

Community Street Wardens



Today I and other District councillors went on a fact finding mission to Colchester and Braintree.

Three or four years ago the government provided funding to enable Colchester to set up a community street warden scheme. Supervised by an ex-army regimental sergeant major, three men and three women working in pairs and dressed in blue patrol five wards in Colchester to show a friendly face to the residents and to act as the eyes and ears of the police by monitoring anti-social behaviour and encouraging youths to do other things. 10% of their work involves the issuing of fixed penalty fines. Dropping a cigarette end for example could cost you £75.

The wardens are accredited with the police. If other council officers attend the training they could also be accredited and provide intelligence to the police.

Their mission statement is to improve the quality of life for residents and those visiting or working in the scheme area and to reduce the fear of crime and disorder.

In Colchester the wardens have gone beyond their remit, the health and safety laws and PC and organised social activities such as tea dances for older residents, a BMX bike site for younger residents and trips away for socially excluded people.

In Braintree we found that this very week the council have launched a warden scheme which is jointly funded by the police and we saw seven new vehicles with council and police logos which are used to take wardens to their respective wards and can be used to take away fly tipped rubbish.

Cllr Peter Spencer
Buckhurst Hill East

5th October 2006