

6 I used to live in Totterdown but moved here to be closer to work in Aztec West. It has more greenery here than in town.



Phil Walker, 35, The Worthys, IT consultant

6 I work in Wales so, for me, it's great to be near to all the major roads and motorways. There are always plenty of places to eat.



Juanita Armstead, 35, Ellicks Road, store manager

6 There are lots of great restaurants nearby. We've been here four to five years and it's great for me because I can get to the motorway quickly.



Steve Armstead, 48, Ellicks Road, retail manager

6 The local schools are good. I've been here for 14 years and it's changed a lot in that time. We've got a lot more facilities with the library and leisure centre.



Isabel Barker, 46, Paddock Close, dinner lady

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Team work: PCSO Paul Baxter with PC Steve Palmer on the beat at the Willow Brook Centre

Photograph: Michael Lloyd

Crime? Statistics show town is safe as houses

IRONICALLY for one of the newest towns in the Bristol area, Bradley Stoke seems to be as "safe as houses".

The latest crime figures for the town built over the last two decades are well below the Avon and Somerset police force average.

The quarterly statistics for September to November show there was an average of 3.5 crimes per 1,000 people, compared to 7.1 for the force as a whole.

There were no robberies at all in 2009, burglary and violence rates of 0.6 for September-November, compared to 1 and 1.5 respectively, per thousand people across the force.



Daniel Evans
Crime correspondent
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Overall, crime in the South Gloucestershire town was down more than nine per cent on 2008, at the last count. There were 154 reports of anti-social behaviour in Bradley Stoke from September to November, which was 15 per cent less than the same period in 2008, when there were 181.

Bradley Stoke beat manager PC Steve Palmer is pleased with the way things are going.

"Bradley Stoke is a very safe place to live," he said. "The continued fall of crime in the town is very positive. There are various factors, but we have been working hard as a neighbourhood policing team. The beat team has expanded to five and we have been able to have a more visible presence in the town."

The team is made up of two beat managers, PCs Palmer and Claire Fletcher, and police community support officers Jason Green, Kirsty Flicker and Paul Baxter.

Initiatives have included a Pubwatch scheme, resulting in no arrests at all over the Christmas and New Year after problem drinkers and drug takers were banned.

Mr Palmer said following a spate of thefts from cars in Stoke Gifford and Bradley Stoke South, and an increase in house burglaries in December, officers were determined to stamp out the crimes.

Last week, six people – five under 18 – were arrested on suspicion of burglaries and have been bailed pending further inquiries.

PC Palmer added: "We had suspicions about certain people and have been targeting a particular group."

He also believes the social make-up of the town, as well as high-achieving schools, has contributed to it being a safe place to live.

PC Palmer added: "I think the fact that Bradley Stoke is slightly more affluent than other areas means that most families have better morals and the children grow up less unruly. That doesn't mean we don't get problems – we do – but we try our best to deal with any problem individuals."

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