

## **Barrow is now an even brighter place to live, thanks to the Safer Streets Fund**

Following a successful bid through the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner over £435,000 is being invested in security measures in Barrow in the area around St George's School as part of the Government's Safer Streets Fund. The Police and Crime Commissioner, Peter McCall, Cumbria Constabulary, Cumbria County Council and Barrow Borough Council are working in partnership helping communities to reduce crime.



With the funding, Cumbria County Council have introduced new streetlights in the back streets and upgraded the existing front street lighting to current standards. This improved low energy lighting will make the streets feel safer for the community, aid the identification of any wrongdoers, and deter criminal activity.

The impact of burglary on individuals and the community as a whole is significant, which is why this investment is more important than ever before, especially with the additional challenges currently affecting our way of life. With the funding, Barrow Borough Council and Cumbria Constabulary have provided home security surveys to householders free of charge to help identify how dwellings can be made safer from criminals. In addition, they have listened to residents' concerns, fed them back to the relevant groups and signposted people to support agencies when needed. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner has appointed fitters who are fully compliant with Covid guidelines to install a range of accredited home security products to improve the security of the front and rear of local homes. Doors and windows are the most common points of access for burglaries, so ensuring that they can keep unwanted people out is essential.



Homes with obviously poor security are at risk of being targeted by criminals.



The fitters construct doors for the rear yards, which are completed with high quality bolts, locks and hinges to appropriate British Standards.



This will deter criminals from attempting to break into properties from the alleyways.



The fund has also provided 200 home security packs which are being delivered to residents by community volunteers. These security packs contain a number of products which can be used to keep homes and property safe in a variety of ways. Households will receive a Selecta DNA property marking kit as part of this pack, so will be able to mark up to fifty separate items of property. The community volunteers will help residents to register their property marking kits so that if the property is ever stolen and recovered, it can be returned to the rightful owner. It also increases the chances that anybody involved in the theft of, or the handling of that stolen property, will be put before the courts for their crime. For that very reason, the use of DNA property marking deters offenders who avoid committing crimes in areas where the likelihood of them getting caught is greater. In some areas, property marking has reduced burglary by as much as 80 per cent. The funding has also provided the Constabulary with 100 UV torches to allow officers to check for marked stolen property and more when they are on patrol, conducting warrants or searches.



The fund has paid for the removal of graffiti, much of it offensive. Barrow Borough Council have removed rubbish and the fly tipping to make a cleaner more pleasant environment.

Residents in specific areas of Barrow are eligible to benefit from this funding. All qualifying households have received a letter and leaflet explaining the scheme and inviting them to contact us to request a covid secure home visit. The project is all about the community in Barrow, to reduce crime and to make people feel safe and listened to in the area that they live. The funding ends on 31<sup>st</sup> March, but volunteers are welcomed to work alongside Barrow Borough Council to maintain a positive and long-lasting impact. To get involved telephone 01229 876543 or email [SaferStreets@barrowbc.gov.uk](mailto:SaferStreets@barrowbc.gov.uk)

