



## Melksham Area Board Report - February 2018

Hello and welcome to this month's Community Policing report.

This month's report will focus on Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV's).

Wiltshire Police uses Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV), more commonly known as drones, to provide air support to officers on the ground.

### What kind of drones do Wiltshire Police use?

We currently have two DJI Inspire 1 drones that can be equipped with a HD camera or a thermal imaging camera. Each drone has approximately 18 minutes flight time per battery, and is able to reach a top speed of 49 mph.

The total initial set up cost was £30,000 for aircraft, two nonstandard high definition optical zoom cameras, two thermal imaging cameras and six pilots, including all administrative costs.

### What do we typically use drones for?

- Searching large open areas for missing people or offenders hiding from us
- Aerial photography of crime scenes and road traffic collisions
- Intelligence gathering for warrants
- Over-watch for high risk policing operations on the ground.

### What are the benefits of using a drone?

- It's much cheaper to charge a drone than to fuel a helicopter
- As its much cheaper we can use air support more often meaning officers on the ground can have an eye in the sky for more incidents, rather than just the really serious ones
- As it's electric the drone's carbon footprint is smaller than a helicopter
- It's much safer, with no crew or fuel and weighing a mere 2.8kg, if anything goes wrong its much less likely to cause damage or injury to anyone
- It's less affected by the weather, helicopters have to consider weather systems at their base and in transit to the scene, drones are drive to the scene by car and so only have to consider the weather at scene.

### How many pilots are there and how are they trained?

We currently have five pilots across the force area, all of whom are volunteers in the Special Constabulary. We also have one Police Constable within the People Development (training) Department.

The team were trained by a commercial National Qualified Entity (NQE) and awarded their Permission for Commercial Operations (PfCO) by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

#### How are drones deployed?

Our drones are driven to the scene from Police Headquarters in Devizes in a police vehicle and deployed from there.

#### Who do we film with the drone?

**We will only ever use our drone to support a lawful policing purpose, or for commercial purposes relating to Wiltshire Police.**

The vast majority of recording will take place overtly with an obvious police presence on the ground. In some cases we will use the drone covertly, with appropriate authorities complying with all relevant legislation.

We're not always recording, most of the time we are merely using the camera to assist us from the sky, and we make every effort to remove or reduce the chances of recording you. Recordings are stored and deleted in line with requirements of the Data Protection Act.

Information relating to the laws on drones (Air Navigation Order 2016) can be found at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2016/765/contents/made>

#### What does this mean for West Wiltshire Community Policing Team?

West Wiltshire Community Policing Team will be the first hub within Wiltshire to be allocated a drone.

Six officers will be trained to pilot the drones, which will ensure more coverage.

#### **CRIME EXCEPTIONS**

**These figures are based on an evaluation of data, over a two year rolling period. Using this data we can predict what figure is the average that should be reported in a specific month, and what are the higher and lower parameters that we may expect. Figures outside of these parameters are classed as 'Crime Exceptions'.**

**\*\*\* Domestic Abuse figures will also be included in the values as it is on our Control Strategy but here will be no details shared on these cases \*\*\***

#### Melksham Area (Town and Villages)

December 2017 saw total recorded crime at 112 against the 2 year average for the month which is 123.8 crimes. This is slightly below what we would expect. This data is not "Exceptional" data. The three largest crime groups account for 90% of Melksham crime are as follows;

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Violence against the person was level at 42 against 42.6  
Theft offences were down at 33 against average of 40.8  
Criminal damage was marginally up at 26 against 22.8

January 2018 saw total recorded crime at 128 against the 2 year average for the month which is 123.7 crimes. This data is not "Exceptional" data.

The three largest crime groups accounted for 90% of Melksham crime as follows;

Violence against the person showed 44 crimes compared to the average of 42.8  
Theft showed 47 crimes compared to the average of 41  
Criminal damage showed 23 against compared to the average of 22.7

#### \*Crime Update\*

There was a significant arrest by the CPT Policing team on the 09/01/18 of a 29 year old male from the Melksham area on suspicion of a dwelling burglary in Broughton Gifford which occurred on the 06/01/18. As a part of the arrest, the home of the suspect was searched and some of the property stolen was recovered including a laptop and a substantial quantity for cash. The male in question has been released on Police bail for further enquiries to be done. He is also being investigated for 3 shopliftings in Trowbridge and Melksham. Again this is another example of the work going into reducing and detecting crime, and disrupting the behavior of known criminals.

#### \*Crime update\*

The Police investigation into the damage to the Community Centre doors on the 28<sup>th</sup> November remains ongoing. Witness statements have been obtained. A male youth is due to be interviewed about the allegation soon.

#### \*Witness Appeal\*

Police are appealing for witnesses after a 78-year-old male pedestrian died following a road traffic collision in Melksham on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2018. Officers were called to Spa Road at 6.26pm to the collision involving a Silver Volkswagen Golf.

Paramedics attended but the victim, who was from Melksham and was believed to have been crossing the road at the time, was unfortunately pronounced dead at the scene.

The investigation into the cause of the collision is currently ongoing. No arrests have been made.

Anyone with information is asked to contact PC Tom Wilson by calling Wiltshire Police on 101. Alternatively information can be left anonymously by phoning Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

### **COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH (CSW) CHECKS WITHIN YOUR AREA**

Every two weeks, 4 CSW areas within the West Wiltshire area are nominated by Leanne Homewood (Community Speed Watch Coordinator) as a focus for Police attention to supplement the checks carried out by CSW team for those areas.

