



COMMISSIONER'S DIARY

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

2 December 2015

Introduction

This report sets out a summary of the commitments I have undertaken since the last Police and Crime Panel meeting held on 4 September 2015. I write a weekly blog which provides a brief overview for the public of what I have been up to. This is published on my website (www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk) and the content of these blogs is copied below for the Panel's information.

VICTIMS AND WITNESSES ARE GETTING QUALITY CARE FROM HORIZON

Monday 7 September

Today the Chief Constable and I spent some time with staff from the Horizon Victim and Witness Care Centre which opened in March. The bureau ensures that the Victims' Code of Practice is operated in Wiltshire, particularly ensuring that victims have a dedicated Victim and Witness Care Officer as a single point of contact throughout the whole criminal justice process. They are also able to refer to specialist support agencies and gather feedback to improve the service. The Chief and I were able to spend some time with the staff and listen in to some of the calls, a worthwhile session and one we are both keen to repeat. The Victims Commissioner for England and Wales, Baroness Newlove, is due to visit the centre next month.

In the evening I attended Chippenham Area Board, where I was able to give an overview of the last year and set out the new [Police and Crime Plan](#) for 2015-17. I was interested to hear that the street pastors in Chippenham have been given a civic award by the town. I recently spent an evening with them and would like to add my congratulations on the achievement. The move toward achieving purple flag status in the town continues with assessments being done. Purple flags are awarded to town centres that meet or surpass the standards of excellence in managing the evening and night-time economy.

Tuesday 8 September

A day of briefings with sessions on complaints, finance and volunteers - all essential to ensure I am briefed for the job. I had a short interview with Sam FM, previously Jack FM, on the Police and Crime Plan before meeting the chair of the Police and Crime Panel to sign our response to the consultation about the national funding formula for policing. It seems that the formula is simpler to apply than the old formula, and from the work that has been done by the financial gurus, so far it appears that Wiltshire will not be adversely affected by the proposals. That said, further guidance is due from the Home Office on the application which may alter things. As it stands, smaller forces are protected whilst larger forces lose out. I'm pleased that the chair of the Police and Crime Panel joined me in signing our response, giving it more weight.



In the late afternoon I was pleased to be joined by the members of the youth parliament. As readers may remember I am helping them do a survey on Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) in Wiltshire and Swindon schools and we spent some useful time reviewing the questions set. It is always good to meet them and I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Wednesday 9 September

Today I visited our Force armoury as we are in the middle of a firearms surrender. I was shown how weapons are destroyed after inspection and I was also able to look around the armoury itself. This is now a tri-force operation, but I am pleased Wiltshire is taking positive action to remove potentially dangerous items from the county.

In the evening I was able to spend some quality time with family to celebrate my daughter's birthday.

Thursday 10 September

I attended the funeral of a family friend today, and in the evening went to the Warminster Area Board held in Chapmanslade. There was an interesting local dynamic between some of those attending: fiercely loyal to their locality, though living so close to neighbouring villages. I gave my presentation about performance and the Police and Crime Plan.

Friday 11 September

I had a day mowing the lawn as I am out at events over the weekend. In the evening I attended a Conservative Party dinner at Wrag Barn Golf Club in Swindon. The speaker was Luke Hall who was elected as the MP for Thornbury and Yate at the last election. It was great to listen to this young man and the conviction that he showed. He left school at 16, working his way up the retail ladder from shelf stacker to area manager at the time of the election, and he is just 29. I was particularly struck by the fact he now represents the area where his family have lived for years and which he grew up in. It was good to hear youth speaking!

Saturday 12 September

To an event organised by the Mosque at Longfield Community Centre in Trowbridge. I have been there before and it is certainly a vibrant place. Set out on tables was food from around the world presented by Trowbridge residents from a range of backgrounds. I think there were 14 countries represented, and I tasted food from many of them including Spain, Morocco, Poland, Tunisia, Nigeria, Turkey, Pakistan, Zambia, Wales and England. It was great fun and a fantastic opportunity to meet the community. The Force was well represented at this excellent community day. There was only one disappointment for me; there was an English table and a Welsh one, but no Scottish. I'll have to offer to cook a haggis if they repeat the exercise.

Sunday 13 September

I was up early this morning to attend the Emergency Services Show at Hullavington. It is celebrating its tenth year and has raised over £115, 000 for local charities, and that is not

including this year. I am pleased that it has become a charity itself. I had a stand there promoting the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, and it was good to see so many voluntary organisations who were promoting health and safety messages. I didn't get a ride in a Police car or fire engine, but did join Devizes Car Cub for a swift drive around an obstacle course. As always a great family day out and a big thank you to all the organisers who make it happen.



(Here is a picture of me with PC Marc Jackson and PCSO John Bordiss from the Rural Crime Team at the Emergency Services Show)

HONOURING THOSE WHO FOUGHT IN THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN

Monday 14 September

I started the morning with a meeting at [Wiltshire Community Foundation](#) where we discussed the policy on grants being given out across the county. The desire is to make grants much more focused on particular topics and we will be making recommendations for the coming year to the main board in October. I finished my 15-year association with the foundation as a trustee and treasurer and will miss the insight this has given me to the people and activities of people in Wiltshire and Swindon. In the meantime, I am busy preparing for a charity lunch, with a jazz band and a big tent, to be held at my house.

Over lunch I had a meeting with my chief executive and programme manager to discuss the commissioner's monitoring board. The board discussed the latest crime figures and the set-up of the licensing team as well as receiving an update on the operational policing pilot which goes live today. I also proof read the professional standards annual report for 2014-15 and received a report on complaints for the period August 2014 to July 2015. The Chief Constable and I have now signed the professional standards protocol. We had reports on forensics, our tri-force collaboration and special branch. I also received a report on job-related fitness tests which were introduced in September.

