

## Neighbours speak of shock after girl is attacked

[Oct 24 2010](#) by Ruth Lawson, Sunday Sun



A GIRL was attacked in the early hours of yesterday morning in a leafy North suburb.

Shocked neighbours said they had been told the girl was on her paper round when she was jumped on from behind by a man as she walked along Kensington Gardens, in Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, North Tyneside, at around 7am. It is thought she was knocked to the ground sustaining injuries to her face before the attack was disturbed by a neighbour who heard the girl's screams.

She was taken to hospital to be treated for her injuries while police cordoned off the pedestrianised street as police dogs searched the surrounding gardens and back lanes in the quiet residential estate.

Joan Watson, who lives just a few metres away from where the scene, said: "I was up at 6am but went back to bed. When I got up later the police dog van was at the end of the street. "Then my neighbour knocked and said she had heard a scream about 7am and she rushed out slipped on some leaves and fell, and by the time she got to the girl she could see someone running away. "She brought the girl in and called her mum and the police. She said they took her away in an ambulance because she had two teeth knocked out. Apparently the man had come up from behind as the girl was doing her paper round." The 84-year-old, who has lived in the street for 42 years, said she had never seen anything like this in all the time she has lived in the area. "There's a lot of trees and it can be quite dark but you never expect anything like this at that time in the morning," she added.

Neighbour Justin Snow, 40, was woken to find police dogs in his garden as officers searched the area for several hours. He said: "I took our dog out the back way and bumped into a guy I know who said the police wouldn't let him down the street."

Police are looking to trace a 5ft 6in white man aged between 19 and 20-years-old with short dark hair wearing dark jogging bottoms and a shiny waterproof hooded top. He was also carry a Morrisons supermarket carrier bag thought to contain clothing. A Northumbria Police spokesman said: "Police are currently investigating the incident. We are trying to establish the exact circumstances and enquiries are ongoing."

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