

- TITLE OF PROJECT

Whose Problem? The Merthyr Tydfil Partnership
Approach

- CATEGORY

Crime reduction

- **HOME OFFICE PRIORITY**

Auto Crime and Arson Reduction

- NAME OF FORCE

South Wales Police

- ENDORSING CHIEF OFFICER

Mr David Francis, A.C.C.

- CONTACT PERSON

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- LETTER OF ENDORSEMENT ENCLOSED

BACKGROUND TO THE PROBLEM

TITLE : Whose Problem? The Merthyr Tydfil Partnership Approach

In MARCH 1999 it was apparent from crime statistics in the Merthyr County Borough that auto crime was spiralling. Auto related thefts were the predominant offence in the 'A' Division area of the South Wales Police – and this was reflected nationally. Home Office targets were set that year dictating that a reduction in auto theft over the next five years of 30% was to be achieved nationally. This was to prove a greater challenge when set against the upward trend figures were showing.

In addition to this, the Fire Service was set national targets by the Home Office in 1999 whereby a reduction of 30% in the deliberate cases of car fires was to be achieved by 2009.

Locally, officers from the police Community Safety unit and Fire Station came together to discuss the problem. When fire service stats were combined with police stats and intelligence it became apparent that the causes of the problems facing us both were inextricably linked. A large majority of the deliberate burn-outs attended by the fire service were actually stolen cars, and the 'dumping grounds' for stolen vehicles was often a hot spot area for the car fires.

The officers involved then asked themselves the following questions:-

1. What do we want to achieve?
2. Who is affected by the problem?
3. Who can contribute to addressing the problem?
4. What can be done?
5. How can this be measured?
6. How can this be monitored?
7. What are the results?

By developing and expanding the above a problem orientated approach was adopted in tackling the contributory factors of 1. The vehicle, 2. The thief, and 3. The location. The 'A' Division Police Community Safety Team, lead by Inspector Dawn Hubbard ensured that key personnel in each agency/organisation that could make a contribution in tackling any of these aspects were identified and brought on board. This developed a partnership which embarked on a variety of projects and initiatives, many of which have now been established as best practice throughout the South Wales Police area to combat the problem by identifying and addressing the causation factors. Measurements would be via project by project evaluation – but ultimately in the overall **reduction achieved** in recorded vehicle crime and deliberate vehicle fires. – which in auto **crime was in excess of 25% over 3yrs, and for car fires was 5% in two years.**

1 What Do We Want To Achieve?

The answer to this question was quite simple for all concerned. The overall aim for both the Police and Fire Service was to achieve a reduction in the amount of car crimes and deliberate vehicle fires.

A large number of the recovered burned out vehicles were identified as previously stolen. Others, (as many were burned beyond the point of identification) could have been stolen vehicles — or vehicles deliberately set alight through being abandoned, stripped down and left as a hazard, or simply disregarded by owners who could not afford recovery/scrap costs.

Through obvious causation issues it was decided to address the problem by intervention at an earlier stage: Prevention is better than cure, so in tackling the factors contributing to car thefts an auto crime reduction would hopefully be achieved- with a corresponding reduction in the number of deliberate car fires.

The essential elements of car crime involve a car, a thief, and the opportunity/location contributing to the act. In identifying these basic principals the next question was asked of 'Who is affected by this problem?'

2 Who Is Affected By This Problem?

The Police and Fire Service obviously had a vested interest in tackling this issue in line with their performance indicators and set targets. However it would have been naive to think that no-one else suffered any detrimental effects as a result of these problems.

In 1999 alone there were 253 deliberate car fires recorded in the Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Area, according to fire service figures. The average cost of this in monetary terms alone can be shown thus:-

253 vehicles deliberately burned out — each vehicle is conservatively estimated at ; **5,000** with an additional cost to other agencies of L1,711 this gave an annual cost of **41,697,883**

This is without taking into account that in total there were 1032 vehicles stolen in the same area — all of which contributes to increased costs to the tax **payer** and **vehicle owners** via increased insurance premiums etc.

The Local **Authority** is also affected by this problem in several ways. They often incur the responsibility of removing these vehicles, and / or making good the damage caused to the surrounding area by the fire and remaining debris.

Many of the identified 'hot spots' for dumping and burning out these vehicles included areas in the North of the County Borough encompassing the Brecon Beacons National Park. The eye sore of abandoned and burned out cars in local beauty spots had the potential to adversely affect the local **tourist industry**, not to mention the environmental damage caused to the ground and surrounding plants/trees etc by a host of damaging chemicals dispersed through the conflagration of the basic vehicle materials themselves.

Not least of all, every **member of our communities** are affected, either directly by becoming the actual victim of auto crime, indirectly by the increased fear of crime, by the risk posed to every driver, passenger and pedestrian by stolen cars being driven around dangerously, and by the scarring to our every day landscape through the eyesore of abandoned burned out vehicles.

3 Who Can Contribute To Addressing These Problems?

It was decided that a cohesive programme needed to be put into place to tackle this problem from all the identified angles - involving the car, the thief (or potential thief) and locations etc. Key players who were affected by this problem and could make a contribution in how it was to be addressed and delivered were identified. These included the following

- + Police
- Fire Service
- Local Authority
- Safer Merthyr Tydfil (a charitable organisation who help deliver the Local Authority Crime and Disorder plan)
- Schools and Youth Groups
- Community Groups
- Youth Offending Team
- Local Tourist Board and various tourist outlets
- **THE MEDIA** |

4 What Can Be Done?

By simply adopting the problem solving triangle, which in this case involved the car, the thief / potential thief, and the location/opportunity it was decided to tackle each of these, because if any *one was* removed from the equation – or their contribution to the whole *greatly reduced* – this would create the consequential result of an *overall reduction* in the amount of auto related crime.

Intervention had to be pitched at a level that would be realistic for each participating member to deliver, effective, and measurable.

