



Police report for the Wootton Bassett & Cricklade area board March 2010

Current Establishment

Inspector Steven Cox (Area Commander)
Police Sergeant Martin Alvis (Neighbourhood Policing Team)
Police Sergeant Dave Stevenson (General Police Duties)
Police Sergeant Jo Spencer (General Police Duties)

Wootton Bassett Town Neighbourhood Policing Team

PC Nick Spargo (Community Beat Manager)
PCSO Jim Wale

Wootton Bassett Rural Neighbourhood Policing Team

PC Steve Porter
PC Jarra Brown (Ministry of Defence Police)
PCSO Andy Singfield

Cricklade and Purton Neighbourhood Policing Team

PC Chris Skey
PCSO Nicola Allan
PCSO Richard O'halloran

General Patrol Duties (Response)

15 Police Constables (responsible for 24 hour policing of the area)

Current Policing Priorities

The below Policing Priorities relate to issues raised during consultation with the community and agreed through a formal Neighbourhood Tasking Group process. These priorities are policed by the Neighbourhood Policing Teams in partnership with the General Patrol Duties officers. This does not cover all the issues/incidents attended, however it does show the problems that affect a large percentage of the community. By working with the Community we can and will tackle problems of crime and anti-social behaviour, it is only by taking this approach that we can build safe, satisfied and confident communities.

Wootton Bassett Town Priorities

Otter Way Play Park will continue to be a priority; it seems wise to maintain this priority to allow our partner agency tasks to be completed. We have worked closely with the local council with regard to the installation of additional street lighting and CCTV measures to improve the play park long term. We are seeing a great improvement in calls of anti-social behaviour in the area, however targeted police patrols will continue and we encourage the community to report any concerns.

Wootton Bassett Rural Priorities

The current priority for the rural team is speeding motorists in Stone Lane, Lydiard Millicent. However, it must be noted that reports have declined over the past few months. It is obvious from static observations that the problem still exists and therefore we will continue to target the area and deal robustly with any offending motorist.

Cricklade and Purton Priorities

Over the past three months, officers have been investigating reports of antisocial behaviour including petty and mindless vandalism in the Bath Road/Culverhay areas of Cricklade. Numerous operations have taken place, including officers patrolling the area in plain clothes. As a result arrests have been made, charges laid and tickets issued. By utilising a robust policing approach we have seen a great reduction in offences, it is clear that the message is hitting home that anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated by both the community and the police. We shall retain this priority for the next few months with more operations planned.

Over the past few months officers have investigated reports of anti-social behaviour relating to the egging of properties in Purton, in particular some business premises that had become repeat victims. We have performed numerous targeted patrols of the area involving both the local Neighbourhood Policing Team and officers from the GPD Response teams, this approach has been extremely positive in that we have received no further complaints to date. The targeted police patrols will continue and we encourage the community to report any concerns.

Police Information Point

I am pleased to announce that the enquiry office at Wootton Bassett Police station is now open from 10am to 2pm three times per week, namely Monday, Wednesday and Friday. This is staffed by volunteers who are able to assist members of the public with reporting crime, signposting to essential services and dealing with lost and found property. This is a great development to allow the community easier access to their police station. I would encourage people to use this service and by using word of mouth inform their friends and family that this facility now exists. We have seen an increase in persons using this service following the last Area Board and I am confident that the attendance will continue to grow over the coming months as this service becomes more widely known.

Afghan Heroes Bike Ride

Most people are aware of the Afghan Heroes Bike Ride that saw over 10,000 motorcyclists riding through the High Street, Wootton Bassett on Mothers' Day. This proved to be a great event which has raised over £100,000 for charity. The policing operation involved officers from Wiltshire, Ministry of Defence, Thames Valley and Dorset Police. The operation was a great success and whilst there was some local disruption to the road network, there were no noteworthy incidents. It must be noted that this operation was only made possible by utilising a partnership approach with the Event Organisers, Wiltshire Council, Highways Agency, 9 Regiment RLC, Great Western and London Ambulance Services and finally the Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service.

The policing operation involved three key areas, namely the arrival phase at Hullavington Airfield, the ride-out route and the final destination of Wootton Bassett. Each phase was commanded by a separate Police Inspector. We have estimated that between ten and twelve thousand persons came to view the event in Wootton Bassett, the route was lined all the way from the New Road crossroads to the Coped Hall roundabout. I am extremely proud to report that despite these large numbers, only one offence took place all day which resulted in the arrest of a male for public order offences. I regularly command the sad duty of repatriating service personnel that have tragically lost their lives in theatres of war, the community spirit of both local persons and those that travel from other parts of the country never fail to impress me, the event on Mothers' Day was no exception to this. The thousands of persons present and those participating in the ride conducted themselves in an extremely exemplary manner. I feel everyone involved should feel very proud.

Inspector Steve Cox

Area Commander

Wiltshire Police