



# Clearing Up The Streets of St Pauls

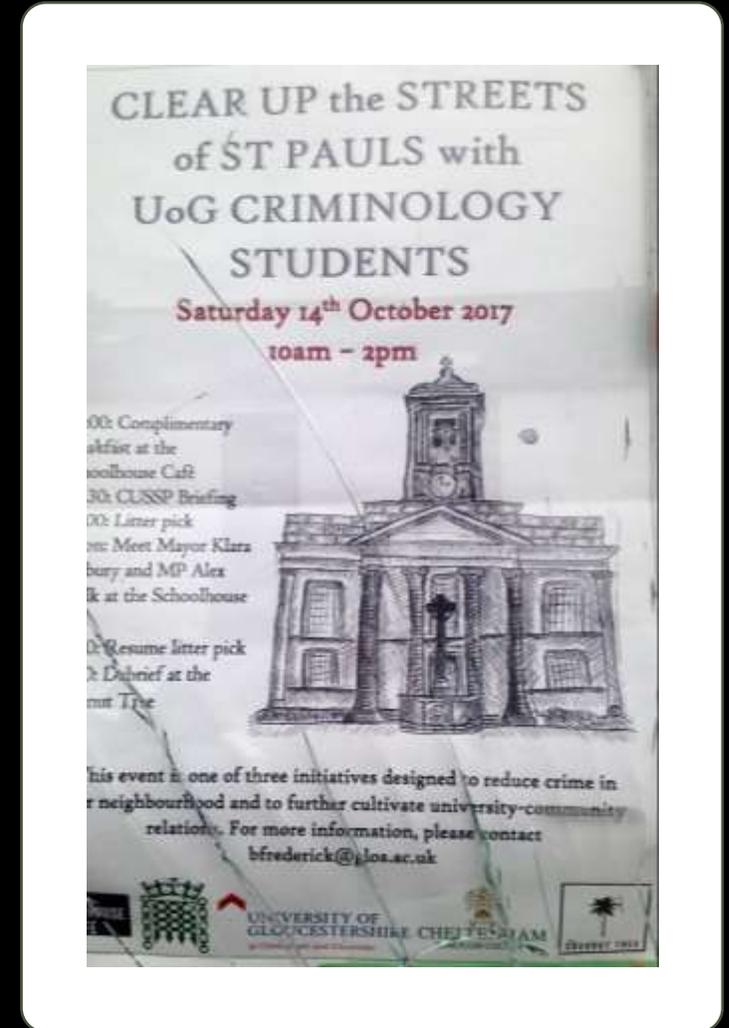
