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As many of you will be aware, the new Police and Crime Commissioner, Lord Bach, recently held a Community Consultation event in Countesthorpe, in response to the increase in reports of anti social behaviour (ASB) we have received over recent months.

I would like to take this opportunity to let you know what your local police and our partners, such as Blaby District Council, are doing to tackle the problem.

We currently have two neighbourhood officers covering the Countesthorpe area, PC Mark Hall and PCSO Laura Hobbs, led by Sergeant Phil Hurst who also oversees the two neighbouring beats. These officers are there to work with the local community, to respond to local community concerns, and to help resolve ASB. We have other teams within the force that are responsible for investigating crime and responding to incidents, which means our dedicated neighbourhood officers have more time to respond to the needs of their local community.

It is important to understand that we aren't able to arrest people for ASB, unless they are caught committing a crime as well. This means we have look at other ways to resolve this issue and are taking the appropriate action to ensure the fullest extent of our powers are applied.

Here is a summary of what we have put in place so far:

- We have allocated additional officer to locations where ASB is taking place, targeting those creating problems within the local community.
- We are working with Blaby District Council to issue those committing ASB with formal warnings, which can result in ASB injunctions being granted.
- We have made our contact centre aware of the ASB issues in the area and have asked them to inform the officers responding to 999 and 101 calls of these.
- We have also been working with the schools in the area, alongside Blaby District Council, to educate students on the risks of using drugs and New Psychoactive Substances (previously known as legal highs).

Blaby District Council has also:

- Applied for a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO). If granted this is another power that can be used to stop young people gathering in large groups in the village.
- Arranged for youth services to come into Countesthorpe. These groups get young people involved in activities and educate them on how ASB affects local residents, and the consequences of their action.
- They are also working with local housing associations whose tenants are involved in ASB. In extreme cases, taking part in ASB could result in their tenancy agreement being withdrawn, making themselves and their family homeless.

PCSO Laura Hobbs has been working with Blaby District Council to help apply for the PSPO. When asked how this will benefit Countesthorpe she said: "I work closely with all victims of ASB and related crime and ensure that these incidents are shared with partners to assist with identifying perpetrators and making them accountable for their behaviour.

"I believe that the PSPO will offer reassurance to the communities of Countesthorpe whilst also assisting Police and partners with tackling isolated incidents of ASB".

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It was fantastic to hear at the Community Consultation event that some of you would like to volunteer with us. If you are interested please contact us via our website <https://leics.police.uk/local-policing/countesthorpe-foston-and-kilby>.

I have also been made aware that there is a common misconception about cannabis that I would like to clarify. Possession of cannabis is a criminal offence and if you witness someone smoking it then we want you to report it. Depending on what incident our officers are dealing with we might not be able to respond straight away, however it helps us build our intelligence and plan where our officers need to patrol, meaning that we can disrupt this kind of activity in the future.

I hope from this update that you have a better idea of the ongoing work we are doing. Thank you for your support and we appreciate how residents are coming together as a community to work with us to tackle ASB.

The more information we have as to what is happening in the area, the better equipped we are to deal with these issues.

Please call us immediately if you are a victim or witness ASB in your area. For a non-emergency please call 101 or 999 in an emergency.

Inspector Dan Eveleigh
Neighbourhood Policing Area Commander for Hinckley and Blaby

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