



# *An open letter*

from  
Chief Superintendent Richard Johnson

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## **BASSETLAW EDITION**

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Thank you to everyone who has passed on messages of support following the shooting of PC Rachael Bown in the city of Nottingham. Rachael has now left hospital and is recovering at home where we hope she will continue to make good progress.

## **More Community Support Officers for Division**

I am delighted that 20 additional Community Support Officers will join the division this year. I am committed to making sure my officers deal with issues that matter to local people and the vast majority of you want more police patrolling the streets. There has been much negative press about the role of CSOs and their limited powers. The purpose of their limited powers is to stop them from becoming tied up with paperwork and allow them maximum opportunity to be out on patrol. Their presence alone will prevent and reduce crime. The CSOs already working in Bassetlaw are proving to be invaluable eyes and ears that relay intelligence back to police officers who can take further action. If you are interested in joining the police service and becoming a Community Support Officer please look out for adverts in the local press.

## **Operation Safer Towns**

A team of officers has been specifically tasked to deal with unacceptable behaviour in Worksop on Friday and Saturday nights. Under the new Safer Towns campaign, we have placed a greater police presence on the streets and in licensed premises. We have seen significant reductions in vehicle crime and burglary and we have now turned our attention to violent crime. Officers are issuing £80 on the spot fines making it a very expensive night out for anyone behaving in a disorderly way. Officers are arresting and prosecuting anyone who refuses to co-operate and anyone stopped by police repeatedly risks being banned from the town centre.

## **Schools officers scoop award**

Bassetlaw Schools Officers, PC Andy Hand and PC Dave Case, have received an award for an innovative scheme they designed to divert young people away from crime in the school holidays. Connexions Nottinghamshire honoured the pair for the Three 9's Challenge scheme, which gives youngsters the opportunity to learn and test their skills in personal safety, first aid, crime prevention and survival techniques. Over 100 young people took part last year and more youngsters will be able to join in this summer when the officers will be taking a roadshow of the scheme to a number of schools.



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### Camera installed at Gateford

We have installed a CCTV camera on Ashes Park Avenue, on the Gateford estate of Worksop, to deter young people from congregating on the street.

The camera is recording activity on the street 24 hours a day to identify ringleaders and persistent troublemakers.

The idea was suggested by a local resident and was agreed by both the police and district council as a way forward in finding those responsible for damage and anti-social behaviour. Whilst it is impossible for cameras to be placed on every estate experiencing these problems, we will look at every individual case.

Local Beat Managers are also part of a new Gateford Community Association, which will act in a similar way as a parish council for the area.

This is positive action by the community, which will help to reduce crime and disorder.

### Bassetlaw crime figures

Please find below the figures for January 2006. Overall crime levels continue to be far lower than this time last year. In particular, you can see huge reductions in theft from vehicles in West Bassetlaw over the last 12 months and shed burglaries in East Bassetlaw. With Operation Safer Towns underway and a renewed emphasis on tackling alcohol-related disorder, I hope to see a fall in violent crime.

#### **West Bassetlaw (Worksop area)**

Crime type	Reported incidents in January 06	Reported incidents in January 05
All Crime	423	450
Violence	76	72
House burglary	16	15
Shed burglary	15	22
Theft from vehicle	42	99
Theft of vehicle	11	20

#### **East Bassetlaw (Retford area)**

Crime type	Reported incidents in January 06	Reported incidents in January 05
All Crime	492	570
Violence	69	86
House burglary	21	24
Shed burglary	28	62
Theft from vehicle	57	57
Theft of vehicle	27	23

**Divisional Commander for Bassetlaw, Newark and Sherwood  
Chief Superintendent Richard Johnson**



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