In the evening, I attended the Pewsey Area Board. Much of the meeting was dominated by local area concerns over the lack of progress in settling up a campus in Pewsey. We have an old police facility in Pewsey and would very much like to be more involved in the community as we are in others. I understand Chief Constable Mike Veale and I have been



invited to a meeting in Pewsey in October to discuss further what we can do move this project forward.

Tuesday 15 September

The Duke of Gloucester is visiting Swindon today as part of the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. I attended his reception in the town with the Chief Constable and we attended a short ceremony at Radnor Street war cemetery where the lives of Squadron Leader Harold Starr and others were celebrated. The Duke went on to name a Great Western Railway train in honour of Harold Starr. Both events were attended by several of his relatives. The fly past of Spitfires and Hurricanes was delayed but I was lucky enough to see them later in the day.

I know Radnor Street cemetery from charity work with the homeless. There have been a couple of occasions when I have been walking around trying to find homeless people. The area is now much tidier due to work being done by volunteers and those serving a community sentence.

Wednesday 16 September

I was in the chiropractor clinic this morning before driving to Bridgwater, Somerset for a South West regional meeting. This was a very positive meeting, although not attended by the Police and Crime Commissioners from Gloucestershire or Dorset. One thing we all noted is that we do not know how the elections in May next year may affect us and our vision for the future. Bearing in mind how long it has taken us to work together and understand each other's desires, I hope there is some consistency after the next election, not to mention my own re-election!

Returning to Trowbridge, I attended a public service board meeting for Wiltshire which was a useful environmental scan of the public services across the county. On this occasion police, crime and disorder were not at the forefront of discussions.

Thursday 17 September

A very useful performance update from staff in the morning; we were able to share some of the identifiable trends of crime across various areas. It was useful to note that there is a spike in shoplifting in Salisbury, not least because I am due to attend a dinner there this evening. The increase in volume of crimes is in line with peers and national trends. However, our crime recording standards have not yet met the perfect quality that we require. All that said, Wiltshire is still one of the safest counties to live and work. I was supposed to be meeting the Police Federation in the afternoon but that meeting was cancelled so I headed over to Salisbury to attend a Conservative Party dinner at which the special guest was Jacob Rees-Mogg MP. It is very interesting to hear a politician who speaks from knowledge and not a prepared script. Whilst we might not all share his politics, I was impressed by his knowledge, particularly about what has been done in the past and how we should learn from it.

Friday 18 September

I had one of my regular meetings with the Assistant Chief Officer Zoe Durrant during which we discussed ongoing cases of misconduct and the challenges human resources staff face working across the region.

I then drove back to Salisbury for a meeting with the Independent Audit Committee which was held at Bourne Hill. The major topic of the meeting was the approval of the accounts for the year ending March 2015. Subject to the auditors' final review everything appeared to be satisfactory, including the value for money statement on the accounts. I look forward to the accounts being published and this year would like to try to inform the public more about the financial success of the organisation to date.

In the evening, I took my wife out for dinner to celebrate our 33rd wedding anniversary.

I've had the weekend off in preparation for my son's wedding.

A WARM WELCOME TO 11 NEW PCSOS

Monday 21 September

Lauren Hookings is leaving my office to spend a year working in Australia. She has been instrumental in making sure I am in the right place at the right time, speaking with the right people. She has been my companion for many hours during our market visits across Wiltshire. The office met at lunchtime today to say farewell to Lauren and wish her all the best for the future.

In fact, it was a rare day today as the diary was quite light. However, I did spend my evening at the area board in Tidworth. We met at the Tidworth Garrison Theatre and I was pleased to take them through the presentation of the annual report 2014 to 2015 and the new Police and Crime Plan 2015 to 2017.



Tuesday 22 September

Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service are running a series of senior wellbeing events across the county. Today they held an event at the central Swindon fire station where 20-plus



organisations set up their stalls to offer advice. I was pleased to see the local neighbourhood officers and the Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust there. It was also an excuse for me to attend an event as Police and Crime Commissioner, but to take along my mother who had a more personal interest in the advice and tools available for those who need additional support to maintain balance or stability whilst walking.

At a time when many chief constables are warning that local policing is waning, I had a meeting about the community policing operating model currently underway in Trowbridge and Warminster. I am very pleased that we are doing something about it in Wiltshire and ensuring that local policing is set up for the future. The pilot project in Trowbridge and Warminster is an example of how the Chief Constable and I support local policing.

In the evening I drove to Leigh Court in Bristol for a reception held by Business West.

Wednesday 23 September

I was joined by the Chief Constable for my first appointment of the day, with the leader and corporate directors of Wiltshire Council. I believe it is important to share our challenges with our partners in both Wiltshire and Swindon and I know that further discussions are happening day-to-day. This was an opportunity for us both to reiterate our commitment to the local communities. This meeting was followed by the weekly finance update from the Director of Finance Clive Barker. After a trip to Wiltshire Community Foundation I was back in the office for further briefings, followed by attending the Corsham area board meeting at the Springfield Community Campus. It is the first time I have visited the campus since it has been completed and I was pleased to see many local officers and police community support officers (PCSOs). I was also pleased to meet the new sergeant for the area, Ronnie Lungu. The meeting itself was complementary to local policing in the area.

Thursday 24 September

I briefly attended a further senior wellbeing event in Devizes before going on to the Governors' meeting at Dauntsey's School. In the afternoon I attended the Wiltshire Health and Wellbeing Board where we discussed child and mental health services. I received the annual children's safeguarding reports and had updates from recent Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) inspections. There was a review of the better care plan and the Wiltshire joint health and wellbeing strategy was agreed. I am looking forward to the next meeting in December and updating partners on section 136 detentions under the Mental Health Act.

