



Crime and Community Safety Briefing Paper Corsham Community Area Board 18th August 2011

1. Neighbourhood Policing

On Monday 4th April the structure of our Neighbourhood Policing Teams changed. The 55 NPT's in the Unitary Area have been reduced to 20 to correspond with the 20 Community Areas.

To update you, the public have not seen any change to staffing levels as each Beat has retained its Community Beat Manager and Police Community Support Officer(s).

The changes have been made in order to enhance the service delivery to the public, namely...

I. Increased police visibility, community engagement and more time to spend dealing with priorities:

Due to a reduction in bureaucracy there will be a reduction in Neighbourhood Tasking Group (NTG) meetings where priorities are set each quarter. Currently up to 76 are held but in the new structure this will be reduced by 49 meetings per quarter. There is also a new NPT IT system which will make things easier and quicker for staff to enter information. There will also be one quarterly Newsletter for each Community Area with a dedicated page for each Beat Area.

II. Service delivery will be enhanced:

- a) If a significant priority is identified in a Beat Area, staff from other Beats within the NPT can be tasked to the area to target the issue. Staff will still be primarily dedicated to working on their individual Beats.

- b) Each NPT will have a dedicated Sergeant who will provide support for the NPT and enhance supervision.

Current Priorities:

Up-to-date details of the current news about Neighbourhood Policing Teams, including, profiles, priorities and forthcoming community consultation events can be found on the Wiltshire Police Website.

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

Team News (Produced by Sergeant Andy Beaven):

The Corsham Team have been working hard over the summer period in an effort to target the issues identified by Corsham public. Historically reports of ASB have increased during the summer months so targeted increased patrols are being carried out and we have seen a drop in the calls from the public regarding this issue. The biggest reduction has occurred in and around the Martingate Centre which is no doubt the result of partnership working between the police and the community. The increased number of CCTV cameras provided by the owner of the centre – Mr. Bill Hall – has helped us identify any person responsible enabling the appropriate action to be taken.

Following a meeting of the Katherine Park Residents Association, ten residents have volunteered to become Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators. As a result officers are working with the community to set up the ten Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in that area. This is particularly pleasing from a policing point of view as it shows the local people working with the police and their neighbours to help keep their neighbourhood safe. We encourage any one interested in the NHW scheme to contact their local beat officer.

Local Issues

Box:-

A young male who has been riding his moped around the Recreation ground in Box has been sufficiently warned after we received information from the public about his behaviour. After receiving this official warning from us - if he is seen driving his moped in this manner again he will have it taken off him. We thank the public for their vigilance especially as Anti-Social behaviour around the area of the Rec is one of our priorities at the moment. Our patrols will continue and as this individual is now known to us he will have no excuse should he be seen or caught doing the same again.

Gastard:-

There is a weekly meet by motorcyclists at the Harp & Crown in Gastard, this has caused a few complaints regarding bike noise and speed. On regular occasions we have been interacting with those riders and have no

concerns about any noise level. The reports we have about them speeding out of the Village on departure or being over the drink-drive limit have also been unfounded. At different times we have had an unmarked Police vehicle at the top and bottom of the hill monitoring speed and so far there has not been an excess of speed by the motorcyclists. The riders are very aware that they are in a small Village where sound can carry. We will continue to liaise with the bikers and the Pub and any complaints will be investigated thoroughly.

Bluez 'n' Zuz Discos – This is an initiative run by Wiltshire Police to give local youngsters something to do and to help tackle Anti-Social Behaviour. It is aimed at youngster's aged 11- 16 years of age. The Disco is held every other month when the School Hall at Corsham School is available from 7-9:30pm. It is staffed by Officers from the local NPT's and Partnership Agencies (Wiltshire Youth Service) to create a safe environment for youngsters to socialise in. Corsham has been holding these discos for 3 years now and the events so far have been very successful.

There are future events planned including a disco to welcome the new Year 7's to the Comprehensive in September.

Forthcoming NPT Event:-

Saturday 20th August 1100-1700hrs – Rudloe Fete – Rudloe Community Centre. Officers from the NPT will be attending to give crime prevention advice etc.

Sunday 11th Sept 2011 Emergency Services Show – Hullavington Airfield 1000-1600hrs The show is supported by; Wiltshire Police, Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service and the Great Western Ambulance Service; with the primary aim of educating members of the public about many aspects of Community Safety. Whilst our respective organisations strongly support this event, we receive no direct funding from them or the government, and are totally reliant on the goodwill of our Sponsors, Supporters, and Visitors to the Show.

This is a spectacular family fun day event which allows you to get 'behind the scenes' and gain unique insight and knowledge of how the blue light services work in partnership to protect you and the community.

All proceeds raised from the show are donated to charities connected with the 'blue light services'. In September last year approximately 10,000 people attended and as a result cheques totaling over £17,000 were presented to 15 charities.

