

# Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board

## Community Safety Forum – Report to Area Board SEPTEMBER 2023

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### Overview

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Recent Meetings

#### **JULY 2023**

**Sgt Rob Goacher** of the Rural Crime Team gave us a fascinating insight into the work that they do. The definition of Rural Crime is not any crime that happens in a rural location. It covers crimes such as

- Farm machinery, plant and vehicle theft - including quad bikes, modern and vintage tractors, tools and equipment from outbuildings
- Livestock offences - including theft, worrying and attacks
- Fuel theft - including heating oil, diesel and petrol
- Equine crime - including horse trailer and horse box theft, horse theft, tack theft, fly grazing and neglect
- Fly tipping - including household and commercial waste, waste through organised criminality
- Poaching which crosses over with the wildlife priorities - including hare coursing, deer poaching, fish poaching.
- Heritage crime - It is also important to recognise that rural crime and antisocial behaviour have an adverse impact on the historic environment and heritage assets found across the United Kingdom - including the theft of metal from church buildings, unlawful metal detecting

#### **AUGUST 2023**

No meeting

#### **SEPTEMBER 2023**

Sgt Kate Smith and PCSO Mo Beasley updated us on the plethora of activities the police had been involved in over the Summer months, including road safety, ASB, rural crime, thefts.

Report by

**Cllr Allison Bucknell**

12<sup>th</sup> September 2023