In the evening I drove the van for the Filling Station, the soup run for the homeless in Swindon. The number of homeless sleeping in Swindon is roughly 40 and I was interested to note that 34 per cent of those sleeping rough are known to probation or the community rehabilitation company (CRC). Having made a grant to the probation service, to make sure those released from prison do not end up homeless, I hope I'll be able to share these figures at the criminal justice board tomorrow. We handed out 60 bags of food during the evening, the top end of our estimation of need.

Friday 25 September

It was a very early start this morning as I had a 34-mile drive to Cumberwell Park Golf Club in Bradford-on-Avon for a breakfast meeting with Wessex Chambers of Commerce. It is always interesting to go to these events as I do not have the opportunity to meet those in business in any other forum to discuss their experience of policing in the county. The speaker at the breakfast was promoting apprenticeships and it is something that I will be taking back to our Chief Constable and I am sure that there are opportunities within Wiltshire Police for apprenticeships to be offered.

Later in the morning there was a criminal justice board meeting chaired by the Chief Constable. We agreed that he and I should make comment on proposed court closures within the county, as well as sharing the financial challenges we all face. I was also able to share the statistics collected yesterday evening regarding the homeless in Swindon. I am sure that those involved in probation and the CRC will be looking at individual cases that have been brought to their attention. I was pleased that the youth offending team were interested in the figures as they had concerns that some of those sleeping rough in Swindon are of an age where they should have extra support from the council teams. The criminal justice board meetings, whilst not frequent, have become much better focused on the real need of those in the criminal justice service and the public of Wiltshire. Good news for us all.

An entry on my Facebook page asked if I would clarify whether the siren on a police car is a nee-nah or woo-woo. I have to say that this was a mystery to me until I checked the BBC news website. It turns out that PCSOs had visited Haydonleigh Primary School in Swindon to talk about safety with three classes from the school's reception year. Whilst being shown a police car in the 'People Who Help Us' session the children started debating whether it is a 'nee-nah or woo-woo'. The school's headmistress had 'officially put it out there' that it was actually a 'wah-wah'. However, following a vote at the school, the winner was announced as 'woo-woo' by 60 votes to 28.

During the afternoon I attended the passing out parade for 11 new PCSOs. They have been training for the past seven weeks and were looking forward to their postings around the county. I have no doubt that I'll have the pleasure of meeting them at local markets in the coming months and wish them the best of luck in their careers. I am very pleased that Wiltshire Police are recruiting PCSOs at a time when other forces are bringing their role into question. I believe that they provide an excellent service in supporting the most vulnerable in society and are valued by both the community and the policing family.





Saturday 26 September

A family day as we celebrated my son's wedding.

Sunday 27 September

I was very pleased to host a jazz lunch for 80 people, entertained by young musicians from Swindon, on what must have been one of the finest days this year. The event was in support of the community foundation's Surviving Winter campaign. Last year the foundation raised around £50,000 which was given out in grants, at around £200 a time, to help those living in poverty. I hope that this year's launch will increase the number of donations and inform those in need over the coming winter months.

TEN NEW SPECIAL CONSTABLES BRING THEIR LIFE AND WORK EXPERIENCE TO THE FORCE

Monday 28 September

I am pleased that we are getting back into a routine after the summer holidays. There is something to be said for having a work routine.

Today I had a performance meeting. The full crime statistics will be out on 15 October and it seems likely that there will be an increase in recorded crime in the county. This is mainly about violence and sexual offences. I have not been given any evidence that the number of incidents is increasing, but that reporting and recording is improving.

In the afternoon we had the Commissioner's Monitoring Board meeting. I was given reports on the strategic alliance and estates. We also discussed enabling closer working between emergency services. I was well briefed from this morning on crimes figures and response times and fed these back to the monitoring board. I received an update on working with Swindon and the health and wellbeing boards. The agenda also covered finances, fleet buying, cameras, licensing, staffing, Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) and we also discussed the psychoactive substance bill. It was a rather busy agenda.

In the evening I attended the Devizes area board held at the sports club adjacent to headquarters. I made a mental note to speak to the chief constable, Mike Veale, about his expectation of officers attending these meetings.

Tuesday 29 September

Health Watch is holding a consultation day at the Corn Hall in Devizes. This was an interesting event and it was pleasing to see Health Watch maturing. Certainly, at the health and wellbeing boards they contribute well and I think are making their presence felt in Wiltshire.

In the afternoon I had a communications briefing before heading to Marlborough for an area board. I was there to present the annual report and the new Police and Crime Plan,



important but of more interest to me were the presentations given by the young people of Marlborough, and it was good to see the Youth MP, Freya Pigott, leading the debate.

Wednesday 30 September

Early morning drive to Key-n-sham. When I think or write of Keynsham I cannot resist spelling it out K-E-Y-N-S-H-A-M and wonder exactly where the offices of Horace Batchelor were! Horace Batchelor was notable in the United Kingdom during the 1950s and 1960s as an advertiser on Radio Luxembourg. His spelling out of Keynsham made it famous, the address was always read as 'Horace Batchelor, Department One, Keynsham, spelt K-E-Y-N-S-H-A-M, Keynsham, Bristol'. Batchelor had to be careful spelling Keynsham as the town's name is pronounced CANE-sham.