• THE CAR

A series of initiatives were introduced in an attempt to make each vehicle in the Merthyr Tydfil area 'less steal-able'

Some brainstorming resulted in the development of the simple crime reduction principal of 'target hardening'. How was this to be achieved? By the introduction of the 'Auto lok 2000' initiative.

AUTOLOK2000

This involved a great deal of ground work by the staff involved, who identified the Thatcham Approved 'Sold Secure' anti theft devices for vehicles. The agencies were aware they did not want to be seen as promoting a product per se, but the concept of 'Sold Secure' and vehicle security generally. Funding was eventually secured from Barclays Bank to purchase the approved Sold Secure Autolok device with a donation by them of L500. This is a steering wheel lock that is designed to have the maximum effect in deterring a potential thief. Autolok agreed to sell a quantity of these to Safer Merthyr Tydfil in their charity status. The retail price in shops for this product was @ E70, but it was agreed that as Safer Merthyr Tydfil were a charity, and would be selling these locks on in an anti crime initiative with no financial gain to themselves, that they would be charged at the cost price of L20 each. This enabled the initial purchase of 25 locks to be made.

The eligibility criteria to purchase one of these locks, its use thereby dramatically reducing the likelihood of ones' vehicle being stolen, were set as follows:-

- A The user had to live or work in the Merthyr Tydfil **County Borough Council area**
and
- B They would have to own a vehicle over 5yrs old * *or*
- C Would have been a victim of car crime within the preceding 12 months

*Research of Home Office reports and figures prior to the scheme highlighted the fact that vehicles over 5yrs old were far more vulnerable and likely to be targeted for theft than newer models that have increased security built in from manufacture stage.

The scheme commenced with 25 locks purchased during the autumn of 2000. It was a self sustaining initiative, as every lock sold for L20 resulted in the purchase of a replacement from Autolok for the same amount.

To date £32,000 worth of locks have been transferred to 1600 target vehicles in Merthyr, To date — no vehicles that have used this device have become the subject of any theft or unlawful take.

VULNERABLE VEHICLE SCHEME

Through intelligence gathering by speaking with offenders it was obvious that a great amount of auto crime was opportunistic. If thieves or potential thieves saw valuable items on display in cars, or unlocked doors, open windows, keys in ignitions etc, then they would partake in the unplanned opportunist theft of and/or from that vehicle. This highlighted an obvious in- road that needed to be followed and addressed in reducing the likelihood of this occurrence. This saw the implementation of the 'vulnerable vehicle scheme'.

This was a simple and effective approach to adopt. It involved staff of participating agencies, such as Police Officers and Specials on general patrol, car park attendants, and local Community Wardens all noting any vehicles that were seen during their working day with any valuables inside and/or open/unlocked doors windows etc. This is then followed by a letter sent to the registered owner of the vehicle highlighting the cause for concern and reminding them of their responsibility in ensuring their vehicle does not prove an enticement to a would be thief. (See appendix 'A')

A supplementary scheme to this is the vulnerable vehicle *windscreen* scheme. This scheme encourages participating staff to identify vulnerable vehicles as described above, and take positive preventative action to reduce the chances of its owner becoming a victim of crime. It involves the placing of a warning notice on the car windscreen giving the reasons for its vulnerability.

The scheme is suitable for long or short term stay car parks, retail outlets or organised events that are regularly patrolled by wardens, attendants or officers.

VULNERABLE FORD ESCORT SCHEME

Analysis of crime data showed that Ford Escort motor cars were the most stolen vehicle in the Merthyr Tydfil County Borough. Therefore, as another target hardening measure this scheme was implemented.

This involved sending letters and crime prevention information to over 1000 Ford Escort owners living in the Borough if their car was over 5yrs old. A number of recipients obviously heeded the advice given as many of them purchased an Autolok device for their vehicles.

One of the difficulties that had to be overcome with this was ensuring Data Protection issues were not compromised when working with the D.V.L.A. from whom all this information had to be obtained
(See appendix `B' for letter)

THE PUBLIC'S CONTRIBUTION

Every owner of a vehicle has a major contribution to make in reducing the number of planned and opportunist thefts by ensuring adequate security is afforded their cars. Also, as the vulnerable vehicle schemes highlight, in ensuring they do not provide the chance for an opportunist thief to make them a victim of crime by their unthinking actions in leaving valuables on display — or keys in the ignition!

To reinforce this message a series of Road shows have been held throughout the Borough, specifically targeting `hot spot' areas for auto crime, on potential venues, such as car parks and fete's etc. These have been run and staffed not only by the Police and Fire Service, but by Local Community Wardens, Hospital Security Staff, Car Park Attendants, Neighbourhood Watch representatives, and members of the local Crime Prevention Panel, illustrating that everyone has a role to play in contributing to the overall aim. The *agencies* have utilised these to facilitate leaflet drops in the targeted areas, distributing crime prevention advice regarding vehicles and informing the public of the schemes undertaken. (See appendix `C')

By 2001 the work undertaken by the partners involved in this work secured funding via a bid to the Arson Control Forum. A total of £108,000 was granted to Swansea, Wrexham and Merthyr for auto crime/arson initiatives to continue. £35,000 was granted to the Merthyr Partners. Some of this was to contribute to the good work already underway, £10,000 was given to the Youth Offending team for preventative / rehabilitation work with young offenders of car crime, and £10,000 was put towards the development of the fast track vehicle removal scheme. (Described below)

To this point all the vehicles targeted had been potential and/or stolen cars. However, many of the deliberate fires attended by the fire service could not definitely be classified as either of these. Through analysing the locations of the calls and the types of vehicles involved when the fire service attended it was obvious that there was another type of car that was contributing to the problem.