2. Performance

**Table 1 – Reported Crime Figures
Aug 2010 – July 2011**

Corsham	Crime				Detections	
	August 2009 - July 2010	August 2010 - July 2011	Volume Change	% Change	August 2009 - July 2010	August 2010 - July 2011
Violence Against the Person	120	87	-33	-28%	38%	52%
Dwelling Burglary	31	28	-3	-10%	19%	18%
Criminal Damage	203	143	-60	-30%	5%	16%
Non Dwelling Burglary	62	95	33	53%	5%	4%
Theft from Motor Vehicle	62	85	23	37%	5%	0%
Theft of Motor Vehicle	28	15	-13	-46%	11%	33%
Total Crime	744	689	-55	-7%	18%	20%
Total ASB	725	591	-134	-18%		

Wiltshire Police are compared against a group of 8 most similar forces. Wiltshire Police have performed better than peers in All Recorded Crime and Violent Crime for the most recently reported 3 month period (Apr - Jun 2011)

*Total Crime comprises all Crime Groupings listed above and also includes Theft and Handling, Fraud and Forgery, Robbery and Sexual Offences
** Detections include both Sanction Detections and Local Resolution



Wiltshire Police Authority

Mrs Gill Stafford is a member of the Wiltshire Police Authority and has the responsibility for overseeing police matters in the Community Area. She can be contacted via Wiltshire Police Authority:

☎ 01380 734022

or <http://www.wiltshire-pa.gov.uk/feedback.asp>

3. Vision Wiltshire

Vision Wiltshire has been set-up to deliver a new policing model to meet the projected funding cuts over the next 4-years.

Wiltshire Police Authority (WPA) must reduce its budget from £108million in 2009-10 by £15million over the next four years. In order to identify where the public felt these savings might be made and what services should be protected, a special public consultation was conducted between 23rd November 2010 & 11th February 2011. There were 1,134 responses.

What did we do?

A questionnaire was posted on the WPA website which also sent to every town and parish council in Wiltshire and Swindon.

WPA Members attended Area Board meetings to present an overview of the situation and to encourage the public to express their views.

WPA Chairman, Christopher Hoare, presented similarly at meetings arranged by Wiltshire Council to consult with the public on their budget and that of partner agencies.

Neighbourhood Policing Teams distributed the questionnaire within their communities.

All Neighbourhood Watch Members and members of the public who had signed up to the Force website were alerted to the consultation.

WPA members also met with five of the six MPs in Wiltshire and Swindon to seek their views.

What you said

The conclusions that can be drawn from the results of the survey are as follows:

Many people were concerned about how public sector cuts will affect policing in their local area.

There was an overwhelming agreement that removing Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) from neighbourhoods should only be done as a last resort.

85% of respondents said they would be happy with an answer rate of **up to** one minute for the non-emergency police number.

The public did not want to lose police stations and they were the primary choice for accessing police services. However, there was strong support for the use of shared facilities and of greater use of internet and telephone.

The majority of respondents agreed that we should spend the same or more than is now spent on the services we identified in our questionnaire.

WPA should be sourcing policing goods and services from others if it was more effective and efficient.

The respondents ranked the given priorities as follows:

1. Tackling crime
2. Answering 999 calls
3. Neighbourhood Policing
4. Keeping people safe
5. Being available 24/7

What we have done

The results of the consultation have been used along with a strategic assessment by Wiltshire Police to inform our Policing Plan for 2011/14. This directs policing effort as follows:

Strategic Priority 1 - Reduce Violent Crime

As part of our vision for Wiltshire to be the safest county in the Country, we are committed to further reducing violence and supporting the victims and witnesses of violent crime. Specifically, over the next year we will focus on reducing alcohol related violence and domestic abuse and further improving our quality of service to victims of sexual abuse.

Strategic Priority 2 - Manage the people who cause the most harm in our communities

It is estimated that one in ten offenders are responsible for up to half of all crime in Wiltshire. It makes sense, therefore, to focus on those people who are causing the most harm in our communities and deal with them through an integrated approach with our partners in the justice system.

Strategic Priority 3 - Tackle Antisocial Behaviour

The level of antisocial behaviour in Swindon and Wiltshire increases in the summer. Overall levels are low and falling, and most people view Wiltshire as a safe place. The Force will be working to protect the most vulnerable and to support the communities within Wiltshire to develop and implement their own solutions to local problems

Strategic Priority 4 - Developing Sustainable Policing

The scale of the cuts requires a wholesale review of what the police do and how they do it. This means a re-focus on the core role and a much keener focus upon productivity and resource usage. Minor adjustments to the operating model will not allow us to maintain performance whilst reducing cost. WPA has agreed the development of a new operational policing model, supported by new technology. To minimise risk that comes with change, we will introduce the new operational model gradually, ensuring that each component is properly consulted upon and tested before implementation.

For the full report on the WPA ***Vision Wiltshire*** public consultation or for a full copy of the ***Policing Plan*** visit the WPA website at: www.wiltshire-pa.gov.uk

In June, WPA will publish its review of the performance of Wiltshire Police during 2010/11, and we will look to update the Area Board shortly thereafter.

Inspectors' Final Comments:

Crime Prevention when you are out and about– This is a safe community area, however there are some basic safety messages that we should all remember during the summer months, especially when out socialising both locally or on holiday.

- 1) Ensure someone knows where you are going and when you will be home, also plan how you will get home before going out. Never walk home alone and certainly do not take short cuts through dark alleys or large open spaces. If you believe that you are being followed, cross the street - if necessary criss-cross. If you are still being followed go to the busiest place you can find.
- 2) Drink responsibly and never accept a drink from a stranger or leave a drink unattended.
- 3) Always check a taxi driver's identification and never get into an unlicensed taxi. If a friend is dropping you home ask them to wait until you are inside the door.
- 4) Remember, your safety and well being is far more important than material belongings. Don't compromise your safety for a mobile phone or another valuable item.
- 5) If you are planning a holiday away from home, ask a relative or neighbour to keep an eye on your property and ensure that your letters or Newspapers are not piling up in a visible area. These are signs that an opportunist burglar could use to target an empty property.

And finally, if you see something Suspicious? Report it – If you think it's suspicious.....it probably is.

As it is the season of holidays, I do hope that you are all able to take a break with your families over this holiday period and have a safe, enjoyable and hopefully sunny break.



Inspector Steven Cox
Sector Commander
8th August 2011