We had a very good regional meeting where we looked at the high level programme of work to be done. I am pleased that within our strategic alliance with Avon & Somerset Police the officers of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) are comparing the way in which we do business to see how much we can bring together. There are a number of hurdles still to cross and the major one being establishing strong relationships between the parties to the alliance. I had to leave the meeting early (at 10am, it started at 8am) to drive back to Swindon to catch a train to London for a meeting at the Home Office about **Revolving Doors**. At this meeting we heard a presentation on the work being done in Hertfordshire around troubled families and the whole day was about potentially extending the remit of the troubled families project to include those without partners. In Swindon we are currently looking at 1,270 such families but if single people are included as well in a future project this will massively increase.

I was interested to receive a report recently from street outreach workers in Swindon who listed 37 people they knew to be sleeping rough. These sleepers would have not qualified in a sleepers count due to the strict guidelines. In addition to those named I also know a handful of other names. I think the Home Office were talking about 125,000 people nationally who would qualify and I suspect that the number would be much higher. I hope to take the concept of a project to the health and wellbeing boards in Wiltshire and Swindon. Whilst discussions are at an early stage, it seems an important initiative, particularly the need for housing and support.

I arrived back at Swindon station at around 6pm and calculated that so far this week I have done 35 hours already. In the evening I met a friend at the Pear Tree at Purton for dinner.

Thursday 1 October

After having a blood test at 8am I attended the senior wellbeing event at Ludgershall. This is the third of these events being held by Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service that I have popped along to and I am being told they are being well received, both by the elderly and by those who support the elderly. It is certainly a useful source of information as we approach the winter months.



In the late afternoon I headed off to Bristol for a celebration of the first year of Avon & Somerset's Lighthouse victim service provision. Our equivalent in Wiltshire is Horizon Victim and Witness Care which started in March. It was interesting to hear the problems and challenges that Avon & Somerset have faced with the service and I am confident that when we celebrate our first year we will have as good a provision for witnesses and victims as anywhere else in the country.

Friday 2 October

Following up my meeting with the Home Office on Wednesday I received an update on the troubled families initiative in Wiltshire. Some of the challenges have been around data sharing and we now seem to have overcome those early issues. I was also pleased to find out that a Wiltshire inspector had been down to Avon & Somerset to look at good practice. A total of 1,270 families will be supported over the next five years. In order to meet the criteria of a family facing difficulties, at least two of the following conditions must be met:

- parents and children are involved in criminal behaviour or anti-social behaviour
- children are not attending school regularly
- children need help
- adults out of work or at risk of financial exclusion and young people at risk of not finding work
- families affected by domestic violence and abuse and
- parents and children with a range of health problems.

I can see just looking at that list that it will not be difficult for many families to find two, and there will probably be more fitting the criteria. I find it interesting to observe the connection between health, education, life opportunities and criminality. It is also very important that neighbourhood policing teams have a close link with families. During the next quarter I hope to be available to talk at the health and wellbeing boards to make that link to all the agencies present.

In the afternoon I attended my final annual meeting and trustees meeting of the Wiltshire Community Foundation. I have been involved with the community foundation since 2000 and have enjoyed watching its growth from an endowment fund of £2 million to £20 million today. In the 15 years I have been involved there have been four chief executives and over 50 trustees. Today the organisation is much more defined than it was 15 years ago when there were just two members of staff and there are now between eight and ten. Back in 2000 we gave out 124 grants totalling £256,000. Last year we gave out 540 totalling £723,000. I am pleased that my relationship will continue as a member of the panel which gives away the proceeds under the Police Property Act. These are items of lost property which are not reclaimed and are then sold and the proceeds are given to charity. I thoroughly enjoyed the past 15 years but I feel that it is time to move on.

In the evening, my wife Sarah Jane and I went down to Salisbury to watch a Salisbury Playhouse production of Noel Coward's *Fallen Angel*. This is a hilarious production originally from the 1930s but as fresh today as the first performance.

Saturday 3 October

This morning I was pleased to attend the special constable ceremony held at our police headquarters in Devizes. Ten new specials were attested, and they will be serving in Devizes, Swindon, Amesbury, Calne and Chippenham. They are drawn from a range of employment, but from the biographies that were read out one fact stuck with me: all were interested in becoming regular officers. I am pleased that they are looking forward to working within the police family, however I would also like to see people joining as a special constable simply to volunteer in their communities and bring their life and work experience to the job.

In the evening my wife and I attended The High Sherriff's concert in Salisbury Cathedral. It was in aid of **One Degree More**, the education fund run by the community foundation. The music was provided by the Band of the Household Cavalry and they were joined by the cathedral choir. It is not often that I get to sit and contemplate and I had to admire our cathedral and the excellent lighting scheme that is in place both internally and externally. It was a very good programme of music and I was particularly pleased to see it included Panis Angelicus by Cesar Franck, not least because I studied and performed the piece some years ago at Marlborough summer school. I hope the event, which was well attended, raised a good sum for the foundation and will enable even more young people in the county to go into further education.



Angus with the new special constables.

Sunday 4 October

I was invited to speak at Calne Baptist Church this morning. It is their harvest festival and they are giving their donation, as they do throughout the year, to the Filling Station charity. They invite me each year to speak about the homeless in Swindon. I was able to report that, on average, we give out food to 45 people each Thursday, and that in the last two weeks it has been 55. We prepare 60 bags of food each week with a tin of soup, beans, meat or fish and a tinned pudding (either rice or fruit). In addition we give toiletries and clothes, and blankets or a tent when available. Whilst we feed around 50, outreach workers reported that

they knew of 37 people sleeping rough last week. This was in a selection of locations; doorways, car parks and tents. What was of particular interest to me is that 13 of these named individuals were on current cases of either the community rehabilitation company (CRC) or probation. Some had only just been released from prison, and yet were still homeless. As commissioner I funded a scheme of support to those released from prison but the funding was returned as the probation company was unable to recruit those to do the work. It has now been made a duty of the CRC and probation, and one which I shall be raising at the Wiltshire criminal justice board. On my office wall I have a framed Hierarchy of Needs developed as an academic work by Maslow. The elements at the bottom of this triangle need to be in place for us all. Housing and sheltered housing is essential, and these thoughts link back to my meeting with the Home Office last Wednesday.