ABANDONED VEHICLE FAST TRACK AND AMNESTY

Abandoned vehicles, which may have been disused pool cars, used briefly by groups of criminals for transport purposes having no registered keeper and of no real value, or which may have been abandoned by the owners who could either not afford or be bothered with recovery / scrap costs, were identified as another target vehicle becoming the subject of a deliberate fire.

The money secured from the Arson Control Forum enabled the Local Authority, supported by the police, to remove abandoned cars within 24hrs of their report. It also allowed for a vehicle amnesty, whereby owners of cars due for the scrap yard or of no resale value, could have then removed by the local authority free of charge.

As a result of these initiatives over 300 vehicles were removed between January -- December 2001 which meant there were 300 less vehicles posing the potential for arson/theft problems.

(See appendix `D')

Having looked at the varied approach in `removing' the car from the equation, let us now turn to the work undertaken with — The offender /potential offender

• THE THIEF/POTENTIAL THIEF

It was decided that diversionary and preventative work with offenders and potential offenders needed to be highlighted and implemented to assist with removing / reducing the contribution of this element to the equation.

The projects implemented by the partners included the following:-

THE IMPACT ROADSHOW

This was an initiative adopted from the Avon & Somerset Constabulary and tailored to suit local needs.

It is a video exercise showing a car theft — but personalising the incident by interviews with the owner, and the consequences of the theft to them, with the emergency services staff who had to attend the subsequent crash the stolen vehicle was involved in and its effect on them, with the thief and the consequences they encountered etc. The presentation is jointly delivered by the Youth Liaison Police Officer and Fire Service staff to identified target audiences. These are selected by schools, youth groups, and the local youth offending team.

FIRST GEAR PROJECT

This was implemented in partnership with a local youth group who were working with an identified group of young offenders. The project sought to encourage a more informed and responsible approach to vehicle usage and ownership. It included `hand on' mechanics, legal inputs re insurance, licenses, ages, etc, and awareness raising of the dangers involved in driving / being passengers stolen cars.

MOCKROAD ACCIDENT

This was staged by the Police, Fire Service, Ambulance, Local Authority and Youth Group, again with a target audience of potential/identified auto crime offenders. It illustrated in graphic detail the potential consequences of driving / riding in a stolen vehicle when the steering lock damaged in the theft locks back on and results in a serious

road traffic collision. Decried by some as 'shock tactics' — it received very favourable feedback from the participants and parents.

THE C. O.L.D.PROJECT.

This took the form of an information carousel geared towards 13 -14yr olds on the Consequences Of Living Dangerously (COLD).

Again participants were identified by various schools, social services, youth offending teams, and education welfare. They participated in a series of workshops all designed to deter young people from a life of crime and highlighting the consequences of making the wrong or misinformed choice when young.

REPARATION WORK BY OFFENDERS

The Youth Offending Team has now linked with the Local Authority in relation to working on the regular dumping grounds. Before access to these areas was restricted, limiting the potential for further vehicles to be abandoned, the identified sites had to be cleared of existing burned wrecks. However, after their removal there was still a quantity of unsightly debris left strewn around. The work involved in removing this was risk assessed, and a programme was developed between the police, local authority and youth offending team whereby young offenders involved in car crime who were subject of reparation orders were utilised for the purposes of clearing and making good the areas subject of clearance. This benefits the environment, the communities affected by the problems, and the young people themselves in having to contend with the results and consequences their crimes can and have lead to.

The preventative effect of these projects so far is anecdotal to a point. Preventative inputs such as these can only be effectively evaluated over a period of years as it requires a sustained change in the behaviour and attitudes of those targeted. Many who participated in these schemes returned evaluations to say they were now less likely to become involved in such events, and were more aware of their actions and responsibilities. Some returned to full time education and completed GCSE's the following year; others went on to continue to offend. Although any quantifiable benefits will have to be waited on, the importance of including this in the approach to tackling all the contributory factors should not be underestimated. (**)

• LOCATION/OPPORTUNITY

IDENTIFYING OUR HOTSPOTS

By utilising police and fire service information the regular dumping grounds for abandoned/stolen/burned out vehicles were quickly identified. These sites were visited by the Police and Local Authority to assess what, if anything, could be done to remove or limit their attraction and use.

As a result several of the favoured areas, some of which included areas of outstanding natural beauty were bouldered off around the perimeters and access points, or gated with aesthetic but secure gates, stanchions and bollards. (See example illustration at **appendix**)

HIGH VISIBILITY ANTI CRIME PATROLS

Again through a co-ordinated process of crime pattern analysis, combined with fire service data of times/locations for calls to deliberate fires, a series of targeted crime operations were implemented throughout 2000, 2001 and continuing onto 2002. These concentrated on specific locations between specific times and have taken the form of high visibility patrols combined with plain clothes patrol and intelligence gathering. They have each proven a success, not only in arrests for auto crime and other offences, but by producing a corresponding drop in all reported crime at the time each operation was implemented. This is very resource intensive and cannot, unfortunately, be consistently maintained with current staffing levels. However, the importance of these periodic planned 'hits' is vital to continued success in identifying offenders, targeting vulnerable areas, and deterring the crime from occurring. – as well as providing public re-assurance.

SECURE CAR PARKS

Local Town Centre car parks proved to be a thriving provision for would be thieves. Although also targeted by preventative measures as previously described via patrols and the vulnerable vehicle scheme, it was decided that further measures could be taken by working towards the more vulnerable Town centre car parks achieving a 'Secured Car Park' award.

Secured Car Parks is an initiative introduced by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) which encourages developers to incorporate the latest security recommendations for car parks. These recommendations are designed to reduce the risk of thefts, vandalism, and graffiti for car park users and operators. ACPO launched the scheme in 1992 as part of their Secure By Design initiative. The scheme is supported by the Home Office and British Parking Association and is administered by the Automobile Association. The objective of the award is to accredit car parks which have introduced effective security measures and a 'feel-safe' environment for the users. This reduces the fear of crime and reduces the potential for theft to occur. In the overall work undertaken to address the problem in hand the police and local authority have worked closely together since the start of 2000, and have now achieved the Secured Car Park status for three of its previously problematic car parks. These identified areas have seen a substantial decrease in reported crime.

