

Wiltshire Police Corsham



Corsham Police March 2010

Neighbourhood Police Sergeant's message

The Corsham NPT is working hard within the community, tackling reported issues of concern raised through both the local community consultation processes and the Wiltshire Council Area Board issues reporting site.

This sustained effort has produced excellent results and reported crime figures have fallen with an increase in a variety of offences being detected.

We will continue to work with our partner agencies, community groups and the wider population to provide a high quality and locally accountable service to the communities we police.

Reported ASB has reduced across the town and rural areas and high profile patrols continue during the day and evenings to provide a high degree of community reassurance and confidence.

There have been a number of distraction type burglaries and rogue trader offences across the whole Chippenham area, specifically targeted towards the more vulnerable and elderly sections of the community.

I am pleased to report that three local males were arrested last week in respect of a number of these offences and enquiries are continuing into their actions. This was an excellent example of positive action being taken to both prevent and detect this particularly unpleasant type of crime.

The Police Volunteer scheme is moving forward with four individuals being identified to work out of Corsham Police Station covering a variety of hours during the week. This will enable greater access for the public to engage with their local Policing teams and also provide support for the Officers to enable more time is spent out in the community.

Full opening times will be published in the very near future; currently the Station front office is open to the public each Wednesday between 10 am to 2 pm for general enquiries.

Support for Neighbourhood Watch is still being sought across the Corsham area; however two new schemes have been identified for the Hullavington and Stanton area which is positive progress.

Community Speed Watch still requires more support; flyers and newsletters have been distributed with the support of Corsham Town Council, and we will continue to publicise this worthwhile scheme in an effort to address concerns over speeding.

Police Sergeant 85 Alex Reid

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Sector Head's Message

Kate Pain is currently performing the role of Acting Chief Inspector for around eight weeks; as her Deputy, I (Mark Gale) am therefore covering her position as Acting Inspector and Sector Head.

I'm pleased to report that, as we fast approach the end of the financial year, our figures for crime and disorder in the Corsham area are looking good.

Looking firstly at our force priorities, serious violent crime is 22% below target - this is really good news for us as it demonstrates that our aim to be more visible and robust is preventing violence. Serious Acquisitive Crime (i.e Robbery, Theft of and Theft from Motor vehicles) also remains well below target.

Disappointingly, we have recently suffered a few dwelling burglaries, especially in the rural areas. This has had a detrimental impact on our figures for those offences, but to keep this in perspective, there as been only 42 dwelling burglaries throughout the whole year. Our Priority Crime Team, Response Teams and local NPT are well aware that we need to do all we can to catch those people who commit these offences and will continue to do all they can to arrest and charge them.

If any of you would like Crime Prevention advice, please speak with your NPT who can arrange for a Crime Prevention Officer to visit you.

Overall, recorded crime for Corsham is 12.9% below target.

It's not all about figures though - over the past few months we have introduced a new process where the Area Board Manager, Community Safety Manager, Anti Social Behaviour Reduction Officer and Fire Community Engagement Manager meet with our NPT Sergeants to discuss priorities and what we can do together to resolve issues.

A good example of this has been the good partnership work to reduce the Anti Social Behaviour in and around the Martingate Centre - there has been a significant reduction in calls to Police as a result of the measures in place and we will continue to work together to resolve priorities and issues jointly. In general, ASB remains low across the Corsham area.

We are aware that the Neighbourhood Watch Schemes can be a valuable source of information and Sgt Reid is working with our Control Room (at Devizes) to implement measures to improve communication with them, especially after incidents such as a recent burglary, bogus callers, suspicious vehicle, etc.

Mark Gale
Acting Inspector 616

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Priorities & ongoing activity

Corsham Town (covering Easton, Westrop and environs)

ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR – Martingate Centre, High Street car park, Springfield Recreation/Skate Park and Recreation park Alexander Terrace.

Reported ASB across the town has been very low in recent weeks. This behaviour can cause a great deal of upset and annoyance and is often committed by individuals and groups with little regard for the impact their actions have. The NPT teams will continue to patrol those areas raised as concerns, such as the town centre and Skate Park and deal positively with any individuals or groups causing a nuisance within the community. Education about the detrimental effects of ASB is promoted locally through partnership work with the local schools, youth and community groups.

DRUGS - Town centre and estates.

A Misuse of Drugs warrant was carried out in mid February; a local male was arrested and interviewed having been found in possession of unlawful substances and a second male was issued with a cannabis street warning.

More proactive warrants are planned across the area following community provided and we will continue to take positive action against those concerned with and involved in the taking and supply of drugs within the community and reinforce the message that drugs misuse will not be tolerated in Corsham.

OTHER ISSUES OF NOTE –

Unfortunately the Bluz and Zuz discos that have been held with previous successes were likely to have been suspended indefinitely due to a lack of available funding.

