Fixing Broken Promises?: Policing, Neighbourhood Wardens and Social Capital

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ABSTRACT
This paper will draw upon the findings of two recently completed research studies to explore the role of neighbourhood wardens in policing, community safety, environmental well-being and urban renaissance. The first study evaluates the work of neighbourhood wardens and their contribution to local service provision and social capital in a number of estates across the city of Leeds. The second study, recently published as a book entitled ‘Plural Policing’ (Policy Press, 2005), explores the nature of the mixed economy of visible patrols – by public, municipal and private providers – in England and Wales, and seeks to locate the work of wardens within the shifting division of labour. The paper will consider the complex relationship between policing, security provision, community engagement and social cohesion. It will analyse public expectations, the role of patrol within the police mandate and the growing market for security solutions to local problems. In so doing, the paper will critically review the role of ‘reassurance policing’ as a dynamic in urban regeneration.

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