

# New powers for police to arrest

**By Eileen Whatmore**

**HOOGLIGANS** could face arrest in Byfleet and West Byfleet from Monday as police crackdown on anti-social behaviour under new powers.

The new legislation, introduced in January, applies when a uniformed police officer has 'reasonable grounds' to believe there is harassment, intimidation or distress caused to the public.

It gives police the right to disperse groups of two or more people and take youngsters under 16 home if they are unsupervised after 9pm.

If they return to the same place within 24 hours they can be arrested.

Police and Woking Council have agreed to apply the law to an area of Byfleet village bordered by Chertsey Road, Rectory Lane and Sanway Road to the west, Oyster Lane, High Road and Godley Road to the east and Fullerton Road to the south.

In West Byfleet the targeted areas are Camphill Road, including West Byfleet recreation ground, Station Approach, Madeira Road, including the Brantwood estate, Station Road, taking in West Byfleet railway station, Old Woking Road and Woodlands Avenue.

The legislation allows the order to be in place for up to six months but an application for longer can be made if problems persist.

Woking Inspector Paul Smith said:

"We are getting tougher on anti-social behaviour both in local areas and town centres.

"It has been identified that certain areas of the borough are being targeted by groups of rowdy young people who are making people's lives a misery."

He stressed the powers were aimed at stopping the minority who cause problems, not young people meeting friends or going about their everyday business.

Camilla Edmiston, Woking Council's community safety officer, said the new legislation would make Byfleet and West Byfleet safer.

She said: "Both the council and police are aware that there have been problems with anti-social behaviour in these areas."