

Crime and Community Safety Briefing Paper

Devizes Community Area Board

26th November 2012



1. Neighbourhood Policing

Team Sgt: Ian Thomas

Town Centre Team

Beat Manager – PC Adam Hall
PCSO – Paula Yarranton
PCSO – Lucy Sainsbury
PCSO – Scott Young
PCSO – Kelly Watts

Rural North Team

Beat Manager – PC Emma Reed
PCSO – Gareth Cole
PCSO – Fiona Marno

Rural South Team

Beat Manager – PC Pete Lawson
PCSO – Nina Marsh
PCSO – Oliver Nash

2. NPTs - Current Priorities & Consultation Opportunities:

Up-to-date details about Neighbourhood Policing Teams including team membership, current priorities and forthcoming community consultation events can be found on our Wiltshire Police Website.

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

3. Police Authority Representative: Mr Angus Macpherson

Please contact via Wiltshire Police Authority Tel. 01380 734022 or <http://www.wiltshire-pa.gov.uk/feedback.asp>

4. Performance and Other Local Issues

To begin with we welcome two new officers to the Devizes Neighbourhood Policing Team. Inspector Peach has moved on to take a post in the Emergency Contact Centre at Police Headquarters. He is replaced by Inspector Matt Armstrong. Inspector Armstrong has previously worked in Community Affairs and managed the Rural Crime Team. Prior to joining the Devizes NPT he undertook response Inspector duties from Trowbridge and Salisbury. PC Pete Lawson has joined the Devizes South Rural team, taking over from PC Emma Reed who covered the area for a short while whilst also supervising the North Rural area.

Both Inspector Armstrong and PC Lawson have been out interacting with the community and establishing themselves.

I am pleased to report good work recently undertaken by our team. You may have seen in the local media reports of a significant seizure of cannabis in All Cannings. We had received community intelligence that a local resident was cultivating cannabis in their garden. The area Beat Manager, PC Emma Reed, attended the address with other officers and discovered a significant quantity of mature and young cannabis plants. Needless to say the occupant was arrested and a 73yr old local male has been charged with cultivation of cannabis. This is an example of excellent work following valuable information from the local community. We have taken a large quantity of illegal drugs out of our community.

In a similar vein our PCSOs have been active in dealing with young people who have been caught smoking cannabis during the evenings in Market Lavington and Devizes. Thanks to the sharp eyes of our PCSOs these youths have been issued with street warnings and reprimands.

PC Adam Hall and PC Pete Lawson were on patrol in Devizes when they were flagged down by staff from a local shop. They reported that 2 shoplifters had just left their store. The offenders were spotted and after a short chase were detained and arrested. The offenders admitted to 5 counts of shoplifting and have been charged with the offences. I would estimate the total value of the goods stolen to be in excess of £1000.

Having described some of the good work undertaken by our local NPT it saddens me when I see reports of other crimes being committed that we have been unable to detect. One such crime type is non-dwelling burglaries to sheds and out-houses. We continue to suffer these types of offences and often there are few, if any, lines of enquiry. I would urge all of us to ensure that our property is secured as best as we are able and marked in a way identifiable to the owner (house number and postcode). Report any suspicious activity either on 101 or through Crimestoppers on 0800 555111. Thanks to one such report 3 males have been arrested following a burglary to a shed in Patney, just outside of the Devizes area. An alert occupant reported suspicious noises and discovered 3 bicycles stolen from their shed. A quick response by Police stopped a car nearby containing three males with the stolen property in the back. A good demonstration of the value of being alert to such behaviour and the importance of community groups such as Neighbourhood Watch or Street Watch.

Statutory and voluntary organisations are working towards setting up a 'Safe Places' scheme in Devizes. A Safe Place is a place where people can go if anything goes wrong when they are out and about. Safe Places are often public buildings or shops open to the public. These premises are identifiable by displaying a 'Safe Place' notice in a prominent place. Staff at these locations will help people to make a telephone call, take time to listen to you and provide you with a place to stay pending appropriate help arriving. Safe Places are run by people who care about those in their community and want to help people. Both training and a resource pack will be provided to organisations who become members of the scheme. The scheme operates in Swindon and Salisbury. Salisbury was the first 'pilot' and Devizes is intended as the second. Further details will be available as the project develops.

CRIME & DETECTIONS (November 2011 – October 2012 compared to previous year)

EZ Devizes	Crime				Detections	
	November 2010 - October 2011	November 2011 - October 2012	Volume Change	% Change	November 2010 - October 2011	November 2011 - October 2012
Victim Based Crime	1409	1225	-184	-13%	22%	23%
Domestic Burglary	68	45	-23	-34%	13%	24%
Non Domestic Burglary	155	132	-23	-15%	3%	7%
Vehicle Crime	151	97	-54	-36%	5%	9%
Criminal Damage & Arson	328	285	-43	-13%	16%	19%
Violence Against The Person	258	244	-14	-5%	52%	39%
ASB Incidents (Year to Date)	910	838	-72	-8%		
<p>Wiltshire Police are compared against a group of 8 most similar forces. Wiltshire Police have performed in line with peers and better than average for Violence Against the Person and Domestic Burglary in the previous 12 month period (October 2011 -September 2012).</p>						
<p>* Detections include both Sanction Detections and Local Resolution</p>						

Inspector Matt Armstrong
8th November 2012

Area Commander