



Crime and Community Safety Briefing Paper Chippenham Community Area Board 4th July 2011

1. Neighbourhood Policing

On Monday 4th April the structure of our Neighbourhood Policing Teams changed. The 55 NPT's in the Unitary Area have been reduced to 20 to correspond with the 20 Community Areas.

The public will not see any change to staffing levels as each Beat will retain its Community Beat Manager and Police Community Support Officer(s).

The changes have been made in order to enhance the service delivery to the public, namely...

I. Increased police visibility, community engagement and more time to spend dealing with priorities:

Due to a reduction in bureaucracy there will be a reduction in Neighbourhood Tasking Group (NTG) meetings where priorities are set each quarter. Currently up to 76 are held but in the new structure this will be reduced by 49 meetings per quarter. There is also a new NPT IT system which will make things easier and quicker for staff to enter information. There will also be one quarterly Newsletter for each Community Area with a dedicated page for each Beat Area.

II. Service delivery will be enhanced:

- a) If a significant priority is identified in a Beat Area, staff from other Beats within the NPT can be tasked to the area to target the issue. Staff will still be primarily dedicated to working on their individual Beats.
- b) Each NPT will have a dedicated Sergeant who will provide support for the NPT and enhance supervision.

Current Priorities:

Up-to-date details of the current news about Neighbourhood Policing Teams, including, profiles, priorities and forthcoming community consultation events can be found on the Wiltshire Police Website.

📄 Visit the new and improved website at: www.wiltshire.police.uk

Local News:

As I write this update I have just returned from a night shift helping some 17,000 people enjoy the summer solstice at Stonehenge. As such this is a timely reminder that summer is now officially upon us. You may recall from the previous area board that Chippenham Police undertook an initiative to pre-empt any anti-social behaviour associated with the lighter evenings, by increasing patrols of our open spaces and working with our various partners to help divert young people into useful and productive activities.

I am happy to report that this initiative appears to be advancing well. My neighbourhood Policing team report a reduction in calls which I am confident we can maintain.

One of these areas includes the unwelcome sight of graffiti in many areas of the town. Whilst investigating these offences of criminal damage I have had an insight into the culture that exists behind it. We have identified one offender who will shortly be working as part of a restorative justice approach to help clean a proportion of this damage. In addition I understand that the possibility of managing the issue with one or more maintained 'Graffiti walls' will be discussed at this meeting. I would like to offer my own support to this idea, to help enable an approach which as stated above helps divert activity into more useful areas.

You may also have read in the local press about a more robust policy we have adopted in relation to drinking publicly within the town. In essence Chippenham has a 'Designated Public Place Order' in effect, which gives the Police powers to ban drinking in public. We can seize alcohol and prosecute anyone who refuses to cooperate. The idea behind this legislation is to both promote the sensible use of alcohol and challenge its anti-social use at the same time.

2. Performance

Overall crime levels in the Community Area remain fairly static during challenging times.

The overall detection rate is the highest in the unitary area.

**Table 1 – Reported Crime Figures
June 2010 – May 2011**

| Chippenham | Crime | | | | Detections | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|----------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | June 2009 - May 2010 | June 2010 - May 2011 | Volume Change | % Change | June 2009 - May 2010 | June 2010 - May 2011 |
| Violence Against the Person | 602 | 462 | -140 | -23% | 48% | 57% |
| Dwelling Burglary | 109 | 103 | -6 | -6% | 19% | 11% |
| Criminal Damage | 653 | 517 | -136 | -21% | 16% | 12% |
| Non Dwelling Burglary | 144 | 174 | 30 | 21% | 5% | 7% |
| Theft from Motor Vehicle | 168 | 168 | 0 | 0% | 13% | 3% |
| Theft of Motor Vehicle | 44 | 45 | 1 | 2% | 30% | 13% |
| Total Crime | 2782 | 2551 | -231 | -8% | 31% | 27% |

Wiltshire Police are compared against a group of 8 most similar forces. Wiltshire Police have performed better than peers in All Recorded Crime and Violent Crime for the most recently reported 3 month period (Feb - Apr 2011)

*Total Crime comprises all Crime Groupings listed above and also includes Theft and Handling, Fraud and Forgery, Robbery and Sexual Offences
** Detections include both Sanction Detections and Local Resolution



Cllr Christopher Caswill is a member of the Wiltshire Police Authority and has the responsibility for overseeing police matters in the Community Area. He can be contacted via Wiltshire Police Authority: ☎ 01380 734022

or 🌐 <http://www.wiltshire-pa.gov.uk/feedback.asp>

3. Vision Wiltshire

Vision Wiltshire has been set-up to deliver a new policing model to meet the projected funding cuts over the next 4-years.

