

Doncaster Star News
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Kerbcrawler and vice girl get banning order

Kerbcrawlers and prostitutes in a Doncaster red light district were today handed a warning by police as officers issued their first banning orders under a fresh clampdown.

Kerbcrawler Barry Garner, of Dudley Road, Intake, and prostitute Trudy Dianne Wright, of Balby, have both been issued with Anti-Social Behaviour Orders as officers get tough on prostitution in the borough.

Both Garner, aged 60, and 23-year old Wright, have been issued with orders by Doncaster magistrates which ban them from parts of the Thorne Road area which police describe as frequented by prostitutes.

Garner was issued his ASBO after receiving his second conviction for soliciting a woman for the purposes of prostitution. Wright received her order after her third conviction for loitering for the purposes of prostitution.

Both orders were the first of their sort dished out under new police procedures.

Sgt Steve Butler, of Doncaster town centre Safer Neighbourhoods Team, said: "I think this will send a message to men who come to Doncaster to find prostitutes that they will be dealt with seriously and robustly by the courts.

"We are actively targeting women who will not engage in support services and will not exit prostitution and the lifestyle of prostitution. They are victims in one sense, but so are the people who live in the Thorne Road area and we have to do this for them.

"We will continue to target kerbcrawlers too, and anyone who receives a second conviction will receive an ASBO. I think this will make people think twice."

He said automatic number plate recognition equipment was being used to identify drivers in the area. The cases have come to court after a former top detective backed a residents' campaign to rid the Thorne Road area of prostitutes and warned it is the sort of area which could create a new Yorkshire Ripper.

Fed-up Sheila McIlwraith and Ron Cookson have received the backing of former South Yorkshire Police CID boss Mick Burdiss after setting up RASP – Residents Against Street Prostitution.

He also criticised the police approach to prostitution in Doncaster, claiming short-term successes fail to have the lasting impact to remove the problem. RASP was started up a week ago and organisers say they have overwhelming support from residents. It is trying to enlist the help of MPs, police, local politicians, magistrates and prosecution lawyers to address the problems.

Mr Cookson said he had been sworn at by prostitutes in his own street. He said: "I think any action that discourages kerbcrawlers and street prostitution is welcome, but this should have been done years ago. If they are taking ASBOs out at least we're getting some action and I'm sure all the residents of Thorne Road will be pleased, but it is action which must be kept up."