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## Barricade

Published Date: 21 March 2005

RESIDENTIAL streets near the centre of Northampton are being barricaded off from today to stop kerb-crawlers picking up prostitutes outside people's houses.

Barriers will be built at the end of four streets in Semilong to stop men driving around residential areas looking for sex. Semilong resident, Katy Heath, a member of the Semilong Community Forum, said she hoped the barriers would stop the current problem of prostitutes operating outside people's homes. She added: "In the summer, when people have their windows open, they can hear the most outrageous things going on right outside their homes and nobody wants that."

"We hope these barriers will put a stop to it.

"We realise it could cause a bit of annoyance for residents initially, but ultimately we hope it will improve things."

The barriers will block off one end of Lower Priory Street, Brook Street, Uppingham Street and St George's Street, turning the roads into cul-de-sacs. Ward borough councillor, Lee Barron (Lab, Castle) said: "I know some residents might be upset that their roads will be blocked off, but I think it's a price worth paying.

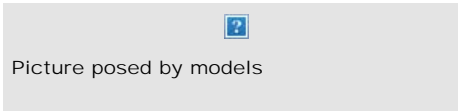
"It's worth having the inconvenience of an extra five minutes on people's journeys if it improves the lives of people whose streets are filled with kerb-crawlers."

The barriers will be up for a trial period of 18 months, but could remain if the authorities decide they are a success.

Sgt Mark McDonnell, manager of the area's crime and anti-social behaviour partnership scheme (CASPAR), said: "I've fully supported the residents who identified and lobbied for this solution to the kerb-crawling in the area."

Since the launch of CASPAR in Semilong and Spring Boroughs, more than 100 people have been caught kerb-crawling in Northampton's red light district.

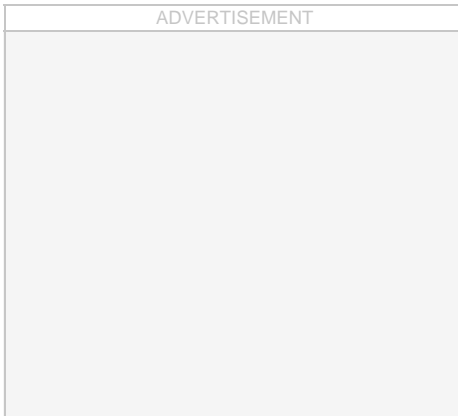
Five men ranging in age from 18 to 61 were due to appear at Northampton Magistrates Court today charged with kerb-crawling in the Semilong area.



Picture posed by models

**"they can hear the most outrageous things going on right outside their homes and nobody wants that."**

Katy Heath



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