

### Planning and Environmental Health

- Being a consultee on Licensing Act 2003 applications. Environmental Health were consulted on 56 premise license applications. This proactively allows for members to be alerted to issues affecting neighbours of licensed premises such as noise disturbance and antisocial activity as a result of behavioural noise. Conditions can be brought to the license and in extreme case a request for a license review can be made 5 reviews were undertaken during the relevant period. This may be due to evidence of sale of alcohol to underage children.
- Giving advice and taking formal action on disputes between parties over noise and vibration from commercial and industrial premises. Environmental Health dealt with 515 requests for service in relation to industrial and commercial noise. This can prevent antagonism between neighbours which gives rise to antisocial activity.
- Using legislation to prevent unauthorised access to void and derelict commercial and industrial properties thereby reducing arson, crime and unsociable behaviour at such locations. Environmental Health dealt with 79 requests for service in relation to void and derelict commercial and industrial properties.
- Offering advice to consumers and investigating rogue traders and doorstep crime. Trading Standards carried out the following;
  - The amount of redress recovered as a result of direct intervention by the team was £121,067
  - Continued to support vulnerable groups by tackling rogue traders and ensuring that people use trusted traders through our Fix a Home scheme operated in partnership with Age UK Dudley. As at March 2011 there were 139 members and 90% of customers were satisfied with the service they received.
  - Funding has been secured from the Safe and Sound Partnership to set up four No Rogue Trader Zones at identified hot spots within the borough.
  - Who's after your money - A new advice booklet and training package launched in partnership with Dudley's community safety partnership and West Midlands Police to raise awareness of doorstep scams and outline services offered. Since

September 2010 the training package has been delivered to 150 delegates.

- The detection and investigation of counterfeiting and sales of restricted goods to under aged persons. Trading Standards seized in excess of 3,500 items of counterfeit goods with a market value in excess of £ 1.1 million.
- Enforcing legislation relating to underage sales, through education and joint enforcement activities with the police. 74 test purchases of alcohol were carried out resulting in 6 sales , 21 test purchases of tobacco were carried out resulting in zero sales and 5 alcohol licences were reviewed
- Being an active partner in the Safe and Sound Partnership in particular the Crime and Reduction Implementation Group and Joint Activity Group. (see above)
- Planning Services Service Plan states that:-
  - Our planning policy approach is aiming to deliver an environment free of crime. The entire service ensures its activities contribute to the reduction of crime; however, the Enforcement Section has a particular role, issues brought to the enforcement team often relate to disputes between neighbours and effective intervention and enforcement as required can avert further neighbour antagonism and potential for antisocial behaviour.. The service also supports various partnerships working in areas of derelict and void buildings and eyesore sites.
  - All planning applications are considered in the context of designing out crime. Our award-winning supplementary Planning Guidance – ‘Safe by Design’ was produced with the support of West Midlands Police and is implemented in the consideration of all relevant planning applications.
- We are also in the process of finalising the Shop fronts Supplementary Planning Document which is being developed in consultation with the Police to ensure opportunities for crime are designed out and that security measures are effective but appropriate to the context. This document when adopted will be a key consideration when considering planning applications.

- We also regularly liaise with Community Cohesion teams in respect of planning proposals and enforcement cases that may have the potential to result in anti-social behaviour.