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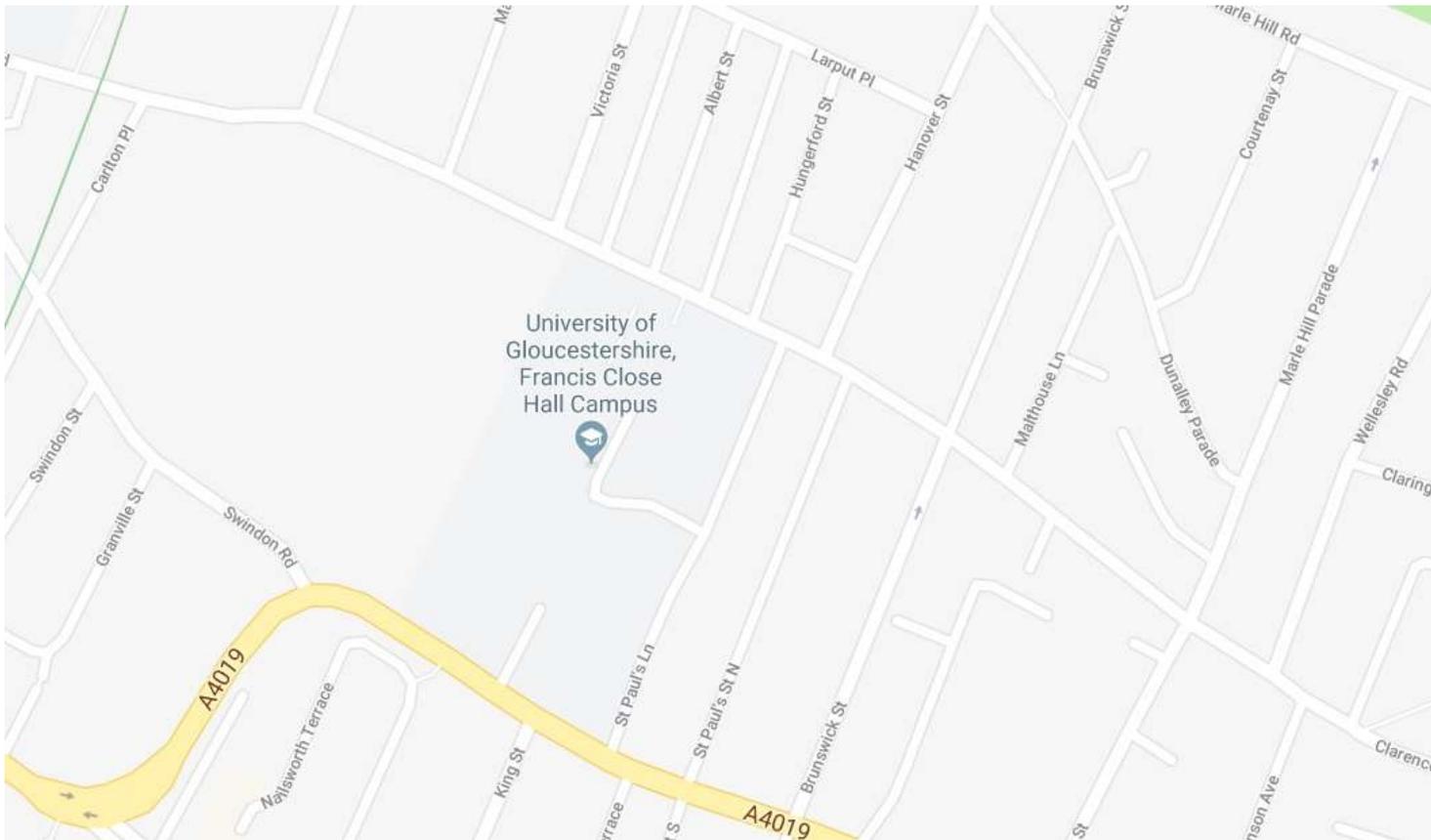
School of Natural & Social Sciences

