

## **81 City Centre Boy racing**

### **Objective**

To reclaim the Broadmarsh area of the city centre from boy racers engaging in anti-social behaviour and dangerous driving every Sunday evening.

### **Issues and the problems**

Nottingham, like many cities, has problems with "Boy Racers" using city centre roads as racetracks. The area around a shopping centre being the worst affected. Up to 200 cars would descend from all over the East Midlands on a Sunday evening. It has been referred to as "the Mecca of cruising" in boy racing circles.

In January 2005 Nottinghamshire Police and Nottingham City Council commenced a problem solving exercise, aiming for a long-term solution to the problem using the resources of the Anti-social Behaviour Task Force. (This team was amalgamated into the Community and Neighbourhood Protection Service (CNPS) in Nov 2005.

Policing these events is extremely resource intensive. A key outcome of the problem solving exercise was a reduction in Police resources deployed.

### **Responses**

Initially an alternative venue was proposed but the boy racers did not want to attend this location.

Secondly in Jan 2005 a Dispersal Order (under Sec. 30 of the ASB Act 2003) was granted for the area, having a significant impact and reducing the number of cars to approximately 50.

Thirdly in November 2005, the CNPS team started to use the Cruisenotts.com website. Through this method the team were able to engage with the boy racers and keep users informed of police powers, responses and the reasons for their use.

Fourthly, a mobile speed camera was used to dissuade further ASB.

The ringleader of a major planned cruise in the City was identified and following legal advice a strategy agreed to pursue an injunction against the ringleader and other parties involved.

### **Evaluation of Responses**

All the interventions have reduced the numbers attending. The threat of receiving an injunction has finally stopped the boy racers from attending the City centre at all. Messages posted on the internet chat rooms have confirmed that they no longer will attend and a walk around the area confirms this

Responses used by the team all helped reduce the problem, the key to solving the problem being the identification of the ringleader, and then issuing the injunction against "persons unknown". The use of the website was the best way of directly communicating with this community.

Success has resulted in the team sharing tactics with other authorities with similar problems.