

Fears grow at prospect of student marginalisation

By Ian Burnip

Plans by the government which could lead to the 'ghettoisation' of students have been condemned by Leicester University Students Union and Police.

Kate Newton, Welfare and International Executive Officer at Leicester University says the plans, aimed at stopping properties being converted into homes of multiple occupancy, are not needed for the Clarendon Park area.

Ms Newton said: "We as a Student Union work hard to increase community cohesion. We work hard so that students slot into the community. The barriers created by making some areas family areas and some areas student areas won't help us reach our goal.

"We work with the police and community support group, and we have our own community warden who goes and ensures that any issues are dealt with," she continued.

Ms Newton said: "Burglars will look to target students who will be more vulnerable, and who, owing to the segregation, will be more easily identifiable," she said.

PC Harvey Watson, of



Leicestershire Police, supports this theory:

"To concentrate students, who are already potential targets for burglaries, in one area will make a thief's efforts a lot easier."

The plans were also condemned and a Clarendon business owner. Gareth Carnall, owner of Fingerprints Deli-café, Queens Road, explained that if students were forced to move from Clarendon Park it would have a 'massive impact' on the local economy.

"I would probably go out of

business. My clients are students; most people who work here are students," he said.

"Students want to work, and are easy to get hold of if they were forced to live further away they'd not be able to work for me." Mr Carnall added.

Ms Newton said: "The benefits that students give to the economy, particularly Queens Road, are massive, they are perhaps the only reason some businesses are viable. The area in summer is like a ghost town. Students are key to this community."

Help through prayer

Tragedy has been used to rally pupils together at a Clarendon Park school.

Following the Haiti earthquake, St John the Baptist primary school, East Avenue, spent the past two-weeks collecting funds to go towards the relief effort – raising an impressive amount of £680.

However more significantly, the school has used its assemblies to pray for the stricken nation.

Laura Hughes, school office admin, said: "Collective worship is really important to us, so we wanted to emphasise the significance of not only doing your bit through fundraising but also the strength that can come from thinking about others in need."



Tech up for safety

An initiative has been made available to University of Leicester students to help prevent them from being victims of theft.

200 free laptop trackers are being given out to students on a first come first serve basis.

The scheme will allow police to track laptops if they are ever stolen amid a rise in student targeted thefts in Stonegate and Clarendon Park.

PC Harvey Watson, said: "I am really pleased with the progress for the first day we had around 30 people, on Monday and are hoping to double that throughout the week."

PC Harvey Watson will be situated in the foyer of Percy Gee building at the main University of Leicester campus.

The project is due to run until the end of the week.

Youths getting mashed up

By Beckie Rowe

An entertainment event created and performed by Leicestershire teens for their generation has been put together with the help of a Clarendon Park arts company.

Soft Touch, Hartopp Road, is a non-profit making community project and coordinated the project.

Mash Up, one of their flagship schemes is an 18 month long program held every Friday aimed at young people across the county to get them off the streets and involved in writing and recording music, and getting involved with art, fashion, and dance.

Joe Croston, a music worker for Soft Touch, said: "We are committed to working with groups of under-represented people to enable them to express themselves through discussion, creative group work and skills development.

"We enable participants in projects to build the confidence to present their ideas using a range of arts based media, with a view to effecting positive change."

Their next calendar event is 'Mash Up present's Urban Vibes', an event which will showcase the talent of singers, DJ's, MC's and dance crews

who have been involved in the scheme from all across Leicestershire.

Included in the line up will be Fuzed - a samba inspired urban music band, which formed during Mash Up Friday sessions at Soft Touch.

Aimed at 13 to 19-year-olds the event is free to attend and has a no-alcohol policy.

It is to be held between 7.30pm and 10pm on February 19 at The Charlotte, one of Leicester's best-known music venues.

For more information on this event and future events call 0116 270 2706.