In January 2018, two areas relating to the Melksham Area were selected, these being Snowberry Lane and Poulshot. During this period, there have been 3 separate speed checks at Snowberry Lane

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(resulting in one driver reported for summons, one fixed Penalty Notice, and 6 drivers given words of advice), and 2 checks at Poulshot (where no divers were recorded speeding).

### **OTHER INFORMATION**

#### **WILTSHIRE POLICE CRIME STATISTICS**

#### **ONS Statistics shows just a 1% increase in recorded crime in Wiltshire vs. 15% nationally.**

Crime statistics released in January show that overall recorded crime in Wiltshire has almost plateaued.

Between September 2016 and September 2017, Wiltshire Police recorded 40,273 crimes - just an increase of 1%; that compares to a national increase of 15%.

Wiltshire and North Yorkshire were the only forces in England and Wales to record such a small increase (1%) - all other forces saw a larger percentage increase in recorded crime.

Nationally, we recorded the largest decrease in the number of public order (down 14%), criminal damage (down 46%) and robbery offences (down 40%) compared to the same period last year.

Although the dramatic improvement in the quality of crime recording has impacted on the results, there are still increases in burglary and vehicle crime. Tackling burglary is now a Force priority and we've also invested in crime prevention awareness concerning vehicle crime.

Police and Crime Commissioner Angus Macpherson said: "I am reassured to see this small percentage increase in recorded crime in Wiltshire is well below the national trend of 15%.

"Wiltshire Police is consistently working to improve recording practices, and this has been reflected in today's figures with the increase in recorded crime greatly slowing and the data stabilising.

"Although I continue to highlight the increases in crime as being reflective of recording practices, at no point am I, or the Chief Constable becoming complacent.

"The Force has recognised the increase in domestic burglary and vehicle crime, and I am pleased to see the Force is robustly responding to the concerns that I and the wider community have about these crimes.

Detective Superintendent Craig Holden said: "Although our rate of crime has drastically slowed we as a force are not complacent and remain focused when it comes to tackling all crime.

#### **PCSO UPDATE**

The New PCSO's for West Wiltshire CPT Team have completed their tutorship and are ready to go independent. 1 of them has been allocated to the Melksham Area team which brings the compliment back to 3. PCSO Helen WILSON has now left Wiltshire Police to seek a new career pathway with a social housing organisation. PCSO James PARTON is her replacement on the Melksham town area. I'm sure you will join us in saying thanks to Helen for all her hard work over many years, and welcome to James as the newest member of the Melksham Team.

We currently run 5 shift teams from Trowbridge hub, so the PCSO's are divided up across the 5 shifts to provide 7 day coverage across days and evenings. There are 3 Beat Areas for Melksham being ED11 (Town) and ED12 and ED13 (Rural/villages). ED11 is covered by PCSO James PARTON and PCSO Janet GOULD, and both rural areas remain under the supervision of PCSO Maggie LEDBURY.

### COMMUNITY MESSAGING

Are YOU signed up? The number of members of the Melksham community signing up for this regular email alerts system is increasing. We now have 469 people registered which is more than Trowbridge! Although this is encouraging, we are keen to get as many people signed up as possible. It is free, and people will not be bombarded with spam as details are kept secure. Please can you encourage colleagues, friends, family and members of the public to register. They will need a valid email address. Regular updates around crimes that matter to you in your area are sent, as well as crime prevention advice and public appeals for information. Please circulate on emails, reports and correspondence the following link and signpost people to:

<https://www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk/>

### WEEKLY TASKING MEETING

**Inspector Andy FEE chairs a weekly internal "tasking meeting" where emerging community issues and concerns are raised and discussed for the whole West Wiltshire CPT area. From this meeting, priorities and actions are set and a tasking document produced. This involves developing strategies and the targeting of resources (including partner agencies) into tackling the issue or concern.**

The focus in Melksham has been on the ASB and drug use/paraphernalia in the area of the Skate Park, and "The Woody". This also extends to the Skate Park, and more recently the subway. The latter has been placed on the weekly Tasking Document as a priority for patrols.

All of Melksham's PCSO's are also actively patrolling these key locations in an attempt to disrupt ASB and drug behaviour, engage with the young people concerned and deal with as appropriate (offences, referrals etc.)

PC Lee PELLING also attended a partners meeting at Melksham Town Hall on 25<sup>th</sup> January to look at what else can be done to tackle the issues with young people in the Melksham area. It was a positive meeting where ideas were shared including discussions around CCTV for the town, a notice board at the Skate Park, and the new role of YOT overseeing all interventions with young people. Motiv8 have agreed to step up their outreach work in the Melksham area as a result.

We encourage the community to report to us any evidence, information or intelligence connected to these or any other matters that require Police attention.

There is also a continued general focus on Burglary patrols as a part of a wider campaign to prevent and detect crime which includes regularly patrolling all locations in the whole CPT area.

For a detailed breakdown of the crime in your area visit

<https://www.police.uk/wiltshire/>

[feedback@wiltshire.police.uk](mailto:feedback@wiltshire.police.uk)

## **CONTACT US**

Please use 999 in an emergency or crime in progress. Use 101 for all past or non-urgent crimes/incidents and issues or visit Wiltshire Police's new website at;

**<https://www.wiltshire.police.uk/>**

**CPT TEAM EMAIL (please use this email for all enquiries, meeting invitations and minutes)**

**[CPTWestWiltshire@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:CPTWestWiltshire@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)**

**Sector Inspector – Inspector Andy Fee – [andy.fee@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:andy.fee@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)**

**Sector Deputy – Sergeant Gill Hughes – [gill.hughes@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:gill.hughes@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)**

**Community Coordinator – PC Lee Pelling – [lee.pelling@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:lee.pelling@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)**

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