

# Wiltshire Police

## Devizes



### Devizes Community Area – March 2010

#### Inspectors' Update

Wiltshire Police are currently embarking on a programme entitled 'Vision Wiltshire'. Many of you will have heard media speculation around the future of public services funding and this will become more acutely focussed as the election approaches.

Our Chief Officer Group is working closely with our Police Authority to prepare Wiltshire Police for the likely lean years ahead. The intention is to ensure that we are ever leaner, fitter, more cost effective, yet still capable of delivering the level of performance you deserve and expect.

Vision Wiltshire is looking at every area of our business to ensure that we are as efficient as possible. I am pleased to report that the Police Authority has placed my areas of responsibility at the heart of its core service delivery strategy: Neighbourhood Policing and Patrol. These teams provide you with your local officers working on the local priorities listed below and initial 999 response to incidents. This means that these front line services will be maintained at the level we are accustomed and the rest of our organisation will feed that common goal. You can find out more about this longer term strategy here: <http://www.wiltshire-pa.gov.uk/>

What follows is a list of key areas where we have identified an ability to deliver more for less:

- Scoping of regional collaborative work in some areas of 'protected services' e.g. major crime investigation and intelligence;
- Greater regional collaboration in acquisition of the things we need to do our business e.g. uniform and equipment;
- Scoping of areas where Wiltshire Police can contract out to other forces its own specific areas of expertise e.g. we are national lead in Domestic Violence and some areas of Chemical, Biological, radioactive and Nuclear Response.
- Looking robustly at what we spend 'running ourselves' e.g. HR & Administrative functions.
- Increased emphasis on effective local partnership work. Salisbury will form part of a national pilot where varied services will seek to come together under one roof with police and provide a 'one stop shop' for areas as diverse as anti-social behaviour, social care, alcohol & drugs advice etc.
- We have already begun to roll out the Mobile & Remote Working Initiative. Changes in the way we do our business and the level of our accountability have increased the administrative burden on front line officers and increased their dependence on I.T. Following a significant investment from our Police Authority, front line officers can now complete their paperwork 'on the spot' using a mobile terminal. The aim is to increase visible patrol by our uniform staff.

We enter one of the most challenging periods of our history, but one where meaningful partnership work at your Area Board becomes ever more important. I look forward to updating you further as we move forward.

**Andrew Noble**  
**East Wiltshire Sector**

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## Devizes



### Sergeants' Update

I am pleased to report that the abstraction rate for your local Community Beat Managers across the Devizes Community Area is only 7.6% for the month of January. This is compared with an average across the whole County Division of over 13%. This means that your local officers are spending more time on their areas, dealing with local issues. I am also pleased to report that figures for Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) have fallen from an average of 79 incidents a month for the last 3 months of 2009 to under 69 against the same period the year before. This represents a fall of just over 13%. Of particular note is the drop for December when compared against December 2008 from 85 incidents in 2008, to 53 in 2009. I am very encouraged by these statistics and they really do reflect the excellent work that your officers are doing for you.

None of this would be possible without the valuable assistance of local communities and volunteers. Within this I include the excellent contribution made by members of local Neighbourhood Watch schemes. We have recently been revitalising our Neighbourhood Watch database, updating our contacts and refreshing local contacts. We regularly send out bulletins to Area Coordinators and rely on them to spread our word to their schemes. Neighbourhood Watch is a valuable policing tool. If you are interested in taking part please contact your local Beat Manager or email [Patrick.Suther@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Patrick.Suther@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)

Work is ongoing around the antisocial use of cars in the town. We are taking this issue very seriously and we have held meetings with officers from Wiltshire Council and have fully engaged with local residents. Detail of our joint enforcement activity can be found under PC Hall's update. We are also working closely with the landowners to look at ways of utilising engineering solutions to make the open spaces they use less attractive for this sort of activity.

In March the 3 Neighbourhood Policing Teams for the Devizes Area will again be holding their consultation process. The existing priorities will be fully updated and new ones decided at a meeting of the Devizes Community Area Safety Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> March. The new ones will be advertised on our website [www.wiltshire.police.uk](http://www.wiltshire.police.uk) and in the local media.

**Ian Thomas**  
**Sergeant**  
**Devizes Neighbourhood Policing Team**

### Priorities and Ongoing Activity

**Devizes Town Centre**  
**Beat Manager: PC Adam Hall**  
**PCSO: Paula Yarranton & PCSO Lucy Sainsbury**  
**Email: [devizestownnpt@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:devizestownnpt@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)**  
**DRUGS - SHEEP STREET DEVIZES**  
**LITTER - SHEEP STREET DEVIZES**

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The Devizes Town NPT has been busy over the last three months with community consultations in the Sheep Street area of Devizes. The consultation was conducted with partners Sarsen Housing who manage the properties. The consultation was done in the evening when most people would be in and all residents were given full contact details of the team and over forty homes were visited.

The results of the survey identified drug use within particular flats and general litter outside. As a result a police search was conducted at a flat and evidence of drug use was found although no offences detected. The intelligence gathered from that raid feeds into a wider covert policing operation on the next tier of drug supply within Devizes.

