

# Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board

## Community Safety Forum – Report to Area Board JANUARY 2024

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### **Overview**

The Community Safety Forum was set up during the height of the Covid-19 Lockdown to bring together appointed representatives of the Towns and Parishes and the Area Board Members with the local Wiltshire Police Inspector and the Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Station Manager (Swindon West & North East Wiltshire – Westlea, RWB & Cricklade).

The group continues to meet virtually on the second Friday of the month.

Police and Fire priorities and issues are discussed, along with any general concerns arising from the parishes.

There will generally also be a main topic of interest with a presentation and speaker.

Notes of the meetings are sent to those present to be shared as they wish within their own parishes/organisations.

*If anybody would like a copy of the notes or presentations, or to join the Forum, please contact [allison.bucknell@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:allison.bucknell@wiltshire.gov.uk)*

### **Recent Meetings**

#### **OCTOBER 2023**

**Speaker – Simon Goodwin, Cyber Crime Prevention Team, Wiltshire Police**

<https://www.wiltshire.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/fa/fraud/online-fraud/>

A very interesting talk/discussion on many aspects to do with Cyber Crime.

Five Key Points to help protect yourself from Cyber Crime.

1. Passwords Use a strong and different password for your email. 3 random words the longer the better and not personalised. Criminals will often look at Social Media for names of pets and partners etc.
2. Multi factor authentication Many websites etc offer multi or 2 factor authentication. Always turn this on. It is personalised to you and safe.
3. Use a password manager These are stored in the cloud and encrypted, they are safe. Apple will offer strong and safe passwords for many apps, they are not memorable and should not be written down
4. Update devices Always update - annoying but essential. Software is updated regularly to patch vulnerabilities. Criminals will exploit the vulnerability too, so updating the devices should eliminate the risk.
5. Backup your devices. Use an external hard drive or the cloud. It is safe. If your personal details are stolen, having a back up of your data will allow files to be retrieved.

#### **NOVEMBER 2023**

General discussion with local police officers Inspector Gareth Edwards and Sgt Kate Smith

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**DECEMBER 2023**

**Wiltshire Councillor Nic Puntis, Portfolio Holder for Flooding and Chair of Operational Flood Working Group & Chris Manuel, Community Resilience Lead Officer , Wiltshire & Swindon Prepared (LRF)**

<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/986/Flooding>

Topics discussed included the support given by Wiltshire Council to help with flood prevention and alleviation, the best ways to report flooding events and how communities can be more resilient with flood plans.

Report by  
**Cllr Allison Bucknell**  
7<sup>th</sup> January 2024