HOMELESS LOSE AN ADVOCATE AND A FRIEND

Monday 5 October

I had a meeting this morning with the Police Federation which is always useful. Perhaps we don't share the same interpretation of **Cuts have Consequences**, but they undoubtedly have consequences and we have to ensure that they are managed. We spoke a lot about the revision of central funding allocation. From what I have seen to date, Wiltshire will not be affected too much by these new arrangements. But that said, it will be a while before anything is finalised.

We have been working closely with our partners, Avon & Somerset Police, regarding alliance matters. This is perhaps due to the funding debate, and the fact that cuts to Avon & Somerset are fiercer than the Wiltshire figures. A regional call centre is not on the agenda at present. However, there is nothing stopping us from debating how our local policing might be affected and altered by having regional call centres, but we are a long way off having to make a final decision.

In the afternoon I had a weekly finance update followed by the South Swindon locality meeting in the evening.

Tuesday 6 October

A fairly long drive down to Mere first thing for a senior wellbeing event, before returning to Devizes to plan for the Lord Lieutenant's meeting in a couple of weeks.

In the evening I attended the Swindon North locality meeting, which was well attended and is successfully engaging with the local community. A good and constructive evening.

Wednesday 7 October

Another senior wellbeing event, this time in Trowbridge. This is an additional event because they have been so well received across the county. I was able to have a look at the town hall in Trowbridge. It is a beautiful building and will be much improved when returned to its



original configuration when the old court offices are removed. It is a real asset for the community.

Back at the office I had an interview with Dan O'Brien of BCC Wiltshire. He wanted to talk to me about the new magistrates court charge, something which has been [in the news](#) recently. The fundamental problem is that it does not take means into account, and it is feared that it may lead to offences being admitted when not proved. This is because of the ranking of the fee and the fact that it is not based on someone's ability to pay. He also asked about complaints against police officers.

In the afternoon I visited the centre for [Action on Addiction](#) based in Westbury before going on to the South East Wiltshire area board. I was there to present the new Police and Crime Plan and to speak about last year's work. I was very interested in the presentation given about the proposed Wilton Parkways which will serve the Trans Wilts rail service from Swindon to Southampton Airport. I wish more people knew about this service, it is not advertised in Swindon enough.

Thursday 8 October

Phil Smith of [Threshold Housing Link](#) has sadly passed away and I was asked by the Swindon Advertiser to prepare a few words of tribute. I worked with Phil for many years, going back to the days I chaired Threshold Housing Link. He was fully committed to the cause of alleviating homelessness in Swindon, both in his work at Culvery Court and his support for joint working with the Filling Station, Big Breakfast + and the Salvation Army. Only a couple of weeks ago, he visited the Filling Station as we met in a cold and wet car park. The homeless have lost an advocate and friend. He will be missed by them and we who work to end homelessness.

I had my last area board meeting this evening, held at the Laverton in Westbury. It is the fourth evening this week I have given the presentation about my new Police and Crime Plan. I am disappointed that the Swindon East locality meeting was cancelled last night. Although I wasn't able to attend, my Chief Executive was going in my place, but it seems troubling that these meetings are not better supported.

Friday 9 October

A rare day where there isn't much in the diary and, as I am working tomorrow, I took the opportunity to take my mother for lunch and introduce her to the team at my office in Devizes. I headed off to Exeter at around 4pm which, it transpired, was the same time as many others; the queue over the Avon bridge was terrible. I am very lucky to have been invited to spend the evening with friends in Topsham, so I am well placed for tomorrow.

Saturday 10 October

The South West Special Constabulary and Police Support Volunteers Awards 2015 are hosted this year by Devon and Cornwall and are being held at Exeter Golf and Country Club.



Tony Hogg , the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Devon and Cornwall, was our host. I was the only other PCC from the region who was there.

Awards are made for Police Support Volunteer of the Year, Special Constable of the Year, Police Support Volunteer Team of the Year and the Arthur Ellis Memorial Trophy. Arthur Ellis was a Special Constable from 1961 to 1982, retiring as Divisional Commander, and instigated the award on his retirement: first for the four constabularies bordering the Severn, and later to reward excellence in community service encompassing all five South West constabularies. Wiltshire was not successful this year, but as was said at the ceremony, to be nominated is an achievement itself.

John Bolwell was the Wiltshire nomination for Police Support Volunteer. This was in recognition of his work with the Bobby Van Trust installing and maintaining cameras in the homes of the vulnerable. Our nomination for Special Constable of the Year was Guy Sanders, who leads the Devizes team. He has developed an exceptional team of special constables, working with the community and supporting their regular colleagues. We made our nominations for police support volunteers this year, but it was interesting to hear of the volunteer drivers scheme in Devon and Cornwall, the Restorative Justice Team in Gloucester and the Chaplaincy Team in Dorset; all of which we should be proud to learn from. Our nomination for Team of the Year (the Arthur Ellis award) was for the work done by the Devizes team, under Guy Sanders, in policing the market towns and rural areas of Wiltshire and supporting Bluez 'n' Zuz. These discos are for young people in school years seven - 11 and provide a safe, supervised and friendly environment where teenagers can socialize.

While in Exeter I took the opportunity in the afternoon to watch [Pirates of Penzance](#) performed by the St David's Players, which was excellent.

