

Police report to Chippenham Pilot Board 22th September 2008

Crime Report for Year to date April 2008 – September 2008

Crime statistics

07/08 total crime = 1268 07/08 detection rate = 29.4% (373 offences detected)

08/09 total crime = 1291 08/09 detection rate = 28.5% (368 offences detected)

I am pleased to report that total crime levels remain broadly steady with an increase of only 23 crimes so far this year. The detection rate is also steady; (a detection rate between 28 and 30% is more than acceptable). A steady crime rate is evidence that my officers are out on patrol at key times in the right place and at the right time to deter would be offenders. This can only be achieved by good community intelligence and information.

In relation to the detection rate, this is evidence that we have a good community liaison whereby members of the public are happy to assist the police with investigations; it is evidence of good partnership working and finally shows that we are catching criminals and bringing them to justice.

Although there has been an increase in violent crime this is largely in response to positive policing of the night time economy and a small increase in domestic violence. However, the increase is accompanied by a detection rate of 59.2%.

The Chief Constable, Brian MOORE, has set the Force a target of 60% detection of violent crime, so, although Chippenham is close to the CC target, this will remain a priority.

Anti-social behaviour & Police priorities

I arrived in post in the middle of June, just before the start of school and college holidays and the approach of long, light, summer (!) evenings.

I am aware that reports of ASB traditionally increase in the summer months. To combat this I put in place a Summer Patrol Strategy with aims of reducing irresponsible sale & consumption of alcohol, positive youth engagement and maintaining good quality of life for residents.

I am pleased to be able to report some notable successes. In one 3 week period in August, Chippenham Officer's made three arrests for minor public order, issued 1 fixed penalty notice for disorder, made arrests for assault and robbery, seized alcohol

from juveniles and issued 12 'notices to leave' under the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006.

The DPPO has result in one arrest 'you'll never catch me' and the seizure of alcohol on several occasions.

Bath Road Car Park. Two warnings have been issued in relation to the anti social use of vehicles, both drivers were from Swindon, complaints have reduced.

Town Centre

Beat Manager PC Mat JACOBS

Pewsham

Beat Manager PC Michelle WESTON

Town Inner West

Beat Manager PC Arwen LUCENA

Town Outer West

Beat Manager PC Nigel SMITH

Town North East

Beat Manager PC Rachel WEBB

Also worthy of note, GPD Officer's responded to a call from a member of the public that resulted in the seizure of 700 tablets that are suspected to be ecstasy.

Police Contact Management

The method for contacting the police particularly via the 0845 number has improved greatly. In January 2007 data showed that we were answering on average 32% of calls within 30 sec.

Current data now shows that 95% of all calls placed to central call handling (CCH) are answered within 30 sec. Of all calls forwarded to the crime recording bureau (CriB) 72% are answered within 30 sec. Of all 999 calls to the emergency call centre (ECC) 93% are answered within 10 sec.

These are average figures and can vary at times of greater demand. The force is still actively recruiting and therefore senior managers are confident that these figures will improve.

Mr Peter COOPER, head of contact management has stated that he is more than willing for councillors to visit the contact centre. Should any members wish to take up this offer please arrange through your local Sergeant/Inspector.

Closure of Enquiry Offices

Following a force survey it was concluded that the majority of enquiry offices, particularly those in smaller towns, were not cost effective. The main public concern at that time was the difficulty in contacting the police via the 0845 number and therefore a decision was made that enquiry offices would close and the staff redeployed into the contact centre.

As is well documented the closure of enquiry offices with the exception of Gablecross (Swindon), Melksham and Salisbury met with complaints from the public. It has since been accepted that 3 enquiry office centres was insufficient for a county the size of Wiltshire; in response to public concerns Marlborough, Chippenham and Trowbridge have now been re-established. There are no future plans to reinstate the enquiry offices elsewhere.

I am however looking at the option of opening the stations front door at set times (possibly advertised using local media) to hold NPT surgeries.

Recent moves

Arrivals

As I am sure you are aware Inspector WILLIAMS has moved on, he is now Chief Inspector, North Wilts. I have been appointed as his replacement.

Sgt Lee ARMIT has taken over as the supervisor responsible for Chippenham NPT. Lee most recent Policing experience has been within Domestic Abuse and Child Protection. I have no doubt he will lead the NPT very effectively.

Sgt Mark GALE has been appointed Deputy Sector Head

PC Rachel WEBB has moved from General Police Duties and is very keen to support her NPT

Departures

Sgt Steve COX is now Inspector COX and has been deployed as Sector Head in Wootton Bassett.

Sgt Martin ALVIS has also moved to Wootton Bassett and is now responsible for the Sector's NPT's.

I wish them both well and thank them for their contribution to Policing Calne.

Support

Again, in line with the CC's wishes I am looking to support the existing Police family with volunteers and the more structured use of the Special Constabulary

Inspector Kate PAIN
Sector Head