

## MIDDLETOWN

## Residents complain about vandalism, drug activity

By *CHRIS ENGLISH COURIER TIMES*  
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Graffiti, vandalism, drug dealing, underage drinking and illegal all-terrain vehicle riding were among the issues residents of the Cobalt Ridge and Quincy Hollow sections brought to the Middletown supervisors during a special meeting Tuesday night.

The meeting focused on the two sections in the Levittown part of Middletown. It was the first in a program supervisors Chairwoman Lisa Pflaumer has dubbed IGNITE Middletown, or Initiatives by Government and Neighborhoods to Increase Teaming Efforts. The program is designed to increase communication and cooperation among residents and township officials, including police, and to find ways to address crime and quality of life issues.

About 50 residents showed up and had plenty to say.

"The vandalism has increased," said Cobalt Ridge resident Mark Johnson. "Someone took a rock from our rock garden and threw it through the windshield of one of our cars, and the amount of drug activity on a corner near us is astonishing. I don't want to be in a situation where we're afraid to leave our home."

Quincy Hollow resident Susan Schofield said her property was vandalized three times in the last two years.

"The third time, I didn't bother calling police because there always seemed to be nothing they could do," she said.

Several members of the township police department, including Chief Frank McKenna, attended the meeting. They said they respond to all calls but more effective action is difficult unless they witness illegal activity or can find a reliable witness.

Officer Jim Waltz urged residents to keep calling, even if they don't see immediate results.

"The more you call, people will know police will be around," he said.

Waltz also suggested starting more neighborhood watches in the two sections. Anyone who wants help in starting one can call him at 215-750-3874, he said.

Pflaumer said more meetings will probably be held focused on other sections of the township. Anyone interested should call township Manager Richard Gestrich at 215-750-3835 or email township officials. The e-mail addresses are available by visiting on the Web.