In all the above described work undertaken to address the problem, the one factor that was constantly utilised and has had a major contribution to make has been the media. Every project and initiative undertaken has received widespread publicity via the press, posters, local radio and news programmes. The successful results of every anti crime operation have been widely publicised, and the press has been used to constantly keep the message flying to the general public regarding their role in ensuring their car does not become a statistic and add to

this work. There are regular articles in the local Merthyr Express expounding the initiatives and projects that are ongoing. (See examples at appendix F). This assists with the preventative message hopefully sent out to would be thieves.

Furthermore it has been imperative to involve all the partners and agencies concerned who were identified in being able to contribute to the solution. The general circulation of joint operations (as seen at appendix 'G' attached) has contributed greatly to this. Involving everyone in the dissemination of car crime prevention information and promoting the work undertaken.

5 How Can This Be Measured?

There have been so many projects and initiatives implemented to tackle the overall problem of auto crime and associated arson that each project has had to be individually monitored and evaluated. What has been important in adopting this multi faceted approach from all angles has been *not* to look at any one thing in isolation – as they are all linked into and have their own impact on the overall aim – the achievement of the set targets for reduction set by the Home Office, read against the growing trend that was evident.

A project by project measurement can be depicted as follows:-

Autolok 2000	Number of devices sold/vehicles secured
Vulnerable Vehicle Scheme	Number of vehicles identified/letters sent
Vulnerable Ford Escort Scheme	Number of letters sent Number stolen post scheme
Abandoned vehicles/fast-track	Number of vehicles removed
Publics' Contribution	Anecdotal feedback of crime prevention awareness and fewer vulnerable vehicles identified.
The thief	From a detection criteria – the number of arrests From a preventative point of view – as at (**)
Identifying Hot Spots	Number successfully reduced through access restriction initiatives
High Visibility Patrols	Number conducted each with their own evaluation criteria for arrests/crime figure reductions etc/
Secure Car Parks	Number achieved Comparison of crime stats pre and post security alterations

6 How Can This Be Monitored?

It was quickly realised after the initial meeting that pre-empted all this work, and the key contributors were identified, that a monitoring process would have to be established. As a result the Merthyr Tydfil Autocrime Implementation and Monitoring Group was established. This comprised of key people from the identified agencies and organisations that had a role to play in ensuring these projects/initiatives were implemented, and who also had the requisite decision making ability within their respective agency/organisation to commit resources and time to existing and new ideas.

The group meets monthly, when information and data is shared, ongoing projects are reviewed and direction is given to any amendments or alterations that need to be made. Each meeting is minuted and distributed. It's important for everyone to realise that the work is a rolling programme which evolves, develops and changes to meet the problem. Realistically, autocrime and arson are not going to be eradicated, but as trends, methods and factors contributing to the problem change and / or are identified, then this group monitors how it most effectively be challenged and dealt with.

7 What Are The Results?

Recorded auto crime figures for Merthyr Tydfil

	THEFT OF	THEFT FROM	THEFT OF	THEFT FROM	THEFT OF	THEFT FROM
APRIL	93	84	63	76	70	62
MAY	97	67	65	81	57	50
JUNE	105	47	76	85	84	50
JULY	96	65	69	82	74	47
AUGUST	45	58	89	78	51	20
SEPTEMBER	52	51	68	77	54	63
OCTOBER	98	64	47	84	66	67
NOVEMBER	98	106	69	79	69	61
DECEMBER	58	40	39	39	34	44
JANUARY	96	80	63	73	76	44
FEBRUARY	91	91	77	70	65	56
MARCH	103	107	56	52	69	82
TOTALS	1032	860	781	876	769	646
	1998/1999		1999/2000		2000/2001	

FIRE SERVICE FIGURES FOR DELIBERATE VEHICLE FIRES IN MERTHYR TYDFIL (Earlier Fire Service data unavailable)

APRIL	18	29
MAY	12	22
JUNE	25	20
JULY	18	12
AUGUST	26	20
SEPTEMBER	23	15
OCTOBER	18	13
NOVEMBER	25	16
DECEMBER	14	18
JANUARY	21	21
FEBRUARY	28	31
MARCH	28	20
TOTALS	254	237
	1999/2000	2000/2001

As can be clearly seen from above, there has been a dramatic reduction in our auto crime figures.

There has also been a reduction in deliberate car fires, though correspondingly not as significant, there has still been a positive effect.

IN CONCLUSION

The statistics would appear to support the value and positive effect this approach has achieved. However, every person reviewing such initiatives and evaluations should always consider that many variables also exist that cannot always be accounted for, such as the weather, the incarceration of a prolific offender, the affect of the media input, and so many more. This is why this work in its entirety has now become a continuing commitment by all parties to develop and tailor projects and work to address all the causes contributing to this problem *on which we can have an effect.*

The work demonstrates the Home Office Crime catchphrase of `CRIME,
TOGETHER WE'LL CRACK IT!

APPENDIX

'A'



SOUTH WALES POLICE

Dear

the following property amongst other items has been stolen from vehicles in the Merthyr Tydfil County Borough:-
mobile phones, coats + packets, CD players, cash, cash cards, credit cards, purses, cheque books, wallets, bags, briefcases, cameras, a lap top computer and printer.

IF THESE ITEMS HAD NOT BEEN ON DISPLAY INSIDE THE VEHICLES, THEY WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN STOLEN, THE VEHICLE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN DAMAGED, THE OWNER WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN INCONVENIENCED AND ALSO OUT OF POCKET!

Working in partnership with other agencies we have a local auto-crime reduction strategy, which solely deals with vehicle related crime.