However, I am very pleased to report that both Corsham Town Council and Westlea Housing Association have both generously pledged sufficient funds to ensure this event can continue and therefore provide a focal part in the community for the youth of Corsham. This is a very worthwhile contribution by our partners and I am extremely grateful for their ongoing support.

Our local colleagues in the Ministry of Defence Police continue to carry out speed checks and traffic stops across the area, supporting both their objectives and local Police efforts to address speeding concerns and further provide additional highly visible Policing within the community.

Community Speed Watch has yet to be implemented anywhere in the Corsham area. Despite being well publicised locally, with the positive support of the Town Council providing flyers and newsletters, there has been a very low response for volunteers to come forward from the community. We will continue to publicise this scheme across the area.

Corsham NPT will also be working with the Town Council and supporting the planned Armed Services day on the 26th June this year. We will have a stand shared alongside the Town Council and this will be an excellent opportunity to engage face to face with the public and offer our support to our colleagues in the Armed Services.

Corsham South (Covering Lacock, Neston, Gastard, Notton)

LACOCK – There has been a recent commercial burglary to a business premises in Lacock where garden ornaments and equipment was stolen. Enquiries continue into this matter.

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Community concerns over the illegal use of the one way system in the village have been addressed and no further reports have been passed to Police. NPT will continue to pay attention to this area as part of their day to day activities.

LACKHAM – The Police Information Point at Lackham College has proved successful with a positive response and attendance and future dates have been published on the NPT website where your local NPT will be in attendance.

GASTARD – There has been a single report of suspicious activity around the area, specifically Monks lane and the old quarry sites. This was believed to be persons entering the location looking for scrap metal which is in demand due to the high price of metal currently.

NESTON – As per the earlier update, successes have been made in respect of tackling the distraction burglary/rogue trader offenders by a number of arrests and patrols stepped up across the area to ensure community confidence.

The Royal Arthur site is undergoing further preventative work by the site managers including the installation of new fencing, additional locks on the main gates, the fitment of anti-cut chains and warning signage to advise the dangers of trespass/injury and the likely risk of prosecution if found on site.

Corsham North (covering Colerne, Box and Rudloe)

COLERNE – A continuing quiet period across Colerne and the surrounding area, and no issues of concern to report.

BOX – There have been further occasional reports of ASB within the playing fields. NPT are continuing patrols and will take positive action with those found disrupting the quality of life of others.

RUDLOE - The former RAF Rudloe site has suffered some instances of damage and theft from the derelict buildings and surrounding open areas. Meetings have taken place with the property developers in an effort to reduce the appeal of this location to opportunist criminals. These have included stripping out any items of worth from the remaining buildings, securing the gates and fencing and the provision of a security guard for part of the site. The Manor House is awaiting a wildlife survey in the summer months, after which additional work to secure the premises can hopefully be made by the site owners.

Chippenham Rural (covering Biddestone, North Wraxall, Castle Combe, Yatton Keynell, Langley Burrell, Stanton St Quintin, Kington St Michael, Kington Langley, Sutton Bengier, Christian Malford, Burton, Grittleton, Hullavington and Seagry).

BIDDESTONE/CASTLE COMBE - There have been further stone thefts in Biddestone and Castle Combe, targeting stone roof tiles which are in demand throughout the area.

A burglary was reported at a commercial premise at the race circuit, at this stage nothing was confirmed as being stolen; however enquiries into this crime continue.

YATTON KEYNELL - There have been a number of dwelling burglaries in Yatton Keynell, primarily where jewellery appears to be the main property stolen. Enquiries are continuing into these offences, patrols have been stepped up and additional resources being brought in. Local businesses, NHW schemes and other partner agencies have been made aware and we will deal with these crimes as a local priority.

KINGTON LANGLEY - An attempted deception offence in Kington Langley was reported where persons entered the garden and cut an elderly victim's hedge without prior permission and then aggressively demanded a sum of money.

This has been linked to the arrests of the three males for the distraction offences across the area.

CHRISTIAN MALFORD - A male from the Wiltshire area was arrested after attempting to sell a large quantity of stolen road manhole covers to a business in the Christian Malford area. This was a very positive arrest given



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the danger open manholes in the road can be to road users and the financial burden to the taxpayer of replacement.

NETTLETON - Another offender has been identified through forensic DNA analysis for a historical crime in Nettleton and enquiries into this are ongoing.

The NPT Team continues to carry out the community engagement and consultation meetings.

Details are published on the Wiltshire Police website and flyers published by the parish councils. Flyers will also be sent out to the NHW.

Contact is also made in the villages that the mobile library visits each month. This is a good local point of contact and allows for minor issues to be reported or discussed that do not require more formal action.

We also attend meetings/clubs or coffee mornings if invited and able to do so. This is another good opportunity to meet a broader cross section of the community.

If you have a group or club you wish us to visit, please use the contact details published below:

Contact details - Telephone 0845 408 7000 ext 733 817

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