



Signs show estate is tackling crime

CRIME AWARE residents of one of the newest estates around Bognor Regis have given notice of their intentions.

They have received the first six Neighbourhood Watch street signs to be installed around Bersted Park.

The signs were funded with £200 from Bersted Parish Council.

Drew Miller, Neighbourhood Watch's Bognor Regis police sector treasurer, said: "We are trying to support people who have got community spirit. We don't create it. It has to there already.

"What I am hoping is that other people will want to join in once the signs go up to raise the profile of Neighbourhood Watch and other street schemes will be started."

New Neighbourhood Watch street co-ordinators Jenny Buck and Catherine Acres are *pictured left* with Alec Maynard, of the estate's developer, Berkeley Homes.

He said the arrival of Neighbourhood Watch on the roads around The Boulevard was made easier by the presence of a

residents' association.

One of its members had been a member of the crime prevention group elsewhere and used that experience to help get it started on Bersted Park a few months ago.

Mr Miller said Neighbourhood Watch was a good way of passing on advice about how to step one ahead of criminals and also warn about crime trends.

"That is as important for anyone who lives in a new area as it is for someone who is in an older one," he said.

It was important as well to use the network to help to overcome the loss of police community support officers dedicated to specific areas.

The total awards presented by parish council chairman Brian Knight at a recent meeting came to £1,014. Other grants were awarded to Victim Support, Felpham Community College, Bognor Regis Scouts, Citizen's Advice, Chestnut Tree House Children's Hospice and the Trees Estate Residents' Association.



Estate is first with sign of the times

VIGILANT residents on a Felpham estate are the first in the area to install new crime-fighting signs.

The Summerley Private Estate Residents' Association bought the four Neighbourhood Watch signs for just over £100.

The signs are brighter than those which have been seen on lampposts around Bognor Regis for many years.

They are also much bigger than a few of what are thought to be the original Neighbourhood Watch signs which can still be seen on the estate. Both old and new signs are on the twitten from the beach to Sea Drive, *pictured left*.

Residents' association committee member Dr Andy Ross said: "I think Neighbourhood Watch is an important thing.

"We have a very pleasant estate and we want to keep it that way. It is important to let people know that this is an estate which its residents care about and we

are not going to put up with people doing things we don't want them to do.

"We are telling them that, if they get involved in some anti-social behaviour, we will know about it."

The signs will gradually be introduced across the Neighbourhood Watch network of thousands of homes around Bognor Regis when funds are available.

Dave Hall is the scheme's area co-ordinator for the Summerley Estate and all its 350 properties are members.

"This is just the sort of thing we are doing to make people feel safer," he said.

"The signs have a halo effect. It's like motorists tend to stop speeding when they see a police car.

"A high percentage of the households on the estate also have CCTV. We have used that footage to show the police as hard evidence of what has gone on.

"The estate is generally a low crime area and people tend to stick out like sore thumbs if they are doing anything wrong."