



Citizens and Councillors on Patrol (COPS)

Regular foot patrols by councillors and residents to talk with local people about issues in the area. COPS aims to reduce antisocial behaviour in Alvaston, Derby.

On The Streets



Citizens on Patrol (COPS) is a scheme to encourage residents to take back ownership of their neighbourhoods. COPS teams approach residents directly in the street or at their home, listen to their concerns, identify which organisations can help and take action to ensure change.

“I’m the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator for more than 600 houses but our local councillor, Councillor Banwait, asked me if I’d join him on a foot patrol to talk to local people directly about their concerns.”
says Alvaston resident Thelma Bradshaw.

“We go to their houses and stop people in the street to talk to them about any issues or concerns. We can help them by getting in touch with the right people, whether it’s the police or Derby Homes or somebody else.

“People are pleased that we’ve taken the time to listen. Speeding cars are regularly reported to us and the police now do patrols with speed-guns at times when residents have indicated a problem – that kind of response shows that we can make a difference.

“Ironically though, it’s often speed bumps that create the impression of greater speed because drivers slow down in front of them and then accelerate away making more noise while remaining within the limit!

“Changing perceptions can be an important part of what we do. For example, older people can sometimes be afraid of the young – we try and reassure them by giving positive examples because, actually, the vast majority of young people are perfectly well-behaved.

“Around 20 people come to our meetings but I get calls from all sorts of people about all sorts of problems, fallen tree branches and other issues they don’t know how to deal with. People use me as a local resource as I can usually tell them who can help even if I can’t do it myself.

Thelma continues: “We’re now held up as an example of good practice and I’m hopeful that if the idea spreads then it will increase community involvement in other parts of Derby.

“People want to know that they aren’t alone so if we can help sort their problems then that encourages them.”

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