As part of this strategy, Police Officers /Traffic Wardens/ Community Safety Wardens (Safer Merthyr Tydfil), Fire Fighters, Car Park Attendants (Local Authority) are all Involved with the **'Vulnerable Vehicle Scheme'**. This Initiative is designed to target vulnerable vehicles and to prevent our residents and visitors to the Borough becoming victims of crime.

Each employee will be making a note of vehicles left **insecure** or with property / valuables left on display and with anti-theft devices not in proper use. Records indicate that you are the current keeper of the vehicle detailed below:

On.....a..... motor vehicle, Registration Number
..... was left in a vulnerable situation as it was found with.....
..... on display inside the vehicle.

Your vehicle is a shop window to a thief. It only takes a few seconds to steal property, even if an alarm is fitted to a vehicle. Please reduce the opportunity for anything to be stolen from your vehicle and secure the vehicle properly. Improve your vehicle security and buy an immobiliser, alarm or anti-theft device. We do not want you to become a victim of crime.

If you are no longer the keeper of this vehicle, please inform (in writing, the DVIA at Swansea, SA99 1 AR.

Thank you

Yours faithfully

Superintendent Jehu
Divisional Commander
South Wales Police
'A' Division
Central Police Station
Swan Street
Merthyr Tydfil
CF47 8ES

APPENDIX

'B'



SOUTH WALES POLICE

Dear Ford Escort Owner,

”

Motor vehicle crime has been **reduced** in the Merthyr Tydfil County Borough ' over the past 3 years.

So why am I writing to you? Despite this reduction, recent analysis has revealed that Ford Escorts over 5 years old are the most common vehicles stolen in our area. This is because there is often little or no security on vehicles of this age, making them an easier target for the opportunist thief.

Working in partnership with other agencies we have a local auto-crime reduction strategy, which solely deals with vehicle related crime.

Please find enclosed crime prevention information which includes practical advice on keeping your vehicle safe and a number of security product offers which will help prevent you from becoming a victim of auto-crime.

If you are no longer the keeper of a Ford Escort, please inform the DVLA. You can help us to reduce and detect crime by keeping the DVLA's Vehicle and Drivers Register up to date. If you move house or change your car, tell DVLA at Swansea, SA99 1AR. Further information is available on forms D100 and V100 - from larger post offices.

If you want any further information about vehicle security please contact Safer Merthyr Tydfil, The Bus Station, Castle St, Merthyr Tydfil.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and with your co-operation we hope that we can continue to reduce the number of victims of crime.

Yours faithfully

Superintendent
Divisional Commander
South Wales Police
'A' Division
Central Police Station
Swan Street
Merthyr Tydfil
CF47 8ES

APPENDIX

'C'

Road-shows

Community Safety Road-shows are held throughout the Borough on a regular basis and have been very successful and popular events.

Different venues are used throughout the Borough and are staffed by partners wishing to take part.

Merthyr Fire Station, Dynevor St, Merthyr Tydfil

A Community Safety Day was held at the Fire Station on **26th May 2001** and aptly called 'Spring Safely Into Summer'. Each agency present had a safety message representing their organisation.

Agencies in attendance on the day included:-

Crime Prevention Panel
Fire Victim Support
Forestry Commission
Halfords
Health & Safety
Hyder
MacDonalds
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council (Road Safety, Trading Standards, CCTV, Energy Efficiency)
Neighbourhood Watch
Safer Merthyr Tydfil
South Wales Fire Service
South Wales Police
Wales Home Safety Council
Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust



APPENDIX

'D'

YMGYRCIATAL LLOGICEIR



HEDDLU DE CYMRU



BRIGAD DAN DE CYMRU



MERTHYR TUDFUL
MWY DIOGEL

CYNG BWRDEISTREF SIROL
MERTHYR TUDFUL

Mae'r holl asianaethau ac Awdurdodau uchod yn gweithio gyda'i gilydd mewn partneriaeth i ddatrys problem ddifrifol llosgi ceir yn ein hardal. Gyda'n gilydd a gyda'ch help chi galiwn ni atal hyn yn llwyr.

Wyddach chi?

- Llosgwyd dros 200 o geir yn fwriadol mewn blwyddyn ym Mwrdeistref Sirol Merthyr Tydful. Cafodd 769 o gerbydau eu dwyn a thorrwyd i mewn i 670 ohonynt.

Wyddech chi?

Mae tocsinau a llygrwyr yn cad eu rhyddhau pan fydd cerbyd yn caelei losgi. Gall dod i gysylltiad â'r cymysgedd o gemegion a gynhyrchir fod yn angheuol.

Ydych chi wed! dyfalu?

- Pam mae cost yswirio ceir yn codi o hyd.
- Beth fydd yn digwydd os bydd tan mewn t9 tra bod y Frigad Dan wrthi'n diffodd tan mewn car sydd wed in losgi'n fwriadol.

Gan gydnabod bod carsydd wedi'i losgi yn beryglus a'i fod yn cael effaith ar y Gymuned leol, mae'r barneriaeth wedi datblygu proses i symud yr hyn sydd ar 61 o'r ceir ar unwaith. Os byddwch yn ddigon anffodus i gael eich car wedi'i losgi, PEIDIWCH A CHYFFWRDD AG EF NA'I ARCHWILIO. Gadewch hynny i'r arbenigwyr a fydd i'r offer diogelwch personol priodol. Bydd y cwmni Adfer sy'n gweithio gyda'r Fenter yn symud cerbyd a losgwyd i fan diogel wedi'i amgau heb godi tal ar y cyhoedd waeth a yw'r cerbyd wedi'i yswirio neu a oes perchennog.

