


The Beeston EXPRESS




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Issue 191: March 18, 2011
Fortnightly - 25p

Street Angels launched in Beeston

STREET Angels have been launched into Beeston's town centre.

The specially trained local volunteers will walk around the town centre on Friday and Saturday evenings in small teams, able to offer assistance or advice to anyone who needs it.

They are part of an initiative brought to Beeston by Hope NG9 Churches Together, backed by Broxtowe Borough Council's Community Safety Team and Beeston Police.

The borough council has donated £2500 from its Violent Crime Fund towards the project, which aims to have teams of Street Angels on hand on Friday and Saturday evenings to help with things such as getting a bus or taxi, befriending the vulnerable, or looking after people

who get themselves into difficulty.

They will talk to the owners and doormen of pubs and businesses open in the evenings and establish a network of support.

Their work is not intended to take the place of police work in any way, but Street Angels will seek to diffuse any potential conflict or disturbance they encounter.

Halifax start

The national Street Angels charity was set up in Halifax in 2005 when local people said they were afraid to be in the town centre after dark after a series of sexual assaults and increased levels of violent crime. Since the project was launched, the assaults have been reduced by 48 percent and thousands of people have sought advice and received help from the Halifax Angels.

Founder Paul Blakely MBE, in Beeston to provide hands-on guidance as our own teams hit the streets of Beeston for the first time on March 11, said: "We launched the project in Halifax in 2005. The centre of Halifax had lost any sense of a lively city centre after dark, with people were saying that they were afraid to be in the centre of town after a series of sexual assaults and other crimes took place.

"Since the Street Angels project launched, those assaults are down by 48 percent and Halifax has regained much of its evening vibrancy.

"Our teams of Street Angels walk around and speak to people, increasing confidence in the town centre and making people feel safer.

"One thing we do is remind young girls to stay safe and to keep their personal safety in mind when they are out and about in the evening."

There are now around 70 groups following the Street Angels example in towns and cities around the country. These include Bradford, Wakefield, Huddersfield and Leeds.

Beeston volunteers

Beeston's teams of volunteers will be found strolling around the centre of Beeston on Friday and Saturday evenings between 9pm and midnight.

Easily spotted in bright blue jackets with florescent strips, they are in radio contact with each other should back-up be needed, and will be happy to speak to you.

Nigel Adams said: "The Street Angels are here to make sure that Beeston is a brilliant night out.

"Whether you need help to get home safely, help or advice of any kind or if you're just bored, you can't miss us!"

The Stump Poll

VOTING continues as local residents make their views known with regard to 'the Stump' that stands in Beeston Square.

Should this dubious piece of 'sculpture' stay or go when the Square is eventually redeveloped?

The Beeston Express is keeping tally, and you have just two more weeks to record your vote if you haven't already done so. See page two for contact details – you may vote by phone, letter or email.

We will publish the result in the issue of April 1, along with a selection of the comments made by voters.

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