

CRACKDOWN AT REC IS HALLED A SUCCESS

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A JOINT effort to crack down on antisocial behaviour in South Ascot is helping to improve the lives of residents and young people alike, say community leaders.

The police, the Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG), Sunninghill and Ascot Parish Council and the Royal Borough have been working together to tackle issues at the Victoria Road recreation ground, following complaints from residents.

With the arrival of the summer holidays, they are step-

Positive move targets antisocial behaviour

ping up efforts to prevent large groups congregating, loud noise and litter at the park.

Police have increased their patrols of the area but the two councils and NAG have also been focusing on supporting young people who may be causing trouble.

Sergeant Colin Pike, from Ascot Police Station, said: "After residents complained to the parish council we increased patrols and it has

quelled it. We were concerned with the summer holidays that it would rear its ugly head again but touch wood it has stayed quiet.

"It's all about working together; we are cracking down and will jump on antisocial behaviour quickly.

"The recreation ground is a public place - we want people to relax but do it in a safe way."

The crackdown is not just



Joint approach: From left, Sgt Colin Pike, Jeff Young and Liz Yates from the parish council, Cllr David Hilton and Ascot and Sunninghill community warden Ben Page at the play park at South Ascot recreation ground. 124726

about punishing those that are causing trouble but also working with them to ensure they have opportunities to improve their future.

When police find individuals creating a nuisance, their details are passed by the NAG to the Royal Borough and the council aims to work with the youngsters to try to provide opportunities for them.

David Hilton, chairman of Ascot NAG and a Royal Borough councillor, said: "We want to make sure NEETs are known to the system so they get services that are available to them. Just as important as stopping antisocial behaviour is trying to get people onto a better track, so they all end up with better life choices.

"The issue with just using

enforcement is you displace people instead of solving the problem. We are not keen to displace."

Liz Yates, clerk at the parish council, added: "There is still more to do, we are also trying to improve CCTV down there. But residents are pleased that there we are working toward reducing the impact of antisocial behaviour."