



Police report

Devizes Community Area Board January 2010

Sergeants Update.

December has been a busy month for your local Neighbourhood Policing Teams. As well as the policing of the festive season, which brings its own unique demands, it has been a month where your local officers have been busy in their communities conducting consultations to set their area priorities for the next 3 months. These priorities are decided following public consultation and are set at the Devizes Community Area Safety Committee. At this meeting the previous priorities were closed as having been achieved. Of particular note is the progress made in Potterne to address anti-social behaviour by beat manager PC Gemma Rutter and PCSO Nina Marsh. Through regular enforcement and effective partnership working we have seen a marked reduction and we have secured an Acceptable Behaviour Contract against one of the main youths involved. Since then neither this youth or his chums have come to Police notice. Similarly PC Mark Lewis has successfully dealt with reported issues of anti-social behaviour in Rowde and PC Adam Hall and his team have been busy dealing with a raft of issues in Devizes town to good effect. The new priorities can be found on the individual website pages of each Neighbourhood Policing Team at www.wiltshire.police.uk/.

As I have mentioned the festive season brings with it unique demands on the Police service. This predominantly centres on the night-time economy and associated anti-social behaviour. To address this Wiltshire Police had additional staff on duty on both Christmas Eve and New Years Eve with Headquarters staff assisting their frontline colleagues with high visibility patrols and enforcement action. At Devizes we were helped with additional officers who played a valuable role in providing reassurance and visibility to both the local community and revellers. I am pleased to report that on both nights, whilst there were a number of incidents and arrests, this was nothing more than would be expected from a normal Friday or Saturday night. In this regard I can say that for Devizes the policing operation was a success and I thank all of the officers involved for their efforts.

The New Year is a time for reflection and for then moving forward, finding new ways of working. I am constantly reviewing how my teams work and strive to find better, more effective and efficient ways of working. One such way that I have identified is regarding public meetings and surgeries. Each Neighbourhood Policing Team must hold monthly Policing and Community Together meetings (PACT) where officers consult with their communities to identify the issues that affect them and provide updates on policing activity in their area. Previously officers have held surgeries in village halls. We have found that these meetings, on the whole, have been poorly attended. Therefore I have instructed my beat managers to find existing structures and meetings that they can use and drop into, for example existing coffee mornings. In addition we plan to make more use of promotional stands in public streets, market places and community events where officers can be directly accessible to their communities. Details of all such meetings are posted on the individual team website pages.

Finally, we are currently working hard to develop our contacts and working relationship with Neighbourhood Watch schemes. As part of this we will be making contact with Area coordinators to make sure that we hold the correct contact details for all scheme and area coordinators. As you can imagine there are a large number of schemes in existence in the Devizes area and as such this is a large, but extremely important, piece of work. I am thankful to our volunteer, Mr Patrick Suther for the work he puts into Neighbourhood Watch and I will be meeting with him to find ways of undertaking this work. I have so far identified that there are a number of vacancies for both scheme and area coordinators. We rely heavily on the valuable work that Neighbourhood Watch is engaged in and if any person is interested in undertaking either of these roles then please contact Patrick via email Patrick.Suther@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk or our Community Affairs department at Salisbury Police Station.

On a final note I am pleased to report that the latest abstraction figures for November 2009 are extremely encouraging with an abstraction rate for beat managers in Devizes of only 6.4%. This is against a maximum of 20% and means that your local officer is spending more time on their area, dealing with the issues that affect you. I congratulate all of my officers for working hard to achieve this and I take this opportunity to thank them publicly for the hard work they do to ensure that their local communities remain safe, satisfied and confident.

Ian Thomas

Sergeant Devizes Neighbourhood Policing Teams.

Devizes Town NPT

The town team has been during the Autumn with a new community support officer Lucy Sainsbury who recently joined the team from Chippenham.

Lucy has been busy meeting local residents and has been involved in the most recent community consultation in Sheep Street.

The team in partnership with Sarsen housing conducted door to door visits with residents and a large amount of community information was obtained which will be used to benefit the community.

During Christmas focused patrols a stolen vehicle was located and returned to the owner.

The team have been running the monthly Bluez & Zuz discos at the Corn Exchange and had over 150 young people attend the last event. The team are joined by local partners at the events and the events have now been running for over two years.

The community in Bath Road Devizes are running a pilot Community Speed Watch scheme and has been successful in residents once trained are able to conduct speed checks and report offenders to the Community Beat Manager.

