstances.

Pendennis Project

The ASB Team are currently working in partnership with Riviera Housing, Street Wardens and Youth Services to identify issues specifically relating to the Pendennis/Lichfield Areas of Torquay. Events for Adults with Families and separate events aimed at Young People will be held at the Windmill Centre on Friday 30 January (4.00pm to 6.00 pm for Young People) and on Wednesday 4 February (3.30 pm to 7.30 pm for Adults with Families). Similar events are being arranged at the Acorn Centre on 20 and 28 February and all will be welcome at any of these sessions. The numbers of ASB related incidents in these areas are reducing and it is hoped that these events will identify areas which the Community wish to be addressed with a view to making further improvements.

Hayes Road and St Michael's Neighbourhood Watch & Community Safety Meeting

Hayes School will be the venue for the forthcoming Neighbourhood Watch and Community Safety Meeting on 22 January 2009 at 7.00 pm. Here the public will be able to meet various members of the Neighbourhood Policing Team, representatives from the ASB team and the Community Partnership Support Officer to voice any concerns they may have over issues relating to their community. All are welcome at the School.

Community Partnership Meetings

Members of the ASB team will also be attending the following Community Partnership Meetings during January:

St Marychurch & District – Monday 19 January 2009

Tormohun – Tuesday 27 January 2009

Be part of our ongoing bulletin

We are keen to ensure this bulletin is useful to you. It would be appreciated if you could spend a few minutes to complete this electronic form (please click on the following link)

www.torbay.gov.uk/asbulletin

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If you would like to contribute to future issues or to receive this newsletter in another format or different language, please contact ASB Admin on 01803 841274 or by email asb@torbay.gov.uk