VICTIMS' COMMISSIONER VISITS HORIZON TEAM

Monday 12 October

My diary has given me the morning off but, being a simple soul, I did not look at it until I got to work for the day. So the morning was spent on general business and a short briefing for the commissioner's monitoring board which was held in the afternoon.

The board discussed the strategic alliance with Avon & Somerset Constabulary and I received an update on crime recording compliance. The update on the strategic alliance agreed terms of reference for the strategic estates group and considered a consultation paper from the government: "Enabling closer working between the emergency services". I also received an update on the regional commissioning board and backed a national agreement for the buying of vehicles, as well as looking at the finances for the period April to August 2015. I found out that we have underspent. However there is a lot of the year to go and I don't think, at this point of the year, figures are a true indication of the outcome. We have a high number of officers and police community support officers (PCSOs) but this is because we have new intakes joining us throughout the year. I also received updates on the performance of forensics, Zephyr (the south west offensive on serious and organised crime), the work that is being done to establish a Swindon multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH).



In the evening I went to Swindon Magistrates' Court to say farewell to two retiring magistrates: Martin Cook and John Fryer. It was good to see old colleagues and wish them the very best for the future. I am sure they will find a new way of serving the public.

Tuesday 13 October

Today I had an early start to get myself to Ashton Gate, near Bristol, for a sustainable recovery solutions conference. They provide drug and alcohol recovery services in Swindon and it was useful to meet colleagues from the voluntary sector and police to discuss our support for those who misuse drugs and alcohol. We were treated to an inspiring speech, *Discovering Health*, by Mark Gilman. After an informative day I headed back for an evening meeting in Shrewton with the Conservative Party.

Wednesday 14 October

The Association of Police and Crime Commissioners held their annual meeting at Westminster. First, we were given a presentation by Tony Porter, the surveillance camera commissioner for England and Wales. He updated us on some of our responsibilities for CCTV as police and crime commissioners. This was followed by Chief Constable Sara Thornton updating PCCs on the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC).

I found a briefing from Martin Wyke, the Chief Executive of the Police ICT Company, particularly interesting. Until now I have not met anyone talking about police ICT to have inspired any confidence, but Martin appeared to have sound knowledge and I look forward to spending more time with him to discuss ICT support in Wiltshire. The afternoon session was for the Association of Professional Compliance Consultants (APCC) and the approval of the accounts. I think the whole day was partly coloured by the forthcoming PCC elections and the uncertainty surrounding each individual's likelihood of being at the next meeting.

In the evening, being in London anyway, I took Pharrell Tatam, the son of ex-chief superintendent Andy Tatam who retired earlier this year to the Civil Guild of Old Mercers' dinner. The formal dinner was held at Stationers' Hall and had John Scarlett, retired head of MI5, as the guest speaker. The speech was extremely interesting.

Thursday 15 October

I had to get up very early to return to Wiltshire for a blood test before heading to Devizes for a ministerial visit. Victims' Commissioner Baroness Newlove was unable to attend when the Horizon unit opened in March due to illness. We were extremely happy to welcome her now the unit is up and running.

The service provides phone support to victims from the moment they report a crime, through the criminal justice process and to the conclusion of their case. Horizon provides a vital single point of contact to keep victims and witnesses up to date and provides signposting to other agencies.

When I stood for election as Commissioner I was determined to put the victims of crime centre stage, rather than waiting nervously in the wings for justice to be done. After my election I carried out consultations about victim services at a number of locations and Baroness Newlove accompanied me to a session in Salisbury. We spoke to victims about their experience of dealing with the police and the criminal justice system and about the impact on them and their families.

The setting up of Horizon Victim and Witness Care has been a significant investment, at a time when we have already made savings in many areas and need to make additional savings over the next three years. This investment demonstrates our commitment to victims and witnesses.

To end a long day Chief Executive Kieran Kilgallen and I joined Avon & Somerset Chief Executive John Smith and PCC Sue Mountstevens for an informal discussion on the progress of our strategic alliance over a curry in Bath. I am very pleased that both Sue and I agree that the progress for the strategic alliance to date has been slow, but this is understandable as two disparate organisations are learning to work together. I am sure that, where there's a will, there's a way and all will come good in the end. It was very useful to have the opportunity to speak one-to-one with my counterpart.



Chief Constable Mike Veale, the Commissioner and Baroness Newlove with the Horizon team

Friday 16 October

In the morning I attended a meeting at the Community Foundation offices where I am a member of a panel which decides on the distribution of funds that arise under the police property act. I am pleased that this money is given away through the Community Foundation as it improves independence of the grant-giving process and the legislation makes clear that the money must be given away to charitable organisations. In the evening I attended a Conservative dinner. The guest speaker was the MP for North Devon, Peter Heaton-Jones, who used to be a reporter on BBC Wiltshire. Perhaps we will see the station's current breakfast show presenter, Ben Prater, become an MP...

A pleasant weekend off.

POLICE CADETS ARE POLITE IN CALNE

Monday 19 October

Every quarter I have a visit from the Head of Roads Policing, Inspector Steve Cox. This is an activity that Wiltshire now undertakes with Gloucestershire Police and Avon & Somerset Police. With Inspector Cox I go through a list of those who are killed and seriously injured across the county. Every death on our roads is a tragedy, but I am pleased that there is no marked increase in road collisions. There is perhaps a small increase in those riding motorbikes who have been involved in collisions, but no particular tactic or provision of service has been identified that will reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured in Wiltshire. Our work with Gloucestershire and Avon & Somerset constabularies is becoming more established and I was pleased to hear from Inspector Cox about the agreement of common work practices. However, there are still too many differences in local practices and I hope that we will see closer integration over the next few months.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) are in Force for an effectiveness and legitimacy inspection. I attended the briefing given by the Force and I look forward to receiving their report in due course.