Wiltshire Council have agreed to increase the amount of litter collection in the area. A total of over 20 extra patrols have been made in the area and as a result a stolen vehicle was recovered and returned to the owner.

The team has also been working with Wiltshire Council to tackle the antisocial use of cars in the town. This is a current issue within your Area Board and a multi-agency day of action is planned. A leaflet has been produced with wide local distribution. Two local drivers are now subject to Acceptable Behaviour Contracts issued with our colleagues in the multi-agency Anti-Social Behaviour Panel. Three cars have been recently seized by Police too.

The team continue to run the Devizes 'Bluez & Zuz' discos at the Corn Exchange once a month and have on average over 150 young people attend the events.

The latest figures for ASB have been released for the last 3 months 2009 to the same period 2008 which was 79 down to 69 a 13% reduction.

### **Devizes Rural North**

**Beat Manager: PC Mark Lewis**

**PCSO: Wendy Horstman**

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

**SPEEDING – MARSH LANE ROWDE**

**SPEEDING – A342 ST EDITH'S MARSH**

# Wiltshire Police

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The most serious recent crime on my area was an unpleasant Burglary to the village shop in Rowde, whilst it was being run by our two volunteers. This was promptly investigated and two arrests have already been made.

I have now been in post as the Community Beat Manager for Devizes North Rural NPT for a year. A "firm but fair" approach to policing the area has been operated by the team since that time and a large amount of intelligence led police work has been carried out. This has led to the arrest of a number of people involved in low level drug supply on the area.

1. The latest available figures at the time of writing this report show that during the 3 month period (October to December 2009) all crime is significantly down on our area compared to the same time period in 2008. This is a drop in all reported crime on our NPT area of 69% in total.
2. Since February 2009 the trend in our recorded crime rate has been dropping on an almost month on month basis within our NPT area. In December 2008 there was an average of 9.7 crimes per 1000 population and in December 2009 this had dropped to an average of just 3 crimes per 1000 population.
3. Burglaries are also currently down by 80% over the same period (1.7 burglaries per month down to 0.3).
4. Violent crime on the area has dropped by 75% over the same period. (2.7 assaults per month down to 0.7).
5. Reports of general Anti Social Behaviour have also dropped by 57% over the same period.

A further positive development is that we can confirm the appointment of PCSO Wendy Horstman onto our NPT area, with effect from late February 2010. She knows the area well and has worked at Devizes for some years. Whilst I will continue to patrol the villages regularly, I am very pleased that Wendy will be supporting me in this and is keen to meet you all. Special Constables Emma Bellchambers & David Hill have joined our team and are in the process of learning the area / completing tutorship modules. David got off to an excellent start with a Threatening Behaviour arrest during his first tour of duty.

Our current local priorities are aimed at addressing speeding in Marsh Lane, Rowde and on the A342 at St Edith's Marsh. Regular patrols with the School Crossing Warden at Marsh Lane have been conducted to ensure the children walking to school are safe and that motorists are obeying the instructions of the warden. Speed checks on the A342 at St Edith's Marsh are due to be conducted throughout March and results will be reported in due course.

Thank you for your continued support.

### **Devizes Rural South**

**Beat Manager: PC Gemma Rutter**

**PCSO: PCSO Nina Marsh**

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

**CRIMINAL DAMAGE - EASTERTON**

# Wiltshire Police

## Devizes



Since our last update we have prioritised our patrolling in Easterton where we had seen an increase in Criminal Damage to garden fences and a lamp post. Since the priority was set in January, I am pleased to say that we have not received any complaints of criminal damage.

PCSO Marsh and I have carried out foot patrols in our villages on set dates and times which are advertised on our website, by the Parish Councils and in our newsletters. We have found these to be excellent opportunities to meet members of the community who can't always find the time to come to a village surgery or don't like to meet in more formal gatherings.

Anti Social Behaviour remains low in our hotspot areas of Market Lavington and Potterne. One youth who was responsible for leading a lot of the anti social behaviour, has been successfully rehomed into a stable family environment following work with our colleagues in the Youth Offending Team and Social Services. Another youth whose behaviour was having a dramatically negative effect on his neighbourhood, has shown great improvement in his behaviour since signing an Acceptable Behaviour Contract. His relationship with the Police has improved and reports of anti social behaviour in his neighbourhood have dramatically decreased- there have been no reports of anti social behaviour between 23/12/09 to 24/02/2010. We have worked closely with our partners in Wiltshire Council, particularly our local Anti Social Behaviour Reduction Officer's in this regard and are most grateful for their help.

As a rural team we have also participated in a recent policing operation to combat rural crime – Operation Hunter. This operation involved staff from our Neighbourhood Policing Teams from our wider East Wiltshire sector; analytical support from Salisbury & Melksham and Thames Valley Police in targeted patrols Devizes, Marlborough & Pewsey Community Areas. I am pleased to report a substantial decrease in farm thefts since this operation.