



## Report of the BA13+ Partnership Meeting

The BA13+ Community Area Partnership's latest meeting was held on 19<sup>th</sup> March at Stormore, Dilton Marsh. The theme of the evening was Community Safety.

The first speaker was Tim Mason, the Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership manager. Tim explained that his role is to help liaise between all the agencies (health, Police, Fire Service, etc) to ensure they work in partnership. Main issues are alcohol, drug abuse and domestic violence. Tim said he was particularly pleased to be working with Calne and Westbury on Primary Restorative Practice, and is hoping to roll out the Safe Places scheme in Westbury, which has been trialled in Salisbury and Devizes.

Julie Locks went on to explain more about the Safe Places scheme. It's somewhere that people can go to get immediate low level support in the community. In Devizes and Salisbury the Community Area Partnership runs the scheme, so they are looking at BA13+ to establish a steering group in Westbury. They would provide the resource packs that can be issued to any shops or establishments which are willing to be a Safe Place.

The next speaker was Gwyn Comley, who was introduced as the Chair of Wiltshire and Swindon Neighbourhood Watch Association. Gwyn also introduced Mike Davidson, the Community Area Coordinator for Codford. Gwyn explained that there are 165,000 Neighbourhood Watch schemes in place now across the country. The idea is to go back to the old ways of looking out for your neighbours. Neighbourhood Watch works closely with the Police, who forward information people

need to be aware of and they distribute the information by emails or by hand. The circulation list is currently around 175,000 people across the whole of Wiltshire. It's not all old people – there are also networks of younger people and school children. Mike amplified that it's an excellent network, and one which can reach everyone. He went on to say there are plans going ahead to work with the Police and Crime Commissioner to get issues raised online. There was general agreement that social media could be a useful tool as well.

The date of the next Partnership meeting is the Annual General Meeting, which takes place Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2014 at the Laverton in Westbury. The focus will be on arts, culture and leisure.