Tuesday 20 October

In the morning I attended Melksham market. Readers may be aware that I try to attend a selection of markets around the county and this week I have three mornings in the markets, of which Melksham was the first.

I was pleased to be joined by the local neighbourhood team for part of the morning and to be able to answer many of the questions asked by members of the public who stopped by. After lunch I was back in the office to be given an update on the challenges of [Wat Tyler House](#) in Swindon. A police information point is being created there at which council staff will be able to help signpost and advise on non-emergency Wiltshire police services. I am sure that the challenges can all be overcome.

Two members of the [National Black Police Association](#) (BPA) gave me an update on their agenda and work in Wiltshire. We know that there is always work to be done but I was pleased with the BPA's view of Wiltshire Police.

I am very proud of the Crime and Communications Centre (CCC) at Devizes HQ and was pleased to host a visit for Lord Lieutenant Sarah Troughton and her deputy officers. Chief Constable Mike Veale and I spoke briefly about our ambitions for the Force before they were shown around the CCC by John Flynn, who is head of contact management. I was pleased to receive emails from several of the deputy officers the next day telling me how much they enjoyed the visit and how they now appreciated the challenges that Wiltshire face.



PC James Williams, PCSO Janet Gould and me at Melksham market

Wednesday 21 October

I have a full day ahead. My first meeting was with Chief Constable Mike Veale to discuss some of the challenges around the alliance with Avon & Somerset Police prior to our meeting at the end of the month.

This was followed by my weekly finance update before heading to Swindon to meet a sports engagement advisor. This might not sound like a police and crime commissioner event but it is interesting to understand how much sport influences the way in which people lead their lives, particularly young people. Readers may be aware that I have put money into a local boxing club to encourage young people to experience the sport. The meeting with the advisor was very much about the challenges around communities accessing sport.

It was followed by a health and wellbeing board meeting in Swindon. We received the annual reports of the safeguarding adults board and the local safeguarding children's board. We also discussed the children and young people's mental health strategy and troubled families. I was able to share with board members some of the information I gained at recent visits to the Home Office where we discussed the extension of the troubled families scheme to include single people.

In the evening I returned to Devizes for the attestation of the Trowbridge police cadets. They are coming to the end of their basic training and made their promise to the High Sheriff of Wiltshire Lady Gooch. As Commissioner I get to attend a number of attestation ceremonies for officers and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and can appreciate the challenge that speaking in public raised for these young people. It was great to see 20 new cadets smartly turned out in their uniform and raring to go. I hope the parents and carers who were present support them in their endeavours.

Later on in the evening I attended the Swindon East locality meeting where matters of speeding and local policing were brought up and I was pleased to have been joined by local officers who were able to address many of the observations raised.

Thursday 22 October

I went to Bradford on Avon market this morning. It was not overly busy and even some of the market traders were having the week off. Even so there was a steady stream of the public and I was pleased to be joined by my Chief Executive, Kieran Kilgallen, for the first half an hour as he lives in the town. I was also pleased to be joined by PCSO Jason Greenland and

PCSO Matt Till from Trowbridge in the morning and PCSO Andrew Maclachlan, from Bradford on Avon, mid-morning.

In the afternoon I had my regular quarterly meeting with council leaders. Unfortunately on this occasion they were both elsewhere. It was a shame because the more that Wiltshire and Swindon can do together in a time of limited resources the better.



PCSO Jason Greenland, PCSO Matthew Till and me



PCSO Andrew Maclachlain and me with a member of the public

Friday 23 October

I went to Calne this morning for another market visit. Calne is a place in which, in some people's eyes, the heart has been removed and filled with car parks. The heart was the Harris bacon and sausage factory.

I am very pleased that community policing has such a good reputation in the town. We were joined on our stall by some of the new Wiltshire Police volunteer cadets who had been sworn in on Wednesday evening.

The cadets, aged between 13 and 18, set up a pop-up stand and offered children, young people and adults a variety of cyber awareness signposting information and leaflets.

Cyber crime – committed through the use of a computer and the internet - is rapidly growing and more of the crimes and anti-social behaviour the police deal with will have a cyber element. By raising awareness of cyber safety we can help people to protect themselves.

The message is to be “polite” online. We are all aware that many people are all too happy to write a comment online that they wouldn’t dream of saying to that person’s face. This campaign is aimed at getting this message across:

Prepare: think about the content of the message and whether it could be misunderstood.

Only: only send when you have re-read and checked the content.

Look again: could your message upset anyone?

I would be happy to receive this message: that’s a good thing.

Talk face to face: sometimes it may be easier to say what you mean.

Expect a nice reply: we all want to receive nice messages and comments.

On the way to Headquarters in Devizes I went to Chippenham for an [#eyes2drive](#) event – an awareness roadshow to make people aware that regular eye checks are essential to make sure they are safe to drive and to help prevent accidents that could otherwise be avoided. These events are run by Wiltshire Sight in conjunction with Wiltshire Council, Haine & Smith, [Wiltshire Local Optical Committees](#), Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service and Swindon Borough Council.

Eyesight testing is no longer considered to be a primary healthcare need and it worries me how many children in schools have not had an eye test, as well as any elderly people who may be driving with reduced peripheral vision.

In the evening, I had a meeting with Robert Buckland, the MP for Swindon and we were joined by the local policing team and discussed local issues in south Swindon.



PC Sally Pullen, cadets (from left to right: Charlie Ruck, Tommy Gibson, Lydia Harper, Lily Ward, Rhiannon Taylor, Anna Shibu, Meghan Buckland) and me at Calne market

Saturday 24 October

There was nothing in the diary for me today.



