

Crime and Community Safety Briefing Paper

Devizes Community Area Board

January 2013



1. Neighbourhood Policing

Team Sgt: Joanne Spencer

Town Centre Team

Beat Manager – PC Adam Hall

PCSO – Paula Yarranton

PCSO – Lucy Sainsbury

PCSO – Luke Woodward

PCSO – Kelly Watts

Rural North Team

Beat Manager – PC Emma Reed

PCSO – Gareth Cole

PCSO – Fiona Marno

Rural South Team

Beat Manager – PC Pete Lawson

PCSO – Oliver Nash

2. NPTs - Current Priorities & Consultation Opportunities:

Up-to-date details about Neighbourhood Policing Teams including team membership, current priorities and forthcoming community consultation events can be found on our Wiltshire Police Website.

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

3. Police and Crime Commissioner: Mr Angus Macpherson

PCC website: www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk

4. Performance and Other Local Issues

I would like to welcome two new officers to the Devizes Neighbourhood Policing Team. Sergeant Joanne Spencer started with the team on the 9th January taking over from Ian Thomas. Following a long stint within Devizes Sector Ian has moved to the supervision of a response team at Trowbridge and I wish him well in his new post. Sgt Spencer brings a wealth of supervisory experience to the role including criminal investigation, neighbourhood and response policing. Her skills will be a valuable asset to the team.

Also joining us on a mutual swap is PCSO Luke Woodward from Amesbury. He will replace PCSO Scott Young on the Town team.

PCSO Nina Marsh who covered south rural area has transferred to NPT at Trowbridge. PCSO Oliver Nash has been working alongside Nina and now assumes responsibility for the area working together with PC Pete Lawson.

The Neighbourhood team continues to work hard to prevent crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour.

My team identified that graffiti was starting to appear throughout the town and over a period of time collated evidential pictures and statements from injured parties. It was during the execution of a drugs warrant at a premise in the Market Place in Devizes where officers located articles that could be used for creating graffiti. The work previously completed and additional articles found in the premises led to three males being linked to the offences and charged to court for causing criminal damage.

We look at many different ways to gather intelligence into offending. It was recently reported in the Gazette and Herald of how the Air Ambulance can assist in identifying cannabis factories. To effectively cultivate cannabis plants a large heat source is required. From the air, thermal imaging cameras can easily pick up on this type of heat source. One of the cameras operated by the Air Ambulance, most often used to locate human heat sources, can be utilised in this capacity. This is then linked to further intelligence which supports our application to the court to obtain a search warrant.

The public are so often our eyes and ears for what is going on within the community. This was highlighted during the evening of the 2nd January when we received anonymous information that a burglary had taken place in Rowde Primary School. Descriptions given to us at the time were circulated and police attended the location and searched the area. Three youths were located nearby with property stolen during the burglary. The youths were arrested and remain on Police bail pending the outcome of enquiries.

I am also going to re-examine how our partners can support the drive to reduce crime and make our community safer. In April last year a warrant under the misuse of drugs act was executed in Awdry Road, Devizes. Two people were arrested for possessing drugs with intent to supply and have been on police bail to allow our enquiries to be concluded. A male was subsequently charged with the offence. The housing association were notified of the warrant and arrests and the occupants were removed from the property. This is a strong message to those in housing association property. If you commit crime, not only will we take you to court, but you risk losing your house as well.

CRIME & DETECTIONS (January 2011 – December 2012 compared to previous year)

Crime reductions and detections continue to move in the right direction. During the weekend between Christmas and New Year we saw an unusual spike of violent crime in the town, mostly alcohol fuelled, between parties who knew each other. This has accounted for the only area which has now shown an increase in numbers for the reporting period. Reducing violent crime is a key priority for Wiltshire Police and I will be working hard to reduce the number of offences.

There is a notable increase in the detections for dwelling burglary. Very recently an offender has been sentenced to eight years imprisonment for committing burglaries across Wiltshire.

The occurrences of dwelling and non-dwelling burglaries in the area remain low but please remain vigilant. Report any suspicious activity to Police (descriptions of people and vehicle registration numbers are very useful). Lock your property away, record serial numbers on www.immobilise.com take photos of your valuable property for future reference and add additional security measures to your houses and outbuildings.

EZ Devizes	Crime				Detections	
	January 2010 - December 2011	January 2011 - December 2012	Volume Change	% Change	January 2010 - December 2011	January 2011 - December 2012
Victim Based Crime	1413	1156	-257	-18%	21%	24%
Domestic Burglary	62	45	-17	-27%	15%	31%
Non Domestic Burglary	160	118	-42	-26%	3%	8%
Vehicle Crime	142	87	-55	-39%	5%	10%
Criminal Damage & Arson	344	257	-87	-25%	14%	19%
Violence Against The Person	251	255	4	2%	52%	38%
ASB Incidents (Year to Date)	1103	990	-113	-10%		
<p>Wiltshire Police are compared against a group of 8 most similar forces. Wiltshire Police have performed in line with peers and better than average for Victim Based Crime and Domestic Burglary in the previous 12 month period (December 2011 - November 2012).</p> <p>* Detections include both Sanction Detections and Local Resolution</p>						

Crime prevention

Prevention of crime is easier than catching criminals! As part of these reports I intend to deliver crime prevention advice either on specific trends we have identified or general matters. Please consider how you, working with us, can disseminate this advice to our wider communities in support of making Wiltshire the safest County. For this month I will include general advice to prevent burglary, non-dwelling burglary and vehicle crime.

1. Burglary:

- Always close and lock doors and windows when leaving the house or going to bed. Do not assume someone else has done it.
- Keep house or car keys away from immediate access and away from doors.
- Only keep low value costume jewellery in your jewellery box. Any valuable or sentimental items should be kept hidden somewhere other than the bedroom – the kitchen, bathroom or loft for instance. Keep a photographic record of the items.
- Make your property identifiable by using a property marking system such as Smartwater or Selecta DNA. These can be used on even small items like jewellery.
- Register all items that have a serial number with www.immobilise.com. This will assist police to establish ownership should they be recovered having been lost or stolen. Knowing who property belongs to helps police to prosecute offenders.
- If going away, put lights on timers to reflect your movements as if you were there.
- If you have an alarm - use it.

2. To prevent items being stolen from garages sheds and other buildings outside the main residence:

- Chain equipment together and secure with a closed shackle padlock.
- Put back plates on shed hinges and handles to prevent the screws being pulled through the wood. Secure with a closed shackle padlock.
- Board over or grille windows in sheds and garages to prevent thieves gaining access through the window.

- Paint power tools with your postcode in a bright paint.
- Add secondary locks to garage doors to supplement factory locks. Secure up and over garage doors to ground hasps.
- Install a garage or shed alarm. Inexpensive and an effective deterrent.
- Install security lighting

3. Vehicles:

- Never leave anything valuable in your car, especially handbags, laptops and sat navs. Ever.
- Leave the glove compartment open when parked to show there is nothing of value inside.
- Park your car in a well lit area. If parked on a drive, close the gate if you have one and park as close to the wall/garage/house as possible.

Matthew Armstrong
Inspector, Devizes, Marlborough and Pewsey

14th January 2013