

SOUTHERN WILTSHIRE AREA BOARD
(29 November 2012)

Community Safety Theme 2012/13

Purpose of the Report

1. To update the Area Board on the Downton Community Safety event that took place on 17 November.
2. To agree the guidance note for Community Safety Lead Members.

Background:

At the end of the 2011/12 Municipal Year the Area Board conducted a survey asking for views about what the Area Board's priorities should be for 2012/13. Once again participants identified the issue of Community Safety as being important to them and about which they felt the Area Board could bring about some improvements.

Communities have responded to concerns about safety by creating numerous "Watch" schemes – Neighbourhood Watch, Street Watch, Community Speedwatch, Farm Watch, Lorry Watch. These schemes exist in isolation from one another yet all have the same basic objective – for participants to keep their eyes and ears open when moving about their community (or even whilst still at their own property) and to be prepared to report to their NPT anything which strikes them as out of the ordinary or suspicious in any way. Our NPTs make regular reports via their e-mail list (especially through their Neighbourhood Watch contacts) and appear frequently at Parish Council meetings.

Our overarching goal, as agreed at our meeting in June 2012, is:

Revitalise Neighbourhood Watch and other voluntary community schemes and also to build on the NPT/PC liaison – both with each other and with the community at large.

To do this we aim to achieve the following, by working together with our Parish Councils, Community 'Watch' initiatives and the Police:

- For each PC to have a lead councillor for Community Safety. **(See guidance note for Community Safety Leads in appendix 1)**
- That there should be a police report to every PC meeting. When the NPT can't attend in person they will be represented by the lead councillor who will deliver a brief report (probably only a couple of bullet points) provided beforehand by the NPT via e-mail or telephone.

- Every opportunity should be taken to enhance the role of Neighbourhood Watch coordinators. This could be by: NPTs providing 'alerts' about current criminal activity in the vicinity; the coordinators making reports to PCs; and participating in
- Community Safety networking events engaging members of all the various Watch schemes, as we have piloted in Downton on 17 November 2012.
- A joint "Community Watch" report to appear regularly in parish magazine or circular delivered to households inviting their participation in informal "Community Watching".

Recommendation:

That the guidance note for Community Safety Lead Councillors be agreed and circulated to each Parish Council and its nominated Community Safety Lead Councillor.

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