PC Adam Hall

Community Beat Manager Devizes Town NPT

Devizes North Rural

In December 2009 the last set of priorities were discussed and closed, as per the following information.

Criminal Damage - Bishops Cannings:

There have been no incidents of Criminal Damage in Oak Close reported to us at all since September 2009. There was an unrelated incident of damage to a window at the church in the village in November 2009 but this can not be attributed to the same priority. The final key to resolving this issue was the public meeting held in late October and the publicity campaign / leaflet drop. This has obviously raised awareness and vigilance in the area and has probably also shamed the culprits into stopping the acts or has made that person feel that they are more likely to get caught. This is certainly a successfully completed priority plan and does not need to be carried forward.

Speeding - A342 Rowde:

This can be closed. The location does not provide a good location to catch motorists as they have a clear line of sight for a great distance and can slow down before being picked up by the speed detection device. However, there have been fewer reports of speeding in the village on the A342 made to me recently. The problem has moved to Marsh Lane and that location may need to be a new priority in the next quarter. However, so far as this location is concerned this priority can be closed in the meantime.

Rowde Play Parks - Anti Social Behaviour (ASB):

Absolutely no further reports of ASB and Damage in these play parks have been officially reported to police during the last quarter. Police patrols have not come across any relevant incidents of ASB. There is some evidence that there may be some drinking and rubbish being left behind by persons unknown in one of the parks but this is not anything that is manifesting itself into further offences or incidents of a more serious nature. This being the case this matter has been investigated as thoroughly as possible at this time and has largely been resolved through police patrols, community liaison and partnership work with the parish council. A successfully completed NPT priority.

The current priorities for the area were also set at this meeting, they are:

Speeding - Marsh Lane, Rowde:

Vehicles have been reported as travelling at excess speed in this road and have caused particular problems for the School Crossing Patrol in place at that location. The NPT will support the School Crossing Patrol Warden and will conduct speed checks here to deter offences.

Speeding - A342, St Ediths Marsh, Bromham:

Vehicles have been reported as driving at excess speed in this 40MPH area and of overtaking dangerously, causing danger to other road users, pedestrians and home owners who live along this stretch of road. Speed checks will be conducted regularly here.

PC Mark Lewis

Community Beat Manager Devizes North Rural

Devizes January Area Board Update- Devizes South Rural

In September 2009 Devizes South Rural set priorities following consultations with residents in Potterne and the village's parish council members; the priorities PC Rutter and PCSO Marsh focused on were youth related anti social behaviour in the Firs Hill Way area and vehicle obstruction in the High Street. Three cars were given notices referring to the manner of their parking and have not caused any further reported obstructions.

We have had a good success rate against anti social behaviour. One youth has been convicted at court with an arson offence and another youth has been convicted of handling stolen items which were recovered following a burglary. A third youth whose behaviour has had a great impact on the local community has been put on an acceptable behaviour contract; his father has signed a parental order. Both father and son can now be held accountable to the Police and our partner agencies such as Wiltshire Council if this youth continues to misbehave. Since the contract has been put in place we have had no reported problems from this youth and he is communicating well with Officers.

PC Rutter and PCSO Marsh also carried out visits with two vulnerable adults living within the area whilst anti social behaviour was still a problem offering reassurance to the residents and crime prevention advice.

Increased visible patrols and communicating with the youths in the village has seen a good, steady decrease in the number of reported anti social behaviour incidents in the village and criminal damage in the Firs Hill Way area has also decreased.

PC Rutter and PCSO Marsh also took part in the 'Not In My Neighbourhood' day in November meeting shoppers in The Brittox, Devizes, introducing themselves to the public, sharing contact details and informing people of the service we provide. Village surgeries have also been open in village halls on a monthly basis. We have not seen as many residents as we would have liked so we will be looking to alter our approach by carrying out consultation patrols and visiting libraries and clubs to increase our visibility in our area on certain dates which will be advertised in the village and our external website

For the upcoming months we will be focusing on our new priority set in December 2009 for Easterton, concentrating patrols on the prevention and detection of criminal damage offences occurring in the late evening. We have increased the number of patrols we carry out in the village during these times and will be speaking with residents to put together an intelligence picture to assist us in locating and dealing with offenders. We will also be offering crime prevention advice and leaflets whilst on our Consultation patrols, to residents and local businesses.

PC Gemma Rutter
Community Beat Manager Devizes South Rural