# CUSSP

'Clear Up the Streets of St Pauls' (CUSSP) is based on the tenets of 'Broken Windows Theory'—a criminological theory that states that maintaining and monitoring urban environments to prevent small crimes such as vandalism, public drinking, etc. helps to create an atmosphere of order and lawfulness—thus preventing more serious crimes from happening.



*Even the display case for the event poster was vandalised...*



## Project aim and core steps: *The trigger and needs we were trying to meet...*

- From July 2016 to June 2017, numerous crimes were reported within a 1-mile radius of St Pauls, Cheltenham (i.e., GL50 4EZ)
  - A majority of these crimes were related to anti-social behaviour, violence (sexual) and criminal damage/arson.
- Francis Close Hall lies close to the centre of this crime radius; and, reports from both prospective and current UoG students on a criminology-related course—i.e., those who will live or who have lived on or around Francis Close Hall—reflected feelings of generalised fear about being a potential victim.
- Additionally, a 2008 Cheltenham Borough Council report titled 'St Paul's Character Area Appraisal and Management Plan' cited numerous issues in the St Pauls area—in particular, **litter** and **graffiti**—that threatened the 'overall condition of the area, making parts appear visually unattractive and creating a sense of neglect.'



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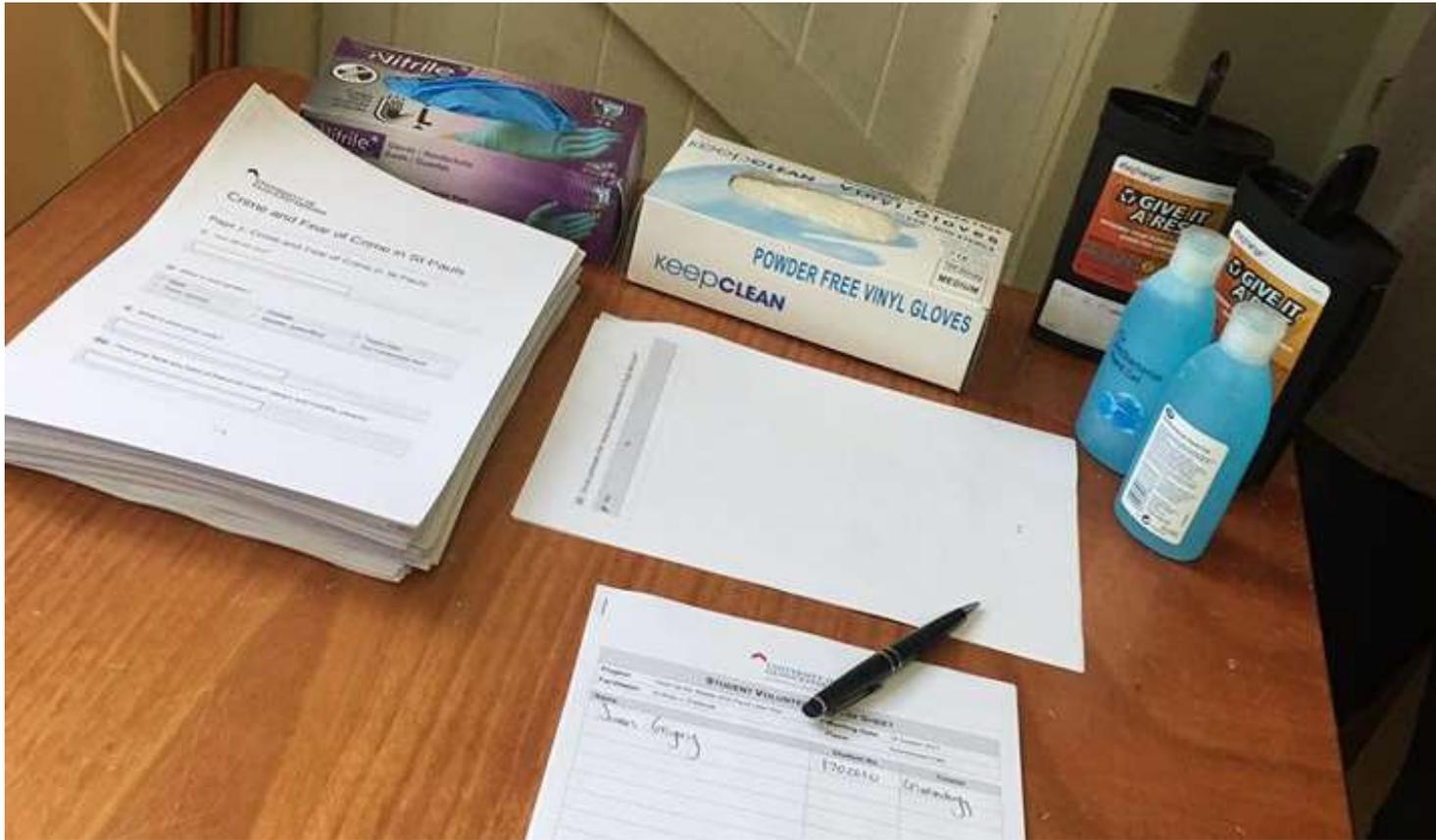
- On 14 October, from 10am-2pm, CUSSP kicked off with a litter pick event by UoG criminology and social science students on the streets of St Pauls.
- As part of the event, students were asked to document litter, graffiti, structural damage, unkempt alleyways, overgrown vegetation and other conditions that might invite crime and or that might instil feelings of fear related to crime in the St Pauls area.
- The litter pick event also launched a programme of ongoing activities wherein students were encouraged to maintain and monitor the area around FCH through written documentation in an effort to reduce crime and to improve overall student and resident perceptions of the area in which they reside.