Sunday 25 October

I was pleased to be invited to Wiltshire School of Gymnastics at Bowerhill in Melksham. This school offers gymnasts in Wiltshire a fantastic opportunity and on this occasion it was a competition between teams from all over England. I think I can safely say that before the competition I knew very little about gymnastics. One of the many facts I learnt during the day was that to be a successful gymnast you need to start around the age of three! The discipline that these young people find in the sport cannot be underestimated as they have to attend regular training at a very young age and abide by the trainers to ensure their personal safety; advice which young people sometimes find difficult to take. All in all an inspiring time with young people who as a group are not often congratulated for their citizenship.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION HOLDS POIGNANT SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Monday 26 October

My first meeting of the day was with a man who is researching the role of chief constables in the UK and wished to talk to me about the role of a police and crime commissioner and relationships that have been established between the chief constables of Wiltshire Police and me over the last three years. He is currently a senior lecturer at the University of East London and has previously served as a police officer. This should be an interesting piece of academic research and I look forward to reading it when it's published next year.

Last week I wrote to all the MPs in the county to advise them of our understanding of funding for next year; the effect of which seems to be that Wiltshire will have a greater proportion of the national pot. It was good to speak to Andrew Murrison, the MP for South West Wiltshire, who phoned Chief Constable Mike Veale and me for a conversation following up our letter and I am pleased to have been able to brief him for a debate that may happen in parliament over the coming weeks.

During November I am taking part in a takeover challenge. This is an initiative of the Children's Commissioner and over the next couple of weeks I will be inviting applications from our police cadets to spend a day shadowing me.

The afternoon was taken up with the Commissioner's Monitoring Board at which I had updates on the regional collaboration for forensics and Zephyr (the South West operation on serious and organised crime). We also discussed the medium term financial strategy and I received feedback from a meeting that was held in the Home Office about funding for formal consultations. I also received reports on property disposals, front counter services and progress on the new custody hub in the south of the county.

Tuesday 27 October

Due to maintenance, the power at police headquarters in Devizes is reduced for most of the day and this has given all staff the opportunity to work remotely with the technology that they

now have. Unfortunately, my visit to the Force doctor couldn't be done over the computer so I attended in person.

Later, it was interesting to see a meeting, normally attended by around 25 people, taking place at headquarters with most of the attendees signing in virtually using their computers and the video facilities. It will be interesting to have the feedback on this as it is our ambition that many more meetings will take place using this technology.

In the afternoon I got the train to London to be at the Academy of Justice within the Ministry of Justice to speak with the Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner, Martin Underhill. We met about two and a half years ago to discuss the challenges we see in the role and this was an opportunity to address the academy about some of the work we have achieved and some of the frustrations we have found over the years. I have to say it was also a good opportunity for me to personally reflect on the ambitions three years ago, what has been achieved and what has changed in the landscape over the years. Thankfully the reflection didn't leave me too downcast.

In the evening I was invited by the Police Federation to attend a dinner at the Dorchester for the police bravery awards with Mr Veale. The Wiltshire nomination for these awards was Ian McKerlie who was involved in an incident in the Shrewton Co-op back in the summer. It was humbling to hear of the circumstances surrounding officers dealing with violent members of the public. Many of the officers were injured in the course of undertaking their duties.

Wednesday 28 October

I got the train back from London first thing in the morning to Trowbridge where I am at the market. It was a useful day but not overly busy. We were joined by local police community support officers (PCSOs).

In the afternoon, I attended a Pewsey community area partnership meeting. Concerns have been raised in the Pewsey community about neighbourhood policing and I understand that their PCSO contingent has been reduced by one. The actual delivery of policing is the responsibility of Mr Veale, but I was able to reassure the community that both he and I are committed to local community policing and that there are no plans, and no conversations, about the reduction of officers serving local communities. The work that is being undertaken in parts of the county, such as the community policing pilot, is fundamental in making sure that local policing continues to be a feature of Wiltshire.



PCSO Ben Brown, PCSO Mike Obern and me at Trowbridge market

Thursday 29 October

This morning we were in Wilton market which I have to say was pretty miserable. Not Wilton of course, but the weather, which effectively kept the public tucked up at home. We did have a few visitors and a couple of interesting conversations. I suppose, given the number of markets we've been to and the number we have planned, that one wet day shouldn't surprise us.

In the afternoon I had a briefing on the victim and witness event that is being held in early November at Devizes town hall and this was followed by an alliance meeting with our colleagues from Avon & Somerset Police.

In the evening I was driving for the Filling Station homeless charity in Swindon which, just like the market this morning, was particularly wet and miserable but did not dissuade the 60 people in need who queued for the food.



Katie Broomfield, who works in the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner at Devizes headquarters, and me at Wilton market

Friday 30 October

We had a strategic alliance meeting at Keynsham police station in the morning during which Wiltshire confirmed its support for the alliance programme. This was perhaps the most useful meeting that we've had recently and I felt the two and a half hour session was very positive and affirming.

In the afternoon, I had a meeting with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) staff to discuss the commissioning fund for next year and I also had a short meeting with Assistant Chief Officer Zoe Durrant, to deal with human resources matters.

Sunday 1 November

I was very pleased to attend the Royal British Legion ceremony of remembrance which was held at the Wyvern theatre in Swindon. The event is a mixture of nostalgic reminiscence and poignant remembrance. It was great to see so many local groups, cadets and school children from Swindon involved in the festival. I was also pleased that it was simultaneously



broadcast on Swindon 105.5 radio station. We have given the station a grant and it is used extensively with young people to encourage them to gain the confidence needed in broadcasting.

On the way back to my car we passed a vehicle that had been involved in a collision and MP Robert Buckland and I found ourselves directing pedestrians away from the collision and spilt fuel until Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service arrived.