

9th July 2015.

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

Re: Anti-social Behaviour/Water Safety, St Neots and Surrounding areas.

The purpose of this letter is to highlight issues surrounding anti-social behaviour which occurs every year within St Neots town centre, prior to and during the school summer holidays.

Huntingdonshire is a very safe place to live and work and all residents, regardless of their age, have the right to go about their business and enjoy the facilities available. However, in the past some young people, often those under 18 years, have chosen to engage in anti-social, sometimes criminal behaviour.

This year we have already seen incidents being reported from the beginning of April, to police and partner agencies, involving rowdy and nuisance behaviour, underage drinking, criminal damage, and theft. There have also been a number of reports of children and young people jumping into rivers from the locks, leaving litter and cycles in the way of others.

On many occasions, officers have had to respond to incidents where young people are intoxicated, acting irresponsibly and causing disruption to the residents that live close by as well as businesses operating in the area.

With the summer holidays fast approaching, it seems timely to alert parents to these issues. We are mindful that as parents/guardians it is for you to know the whereabouts of your child or young person. You will no doubt have made them aware of the dangers that they may be exposed to when they are away from home and that it is illegal for parents or friends to buy alcohol on behalf of anyone who is under the age of 18 years. You may wish to reinforce this message so your child or young person does not put older friends or relatives in a difficult position, as any person found to be buying or supplying alcohol for someone under-age commits a criminal offence and will be dealt with appropriately.

Please encourage your child or young person to socialise in safe places where there is good natural surveillance from properties that may be close by, suggest that they do not go to isolated places where they may unknowingly put themselves in danger. Ask that they travel to and from their destination on safe routes and in groups and ensure that a responsible adult is always aware of where they are going. We would ask that you remind your child or young person about the dangers around areas with water and discourage them from jumping into rivers from the locks. There are serious risks associated with groups of children or young people entering the water, an area of lake or river which may appear calm on the surface and may seem safe, but there is a real danger of an undercurrent which may take your child or young person by surprise and could cause them to come into some difficulty. When in the water it is essential group of friends keep an eye on each other and at all times.

As a parent, by educating your child or young person about the law and the risks of engaging in this type of behaviour you are helping to ensure that they remain safe.

Further to the immediate implications, there are some longer term effects that will inevitably impact on your child's future. Criminal convictions, including those acquired before the age of 18 **will** stay on your criminal record for **life**. Some countries including America will not allow travel and/or a visa into the country if such a conviction exists. Similarly, all charges will show up if an enhanced DBS (previously CRB) is requested prior to employment. Please ensure that your children are aware of this.

If you would like any further information about Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership or Huntingdonshire Business Against Crime and the work that the partnerships are doing to address issues of crime, disorder or anti-social behaviour within the district then please visit www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk or www.hbac.org.uk

If you would like to speak to the St Neots Problem Solving team Policing Team please call 101 or e-mail hunts cops@cambs.pnn.police.uk.

Yours sincerely,

PS Kevin Thorne
PC Dawn Fuller
PC Carl Harris
Dave Griffin – Community Safety Officer

Working in partnership with:



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AND SUPPORT THE FORCE!**

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