



**Appearance of the area****Environment**

- Street life included drug users drug dealers.
- Drug paraphernalia.
- Dirty alleyways, including human defecation.
- Lawlessness.
- Children's play-areas unused by those aimed at due to 'fear of crime'.
- Phoenix Gardens and St Giles Church.
- Cleaning programme.
- Opportunities provided for proliferation.

**Problems**

- People scared / intimidated.
- Economic effect.
- Unpopular with employees.
- Increased crime.
- Council employees threatened.
- Public conveniences were unusable.
- Retail theft.
- Begging and other crime.
- Telephone boxes used for drug dealing / taking, posting of cards advertising sexual services

**Why select Charing Cross Road for the project?**

- Long-standing problem. Largest European market for crack cocaine.
- Cross border co-operation with City of Westminster.
- Transport.
- Other services / requirements.
- Long way to a police station with no patrolling through area.
- No CCTV coverage.
- West End location

**Plans for each strand of the project****Staffing**

- Operating from a bespoke office in Charing Cross Road
- Accommodation
- Maintain relationship with Government Office for London and other partners
- Working towards Exit Strategy / Mainstreaming.

**Research**

- Following on from the bid – understanding the problems.
- Creating baseline measurements.
- Understanding the effects of interventions e.g. *displacement*.

**Enforcement**

- Developing roles
- Uniformed enforcement / plain clothed – new tactical methods.
- Crime prevention / reduction
- Intelligence gathering and research
- 'Buy-in' of other officers / stakeholders
- Developing tactics
- Developing relationships with other partners.

**Services**

- Better ways to engage with users.
- Reducing debris and paraphernalia in the street
- Public health issues
- Treatment services
- Working with homeless / hostels.

**Environment**

- Crime prevention / crime reduction
- Problem solving in the area
- Improving the environment through physical changes
- Target hardening
- Neighbourhood Watch groups
- Intelligence gathering
- COPS

**Coordinator’s role**

- Work in partnership with other strands
- Services/health
- Enforcement/police
- Research/evaluation
- Project coordinator
- Implement designing out crime projects identified by Crime Prevention Design Advisers (CPDAs) employed by Metropolitan Police
- Implement environmental grant/market, grant/offer, grant with CPDAs
- Promote cross border partnership of environment projects (intensive clean ups)
- Planning for real exercises
- Develop Business Watch groups
- Dog wardens in the parks and gardens
- Innovation!

**Benefits of partnership approach**

- Innovation/different points of view
- Highlight links between design, social and enforcement issues
- Evaluation of techniques used throughout project
- Benefit of Crime Prevention Design Advisers from both Camden and Westminster
- Understanding of the whole picture!

**Legislation context**

- Most physical interventions into the built environment will require statutory permissions
- Planning permission
- District surveyor
- Traffic management orders (gating public highways etc)

**Key legislation**

- Town & Country Planning Act 1990
- Circular 5/94 ‘Planning Out Crime’ which states...crime prevention is capable of being a ‘material consideration’ when planning applications are considered.
- PPG1 refers to above
- Highways Act 1980 – use of Traffic Management Orders to stop up pedestrian highways
- Crime & Disorder Act 1998

**Other legislation**

- Health and Safety at Work 1974/Regulations 1992
- Occupiers liability
- Professional negligence etc etc etc!

## Recessed doorways

Recessed doorways are seen as major opportunity sites for crime! What is the best way to deal with them?



Recessed doorway removed on a side elevation of a major film industry firm in the West End of London



Generally, building out the recess will achieve the objective. However, in many licensed premises etc with more than 60 people exiting a building, fire exits require recesses under Fire Regulations. Under the Lilac Project and now being developed with the BRE/Global Construction and Camden/Westminster Police we are developing innovative fire exit doors for this type of building

- Prototype doors in action



The prototype is based on simple draw back doors

### Parks and gardens access

The Lilac Project area suffers from high drug use and dealing, making public spaces particularly vulnerable. What methods can be used to bring back public ownership of these spaces?



- Introduce Planning for Real exercises with local residents and the business community
- Introduce dog wardens
- Provide better security to spaces when closed to the public i.e. new railings, lighting and increased surveillance
- DART vehicle to pick up drug paraphernalia
- Involve the community from the outset!

Improved natural surveillance and security through well designed railings, cutting back high-level shrubbery etc

### Basement fire exits



These locations are prevalent in the Lilac Project area and regularly used by rough sleepers and drug users. 1 Bedford Place was no exception!



### **Other Lilac initiatives**

- Three cross border intensive clean ups – including high pressure washing of streets, stippling of street furniture, graffiti removal (high visibility street operation)
- Removal/development phone box protocol
- Publicity material
- Grants for works ranging from 25% to 50%
- Over 150 physical improvements in the built environment etc etc etc.

### **Designing out crime**

- DOC is not only about gating off areas, but also opening them up – increasing surveillance (Princes Circus landscape design/parks etc)
- There are three linked aspects: physical design, social issues, maintenance and care ('broken windows' theory)
- Incorporate overlooking, remove recesses/blind corners, permeability (without 'rat runs'), integration, minimise risk/lighting

### **Lessons learned**

- The Lilac Project was time limited to 18 months – I came in with 9 months to go!
- Interventions into the built environment take time – project development with stakeholders, tendering, plan preparation, statutory approvals, tendering for contractors, works on site
- All of this takes time – if CPDAs were not on board before me, we would never have achieved as much as we did.
- The grant scheme paramount – there is no law requiring businesses to carry out crime prevention works
- Environmental audit essential
- Be proactive, with good project management
- Understanding of statutory procedures is essential/we got it wrong every now and again!
- Meet colleagues in Traffic/Planning and explain why certain proposals are needed
- Dog patrols/intensive clean ups were extremely welcomed by residents etc.
- Business Watches increased participation

### **Conclusions**

- The role of the Environmental Coordinator/Designing out Crime is integral to reducing street based drug related crime!
- With the Crime Prevention Design Advisors, we hopefully improved the lives of many residents and businesses within the Lilac Area
- So get us on board from the outset!