Wiltshire Police Authority (WPA) must reduce its budget from £108million in 2009-10 by £15million over the next four years. In order to identify where the public felt these savings might be made and what services should be protected, a special public consultation was conducted between 23rd November 2010 & 11th February 2011. There were 1,134 responses.

What did we do?

A questionnaire was posted on the WPA website which also sent to every town and parish council in Wiltshire and Swindon.

WPA Members attended Area Board meetings to present an overview of the situation and to encourage the public to express their views.

WPA Chairman, Christopher Hoare, presented similarly at meetings arranged by Wiltshire Council to consult with the public on their budget and that of partner agencies.

Neighbourhood Policing Teams distributed the questionnaire within their communities.

All Neighbourhood Watch Members and members of the public who had signed up to the Force website were alerted to the consultation.

WPA members also met with five of the six MPs in Wiltshire and Swindon to seek their views.

What you said

The conclusions that can be drawn from the results of the survey are as follows:

Many people were concerned about how public sector cuts will affect policing in their local area.

There was an overwhelming agreement that removing Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) from neighbourhoods should only be done as a last resort.

85% of respondents said they would be happy with an answer rate of **up to** one minute for the non-emergency police number.

The public did not want to lose police stations and they were the primary choice for accessing police services. However, there was strong support for the use of shared facilities and of greater use of internet and telephone.

The majority of respondents agreed that we should spend the same or more than is now spent on the services we identified in our questionnaire.

WPA should be sourcing policing goods and services from others if it was more effective and efficient.

The respondents ranked the given priorities as follows:

1. Tackling crime
2. Answering 999 calls
3. Neighbourhood Policing
4. Keeping people safe
5. Being available 24/7

What we have done

The results of the consultation have been used along with a strategic assessment by Wiltshire Police to inform our Policing Plan for 2011/14. This directs policing effort as follows:

Strategic Priority 1 - Reduce Violent Crime

As part of our vision for Wiltshire to be the safest county in the Country, we are committed to further reducing violence and supporting the victims and witnesses of violent crime. Specifically, over the next year we will focus on reducing alcohol related violence and domestic abuse and further improving our quality of service to victims of sexual abuse.

Strategic Priority 2 - Manage the people who cause the most harm in our communities

It is estimated that one in ten offenders are responsible for up to half of all crime in Wiltshire. It makes sense, therefore, to focus on those people who are causing the most harm in our communities and deal with them through an integrated approach with our partners in the justice system.

Strategic Priority 3 - Tackle Antisocial Behaviour

The level of antisocial behaviour in Swindon and Wiltshire increases in the summer. Overall levels are low and falling, and most people view Wiltshire as a safe place. The Force will be working to protect the most vulnerable and to support the communities within Wiltshire to develop and implement their own solutions to local problems

Strategic Priority 4 - Developing Sustainable Policing

The scale of the cuts requires a wholesale review of what the police do and how they do it. This means a re-focus on the core role and a much keener focus upon productivity and resource usage. Minor adjustments to the operating model will not allow us to maintain performance whilst reducing cost. WPA has agreed the development of a new operational policing model, supported by new technology. To minimise risk that comes with change, we will introduce the new operational model gradually, ensuring that each component is properly consulted upon and tested before implementation.

For the full report on the WPA **Vision Wiltshire** public consultation or for a full copy of the **Policing Plan** visit the WPA website at: www.wiltshire-pa.gov.uk

In June, WPA will publish its review of the performance of Wiltshire Police during 2010/11, and we will look to update the Area Board shortly thereafter.



Inspector Steven Cox

Sector Commander

22nd June 2011