



Melksham Area Board April 2014

Neighbourhood Policing

Current NPT Priorities:

Up-to-date information about Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs) including profiles, priorities and forthcoming community consultation events can be found on the Wiltshire Police website www.wiltshire.police.uk

Team Structure:

Sergeant:	James Williams
Town Centre:	PC Kane Fulbrook-Smith, PCSO Helen Wilson PCSO Christopher Pugh
Rural North:	PC Barry Dalton PCSO Janet Gould PCSO Maggie Ledbury
Rural South:	PC Emily Thomas PCSO Rose Baldock

Recently reported to the Town Council were some outcomes following activity to target a continuing trend of increased retail theft. Those targeted most for shoplifting are Sainsbury's, with Waitrose, with Superdrug and Boots also seeing multiple occurrences, often high value.

To deal with this the NPT instigated Operation Bullseye. This commenced on the 15th of February and concluded on the 5th of March 2014. Between these dates there were six periods of increased activity of uniformed and plain clothes patrols.

- There were only two reports of begging in the town centre. Both of these occurred on dates where the operation was not running.
- Between the 15th and the 24th of February no offences of shoplifting were reported in Melksham Town.
- Shoplifting offences were reduced at Sainsbury's by 66%.
- No offences were recorded at Waitrose and Superdrug.

Offences that did occur were committed at convenience stores in residential areas on the outskirts of Melksham showing a displacement of criminal activity and during the operational period shoplifting was reduced by 22%.

Of those people who were stopped as part of the operation one was found to be wanted for two burglaries and in possession of heroin. He was subsequently charged with six offences including four burglaries a theft from an elderly person and is remanded in custody.

Six people were Stop /Searched resulting one arrest of a person who was charged with possession of an offensive weapon and is awaiting trial.

Theft and Antisocial behaviour in the town centre been raised by the Melksham Community Safety Group. It has been agreed that this Town Centre issue will be a NPT priority at the next tasking group for a period of three months. NPT will work closely with ASBRAC and Wiltshire Council Public Protection Team to address the ASB issues and submit the necessary referrals. Operation Bullseye could be a primary initiative tackling these issues in Melksham providing reassurance to the public and local economy.

On the 28th February 2014 the NPT team undertook activity in the night time economy with a passive drugs dog on loan from Erlstoke prison. I am not sure we could have chosen a more quiet night but the impact of the presence of Police on the streets of Melksham Town was felt and the feedback has been positive. We will repeat this exercise in the future.

Perhaps this is indicative of how safe Melksham area is. In the last 8 weeks there have been 8 recorded offences directly linked to licensed premises. Only one of those was recorded as violent and took place at a 13 yr old birthday party during an afternoon. The remaining 7 offences were all theft from retail outlets.

There were only 2 further assaults reported as part of the night time economy.

As you can see in the table below violence has been the only significant growth area for crime reporting. With such low numbers of offences in public places our attention now turns towards private space (domestic) violence. At a recent conference with specialists and partner agencies it was highlighted how challenging this will be but also how committed everyone is. Building stronger communities and support networks will be an important part of this process as well as early intervention and education aimed at younger people.

The most unusual offence reported was the theft of a canal boat on the Kennet and Avon canal near to Semington. 4 days later the vessel was located at the bottom of the Caen Hill flight of locks, moored correctly.

Significant offences that could have been prevented include 3 vehicles left insecure from which property was stolen, 2 non-dwelling burglaries where either the premises or the property was not secure and a dwelling burglary where access was gained through an insecure open window. Please help us to spread the word about taking reasonable steps to protect property.

The figures in the chart represent what has in essence been a very good year for progressive reduction in crime in the Melksham area. This would not have been possible without the strong effort of the NPT team and the support from and cohesive working with all our partners. Going forward we will look to continue to build on this.

ED Melksham NPT	Crime				Detections*	
	12 Months to March 2013	12 Months to March 2014	Volume Change	% Change	12 Months to March 2013	12 Months to March 2014
Victim Based Crime	1248	1127	-121	-9.7%	25%	23%
Domestic Burglary	68	40	-28	-41.2%	4%	13%
Non Domestic Burglary	148	91	-57	-38.5%	4%	7%
Vehicle Crime	118	100	-18	-15.3%	5%	15%
Criminal Damage & Arson	263	221	-42	-16.0%	28%	19%
Violence Against The Person	246	287	+41	+16.7%	51%	34%
ASB Incidents (YTD)	885	913	+28	+3.2%		

* Detections include both Sanction Detections and Local Resolutions

Matthew Armstrong
Inspector, Devizes, Melksham, Pewsey