



People for Proper Policing in North Wales

Daily Post Mar 21 2007 Police destroy jobs' drinking den .. by Eryl Crump.

POLICE officers yesterday tore down an elderly man's garden shed because it was being used as a drinking and smoking den by youngsters. The shed was removed from the property in Station Road, Old Colwyn, with his full permission by officers **in a bid to try to curb anti-social behaviour.**

Ivor Williams, 79, has lived for nearly 40 years in the street and said last night he was "just broken-hearted with it all. Sometimes there are up to **15 kids in there smoking and drinking when they should be in school.** I used to be a keen gardener but I've lost all heart now. I've tried to fence off part of my garden but the kids keep destroying the fencing and find their way back in. **These days I tend to just leave the house to walk my dog, just to get away."**

Yobs plaguing the Tan-y-Coed area, also threw rubbish down the bank creating an eyesore in what would otherwise be a beauty spot.

A giant skip was provided by Conwy Council to help clean up the place and was yesterday filled to overflowing. Workers were returning today to complete the clear-up.

Inspector Jane Banham said last night: "The shed was a magnet for youths who used it for shelter, drinking and causing **anti-social behaviour** in the town which is generating **a number of complaints.** Our aim is to get rid of the shed and to tidy the surrounding area. The Residents' Association have worked hard to improve the Tan-y-Coed area and **vandalism will not be tolerated."**

Dave Curtis of the East Old Colwyn Residents' Association said the problems in the area had been going on for a couple of years...."Recently we have seen the area plagued by children who use the shed as a drinking den. Candles are also been lit inside which is obviously a fire hazard. Nearby Tan-y-Coed is a beauty spot where trees have been planted and is a place where people go to walk their dogs. It was even an integral part of our bid in the '**Wales in Bloom**' competition last year when we represented Wales and came second. The youths keep throwing rubbish down the bank making it look unpleasant when it should be enjoyed by all."

The PPP comments The Inspector's action and comments are ludicrous and make the Police a laughing stock amongst decent citizens and yobs alike!. **Vandalism will not be tolerated, she says BUT it was for several YEARS during which dozens of crimes were committed and ignored.**

The government has given the Police all the powers and procedures to deal with...Anti-social behaviour, truancy, underage smoking & drinking, vandalism, breaking and entering, criminal damage, littering etc etc. and what do they DO!?... as usual they persecute the victim and take the easy way out!