OS YDYCH AM ROI GWYBOD AM GERBYD SYDD WEDI'I ADAEL FFONIWCH:

Merthyr Tudful 01685 725402



OS YDYCH CHI'N BERCHEN AR GERBYD NAD YDYCH AM EI GADW MWYACH - CYNLLUN AMNEST CERBYDAU - FFONIWCH 01685 725402

Yn hollol gyfrinachol. Bydd eich cerbyd yn cael ei gasglu a'i waredu'n ddiogel yn ddi-dâl.



YDYCH CHI'N GWYBOD PWY SY'N GYFRIFOL AM ROI CEIR AR DAN A PHERYGLU

POBL ERAILL? - Ffoniwch TACLO'R TACLE CYMRU

yn ddiennw ac yn gtl =tlal ar 0800 555 111 ... Gallech ennill gwobr.

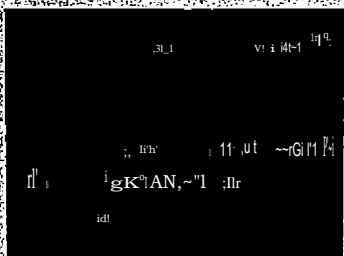
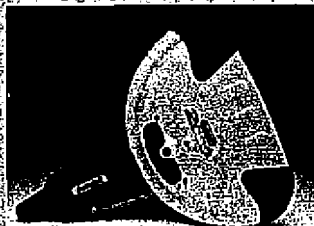
'Mae hen geir heb lonyddwyr ar yr injan yn fwy tebygol o gae! eu dwyn'



Cysylltwch a'ch Swyddog Heddlu Atal Twddau lleol afydd yn son wrthych am y j ffyrdd a o rwystio eich car rhag cad el ddwyn.

Cefnogir yr ymgyrch gan

AUTOLOK 2000



RHIFAU FFÔN DEFNYDDIOL

Swyddog Llosgi Ceir yn Fwriadol y Frigad Dan	01443 232718
Merthyr Tudful Mwy Diogel	01685 353989
DIOGELWCH CYMUNEDOL	
Gorsaf Heddlu Merthyr Tudful	01685 724252
Swyddog Lleihau Troseddau yr Heddlu	01685 724256
CYMORTH I DDIODDEFWYR	
Merthyr Tudful	01685 384405

APPENDIX

'E'

The Greenie, Galon Uchaf, Merthyr Tydfil

Another popular vehicle dumping spot

Exit and entry points to these locations were cordoned off using boulders from a local quarry



APPENDIX

'F'



ARSON CAMPAIGN
Leaflets, inset, are being distributed to homes in the Merthyr area in the hope to stop vehicle arson.

AUGUST 17TH 2001
SOUTH WALES ECHO

Homes are leafleted in car arson battle

THOUSANDS of homes in Merthyr Tydfil are being leafleted as a campaign against car arson and abandoned vehicles heats up.

Police, firefighters, community safety wardens and Neighbourhood Watch groups are joining forces in the high-profile Operation Discovery, as part of the newly launched Vehicle Arson Reduction Fund drive.

Their first targets for the information leaflet drops are homes in current auto time hot-spot areas, such as Penydarren, Aberfan and Towlais. But they will be taking the campaign message to the rest of the town.

A six-month amnesty offers car owners the chance to get their vehicles

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...des scrapped free of charge. And the public can ring a council hotline - 01685 725402 - to get abandoned cars off the streets within 24 hours through a fast-track recovery system, which reduces the risk of them being stolen, vandalised or torched and creating dangers.

Vehicle arson in Merthyr is estimated to cost car owners, taxpayers and the emergency services around £15m a year.

Besides being a drain on resources, fire service chiefs' constant fear is that while crews answer calls to cars deliberately set alight, they could be called to a house fire and lives could be put at risk

if vital time is lost.

The initiative is a partnership involving South Wales Police, South Wales Fire Service, the local authority and crime prevention charity SaferMerthyr TAIL.

Initial publicity had brought little response - latest figures show that just three car owners have taken advantage of the amnesty. Some 24 burnt-out vehicles have so far been recovered and 36 removed from streets under the fast-track scheme for abandoned cars - 12 of those following a trawl of areas by police officers and council officials this week.

Mike Thomas, principal environmental health officer said: "We need public awareness, we need people to call

THE INDICATOR SPECIAL

SOUTH WALES POLICE

ISSUE 7/2001

Joint approach adopted to tackle vehicle arson

FOR the past few years South Wales Police in Merthyr have been tackling the problem of vehicle arson and the division is now starting to see the results.

Last year, 4,317 stolen and abandoned vehicles were deliberately set on fire in the force's area (January 1 to December 31, 2000), causing concern for police and fire services.

Vehicle arson has a huge impact on resources and also endangers the lives of the public, the police and fire officers attending incidents.

It is also resource-intensive for local authorities who have to spend time and money recovering vehicles and repairing fire-damaged road surfaces.

In March 2000, South Wales Police in Merthyr launched a joint initiative with the South

Wales Fire Service, Merthyr Tydfil Borough Council and other interested organisations to combat the problem.

"We decided the most effective way to achieve a significant reduction in vehicle arson would be to 'work in partnership with other agencies' and to tackle the problem at its source, said Chief Inspector Trevor Morris, deputy divisional commander for Merthyr. "Just responding to incidents and working in isolation was not going to be enough."

Partner agencies are trying to combat vehicle arson in Merthyr from a number of angles - namely dealing effectively with offenders, removing abandoned vehicles quickly and educating people about vehicle security and the environmental

hazards abandoned vehicles cause.

The funding of local schemes was given a boost in April when a joint bid by South Wales Police and the South Wales Fire Service to the Home Office's Arson Control Forurh was awarded 05,000 for local initiatives.

Already £10,000 has been put towards a project that aims to stop offenders committing further offences, with the rest of the cash being used to fund car crime initiatives and a vehicle amnesty.

"These days vehicles which are ready for the scrap heap are worth very little. In fact people often have to pay to have their vehicle removed," explained Chief Inspector Morris.

