

“ PPP ”

People for Proper Policing in North Wales

North Wales Police work with BT to close remote Phone Boxes!!

Gareth Hughes, in the Daily Post on Jan 24 2005 reports that North Wales Police are working with BT to close down phone boxes that are allegedly being used by drug dealers

The **crackdown** has already led to the closure of a public phone box outside a busy post office in Colwyn Bay And the next could be a kiosk in a quiet rural hamlet on the edge of the Denbigh Moors. (has **Gareth** ever heard of a **Rudi Guilliani crackdown!**?) The measure was introduced in North Wales after a Colwyn Bay-based **community beat manager** heard of similar action taken by another force. The first kiosk **targeted (is the OSD involved!?)** was in the town's Abergele Road.

Sgt Darryl Price said: "**We had evidence** that not only were people using the kiosk to contact their dealers but very often they met up outside.

The PPP commentedis Sgt Price classing this as a drug dealing crime(s) DETECTED? Why didn't they use the evidence and arrest the perpetrators!?

"Elderly people calling at the post office for their pensions understandably found that intimidating," said the officer.

The PPP commentedThe presence of REAL live Police Officers in Colwyn Bay main streets DURING shop opening hours might REASSURE the pensioners AND even catch a drug dealer!

Police liased with BT who assessed the situation and agreed to close the kiosk for a limited period. "**BT have been very co-operative,**" added Sgt Price.

The force is now involved in moves to close the Bylchau kiosk which stands at the junction of the Denbigh-Pentrefoelas road with the road to Llansannan.

The PPP commentedBT are looking for reasons to close call boxes that are uneconomic and Bylchau probably falls into this category. BUT do the residents need this facility? as not all will have mobiles or even landlines which can be down in storms and is the mobile reception any good in this area ?.....one of the wildest and lowest population areas in N.Wales. Calls/day or week ?

The PPP suggested....How about diverting a speed camera and it's operator to call box surveillance coupled with the loan of a directional microphone from MI5 this could be a real DETECTING breakthrough a tape recording and photo of a drug deal being made!.

The good news seems to be that... drug dealers are making so little money in Colwyn Bay that they can't afford mobile phones! even 2nd hand stolen ones!

Final Comment from the PPP..... our minds are boggling at the initiative shown by NWPF and the lack of it from the Daily POST !!