

up a league in Ghana and was impressed with the players

football crazy



■ The sheer delight of winning the trophy for the football tournament

Community team works on nuisance

A SAFER community team has announced its new priorities after spending the past six months working on those set by residents.

Hunsbury and Nene Valley Safer Community Team will look at motorcycle nuisance, working with shops to ensure alcohol is appropriately positioned, and anti-social behaviour in the Butts Road area of Hunsbury.

In the six months between April 31 and October 31, the team had prioritised anti-social behaviour near Mereway Tescos, parking in the Wootton area and motorcycle nuisance across the area.

Police carried out 60 hours of high visibility policing at Tesco, making one arrest for a public order offence and another for a criminal offence in the area. The community team has forged a close working relationship with security staff at the store.

Sgt Paul Beard, from the team, said: "Anti-social behaviour at Mereway Tesco has got a lot better because we have increased patrols in the area. Also the store has done a lot of work, including making the car park more open."

The team has spent approximately 15 hours carrying out high visibility policing around Wootton Primary School, developing a close working relationship with the school. Letters were sent to parents and school. Road safety issues and asked for co-operation, and several drivers were warned about their driving and parking.

Sgt Beard said: "We have been working closely with the school to send out letters to the parents telling them about parking safely near the school."

Motorcycle nuisance is to remain a priority. One member of the team is able to use an off-road bike and has powers to seize motorbikes used illegally in the area.

Sgt Beard said: "Motorcycle nuisance continues to be a problem which we are tackling."

"There is a lot of land that is used by motorcyclists in the SCT area and we will continue to patrol those areas."

Unrelenting hard work for a 13-year-old

HAVING been impressed with the initiative of 13-year-old Esther Aanze who spoke up for a girls football team, coach John Gregory visited her at home.

"She was my first friend and spoke to me on the first day when I visited the church. I wanted to see where she lived and what her living conditions were really like," he said.

Esther lives at her family's farm a 45-minute walk away from her school in the village of Ko, in north western Ghana. Each morning she gets up at 5.30am and walks half a mile to the borehole to collect water for the household. She then cleans the floors in her home. She shares a room with her relatives and they all sleep on mats on the stone floor. Her traditional home consists of three, cramped, roofed rooms

for sleeping and storage, and an outdoor shower, which is a walled enclosure with a bucket of water.

The toilet is 'free range' and most families designate a piece of land to be used away from their crops.

The main crops are maize and peanuts and these are dried in the courtyard or on the roof of one of the storage rooms. Once her morning chores are complete Esther walks several miles to school in bare feet.

In the afternoon she returns home and visits the water hole again, before helping her mother with the cooking. There are 10 people in her family who all share the small building.

The grave of her uncle is clearly marked just outside the walls of the house, a few feet from the crops.



■ Esther Aanze with her father Daniel

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