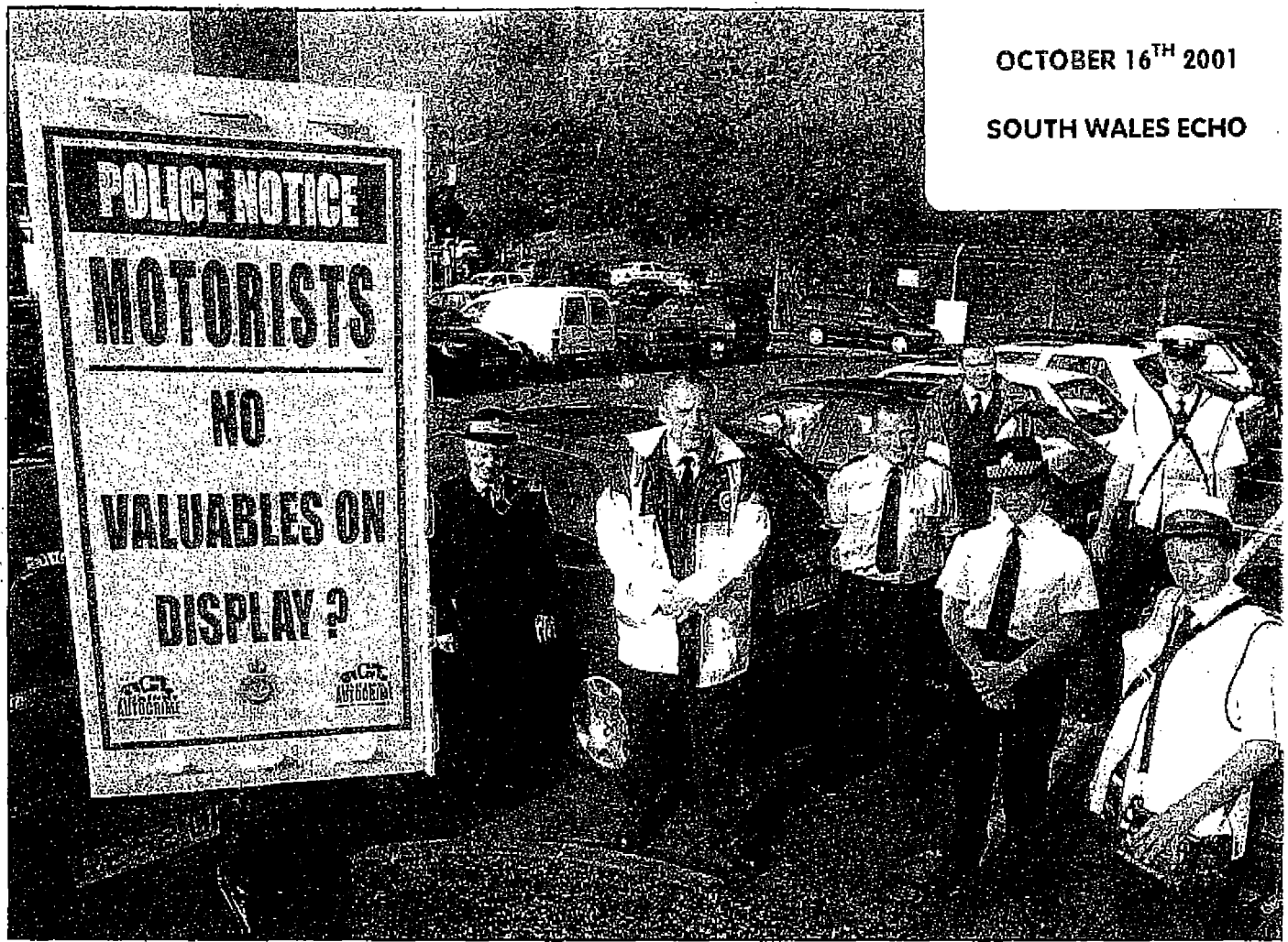
"To avoid this expense many

people choose to dump their vehicle, which puts them at risk of being set on fire. Through a local amnesty scheme, people can contact Merthyr Tydfil Borough Council and arrange for their vehicle to be collected free of charge'. This is leading to a reduction in potential arson targets and an overall reduction in incidents."

Officers are working hard to get the message of vehicle security across to people who live and work in the area.

Chief inspector Morris is convinced that vehicle arson can be reduced if people just take steps to secure their vehicles against theft in the first place

"It only takes a minute to ensure that your vehicle is locked, valuables are removed and security devices activated."



Police warning for car owners

'IF YOU don't with t your vehicle broken into; don't' leave anything thereto steal!'

That's the simple message to drivers in Merthyr Tydfil who leave valuables on show - turning their vehicles into shop windows for thieves.

Patrolling police officers; traffic and community safety wardens, car park attendants and; from this "week, fire-fighters, are oh the loolc out in ear parks for vehicles which have proPerty left in view.

Owners will get warning letters from the Divisional Commander Superintendent Mel Jeliu along with security advice.

More than 400 vehicles have been reported for having items or cables left in sight since the car crime initiative was launched on July 1.

The new purge iii town centre car

parks is part of the car arson and crime reduction initiative, involving the police and fire service, the local authority and crime prevention organisation Safer Merthyr Tydfil.

Hot spot car parks are being targeted. In the first two weeks that new warning signs went up at the Castle Car Park the number of offences dropped by 60 per cent - from 10 in the previous two-week period to four.

"The signs appear to have"heightened awareness. People seem to have been taking heed of the warnings and advice," said PC Jackie Whittle.

Plans are in hand to gain secure car park status for possibly four town centre areas - the college, Swan Street, Gil ar Street and the Castle.

Work has already started at the college car park to clear shrubs and bushes, which can provide cover for thieves.

The car park may be split into two sections, each with its own one-way system.