# What happened: *How students reacted*

The endeavour created positive visibility of our student body amongst the residents of St Pauls and the Cheltenham Borough Council, which we hope will have long-term implications for both UoG and the FCH community alike.

The event and the research it generated also engendered feelings of community among students, as well as a sense of shared community among students and between students and their St Pauls neighbours.





Data collected on the day of the event, as well as ongoing monitoring and documentation was stored for use in longitudinal student-generated research related to crime and perceptions of crime in and around FCH.

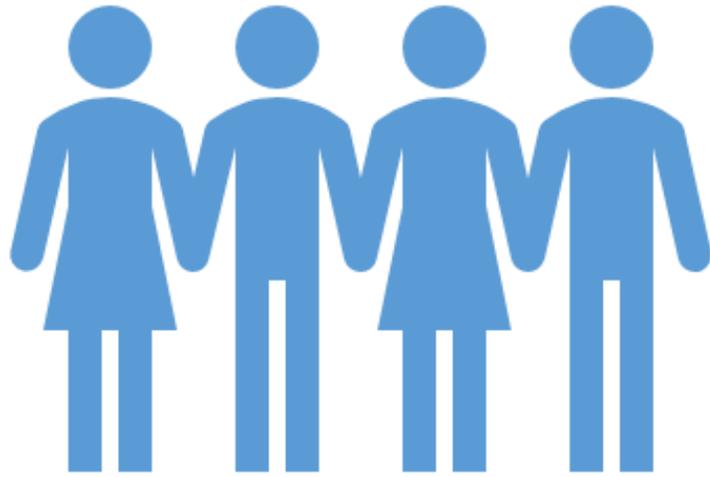
What happened:  
*What we learned*



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## What happened: *What we also learned*

Litter picks must be ongoing inasmuch as—within days—the litter returned to the streets of St Pauls.

- The St Pauls Residence Association continues to conduct periodic community litter picks.

Other actions/activities are needed:

- Community foot patrol
- Neighbourhood watch
- Activities that continue to foster uni/community relations and community and neighbourhood pride.

# Significance: How we made sense of sustainability

- **Social equity** is sometimes referred to as the ‘third rail’ of sustainable development because it often takes a distant third place behind the *environment* and the *economy* in practice.
  - However, sustainable development implies *balance* between the three components.
- Recent work has attempted to reinforce social equity’s position through quality of life.
  - One of CUSSP’s outcomes was to add to this growing body of work.

# Significance: *How we made sense of sustainability*

CUSSP has two key aim, the first of which is/was to foster sustained good relations between UoG students and staff and the St Pauls Residents Association, the Cheltenham Borough Council and the Gloucestershire Constabulary through a litter-pick 'clear up' event with three objectives:

1. to reduce crime through improved neighbourhood conditions with respect to litter, graffiti, broken windows, etc.
2. to improve prospective and existing student and resident perceptions of the area around Francis Close Hall (i.e., St Pauls)
3. to generate the sense of community that is vital to advancing sustainable development's social equity component.

**Significance:**  
*How we made  
sense of  
sustainability*

The second aim sought to embed a local research opportunity into the curriculum, also with three objectives:

1. to embed local research into criminology-related curricula;
2. to develop theory linking quality of life, criminology, and sustainable urban development
3. to encourage students to generate original research and collaborate with staff on research that has publication potential.

**Significance:**  
*How we made  
sense of  
sustainability*

- CUSSP with LIFT principles inasmuch as students have been **empowered to learn** through the collection of their own primary data and through the subsequent design of **systems thinking-related** research that links crime with the environment.
- Finally, students are/were able to **critically reflect** on criminological theory through its application to their own observations.



# What next?

- Development of St Pauls foot patrol
- Development of neighbourhood watch
- The 'Flower Fairy Project' (July 2018)
  - To augment attempts at 'clearing up the streets', we are also seeking to **beautify** it.
  - Working with the St Pauls Residence Association and the Barnwood Trust, we are planning a 'pipe pot' potting event at Schoolhouse Café.
  - 100 pipe pot holders, pots and flowers to be distributed to neighbours in the St Pauls Area.
  - The possibility of alleyway 'parklets' is also being explored.



Thank you!