A series of projects are linked to the car crime initiative.

More than 200 vehicles have so far been removed under the fast track abandoned vehicles and 50 vehicles surrendered under the vehicle amnesty schemes.

Unwanted vehicles are picked up and disposed of free of charge. The hotline number to contact is 01685 725402.

More than 600 owners of five-year-old-plus Ford Escorts have received advice about their vulnerability and security measures.

Some 200 Autoloks have been sold at a special rate to drivers whose vehicles are more than five years old, victims of car crime and shift Workers.

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APPENDIX

'G'

SOUTH WALES POLICE
'A' DIVISION
MERTHYR TYDFIL

DIVISIONAL ORDER: OPERATION DISCOVERY + 7

PARTNERSHIP AUTO-CRIME REDUCTION+ ARSON REDUCTION SCHEMES

INFORMATION

These forthcoming exercises are a partnership approach to addressing auto-, crime, abandoned vehicles and vehicle arson in the Merthyr Tydfil County Borough.

Working together the following organisations will take part in the distribution of car crime reduction advice, **'Whose Problem'** cards, **'Vehicle Arson Reduction Initiative'** leaflets and other information, in targeted hot-spots of Merthyr Tydfil County Borough. Streets and surrounding areas where auto-crime offences have occurred and locations where vehicles have been burnt out in recent weeks will be targeted. Police Officers, Community Safety Wardens, Fire Service, Neighbourhood Watch and the Crime Prevention Panel will all be participating.

Fire Service car fire statistics and police crime figures show that since July 2001 **Aberfan** and **Dowlais** were hot –spot areas for car arsons.

Police figures show that since 1st July 2001, the **Town** area and **Dowlais** have had the most thefts of motor vehicles.

More recently **Troedyrhiw**, **Treharris** and **Trelewis** have had an increase in car crime incidents and this week-end **Cefn Coed** saw an increase.

INTENTION

The intention of the exercise is :-

1. To encourage people to report offenders or give information about car crime by calling the Crimestoppers telephone number.
2. To inform people of the partnership Vehicle Amnesty Scheme and the Fast Track Abandoned Vehicle Scheme, which began 1st July 2001.
3. To heighten people's awareness of car crime in their area and to advise them on preventative measures they can take to reduce their chances of becoming a victim of car crime and to improve their vehicle security, eg fitting crook-locks, alarms, Autolok 2000's, etc
4. To implement the Vulnerable Vehicle Scheme in targeted hot-spot areas.

METHOD

By deployment of **Police Officers, Fire Fighters and Community Safety Wardens** uniformed visibility and presence will be seen by members of the public

thus hi-lighting pro-active partnership working. Maps of targeted hot-spot areas will be provided to each agency for them to target specific streets/ areas allocated to them.

VULNERABLE VEHICLE SCHEME

Whilst distribution is taking place, staff are to take note of vehicles which are insecure, have property on display or with crook-locks not in use. If this is the case, please complete the attached Vulnerable Vehicle Form and then hand to PC Jackie Whittle at the end of that exercise. PC Whittle will be arranging for PNC's to be carried out and then a letter will be sent to the owner signed by Superintendent Jehu advising them regarding their vehicle security. There will be a press release each week, informing the public of how many vehicles have been hi-lighted by staff and also contents that were on display.

Police Officers are to submit forms through the Day Book.

Community Safety Wardens will be treating these forms as part of their normal Referral procedure and a log will be kept with Roger Mitchell.

The Fire Service are asked to submit forms to Ken Long.

ADMINISTRATION

7TH operation - further orders being plied as part ~of rolling programme

Monday 3rd September 2001

6.00am - 6.00pm- Fire Service (Vehicle Arson Reduction Leaflets)- PANT/CEFN COED

Tuesday 4th September 2001

12.00PM- 2.00PM - Police Officers x 2 (Whose Problem Leaflets)- CEFN COED

Wednesday September 2001

4:00pm - 6.00pm Police Officer x1 (Vehicle Arson Reduction Initiative leaflets)- TROEDYRHIW

Thursday 6th September 2001

12:00pm- 2.00pm - Police Officer (Whose Problem) TROEDYRHIW

Friday 7th September 2001

9.00am - 4.00pm - Community Safety Wardens (Vehicle Arson Initiative leaflets)

Volunteer hours - Neighbourhood Watch

All over-time forms and Vulnerable Vehicle forms to be handed in at the end of the exercise.
All staff are to wear their normal daily uniform including fluorescent jackets/vests.

COSTING

5,000 Whose Problem leaflets **££97L.T8**

10,000 Vehicle Arson Reduction Initiative leaflets **£6S4.\$2**

Police over time hours
4 x police officers 2 hrs O/T each

COMMUNICATION

Police Officers -- UHF Radio - Channel 43
Community Safety Wardens - Mobile Phones
Neighbourhood Watch - Mobile Phones
Fire Fighters - Radios

COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS

To ensure the local community that South Wales Police, Safer Merthyr Tydfil, the Fire Service, Crime Prevention Panel and Neighbourhood Watch Association are committed to working together to have a positive impact on reducing auto-crime and abandoned and burnt out vehicles in the Merthyr Tydfil County Borough.

HEALTH&SAFETY

All staff to be aware of relevant Health & Safety issues specific to their own organisation

CIRCULATION LIST

Superintendent Jehu
Chief Inspector Morris
Sue Cousins Safer Merthyr Tydfil
Inspector Dawn Hubbard
DI Keith Bowman
Inspector Phil Jones
Inspector Carl Davies
Sgt Gary Haines
PC Richard Gardiner
PC Nigel Bromage
Roger Mitchell Safer Merthyr Tydfil

Stan Blandford Fire Service
Mike Thomas Environmental Services

PC JACKIE WHITTLE
CRIME + DISORDER PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
SAFER MERTHYR TYDFIL

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