

# Devizes Community Area Board

May 2014



## 1. Neighbourhood Policing

**Team Sgt:** Joanne Spencer

### **Town Centre Team**

Beat Manager – PC Chris Mead  
PCSO – Paula Yarranton  
PCSO – Jemma Butcher  
PCSO – Luke Woodward  
PCSO – Kelly Watts

### **Rural North Team**

Beat Manager – PC Helen Clarke  
PCSO –  
PCSO – Fiona Marno

### **Rural South Team**

Beat Manager – PC James Sheate  
PCSO – Phil Greenaway

I am very pleased to welcome PCSO Phil Greenaway to the Devizes team. Phil has transferred from the Trowbridge area with the specific intention to work on a rural beat. I am sure he will be introducing himself to as many people as possible in the coming weeks.

## 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 website at: [www.wiltshire.police.uk](http://www.wiltshire.police.uk)

## 3. Police and Crime Commissioner: Mr Angus Macpherson

PCC website: [www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk)

## 4. Local matters

A project being led by PC James Sheate is set to start on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2014. Erlstoke Prison is working alongside the NPT to divert young people away from crime. The project involves introducing school pupils to Erlstoke prison, a tour of the facility and a talk from an inmate on a life of crime. The intention is to help young people make the right decisions in life.

All three beat managers have been working with the local community speed watch teams and conducting speed checks in their respective areas in line with their priorities.

In the last two months the NPT have been working hard to access as many school and youth groups as possible. These visits improve communication and partnership working between the establishments and Police, provide visibility to staff and pupils and have included visits and educational talks at Devizes 6<sup>th</sup> Cubs Group, Downlands School, Devizes Children's Centre and Sixpenny Nursery. Further liaison continues with Rowdeford School, All Cannings, Potterne Youth Group, to name but a few, tackling a range of issues from ASB, to bullying to parking problems.

The first of many planned 'street consultation' events took place in Waiblingen Way, in conjunction with Aster Housing Association. The presence of Police and partners in the area raised a few concerns, many thinking there had been an adverse incident. Of course this was far from the truth and through events such as this we hope to work with partners to make our towns safer. Future plans include events in the surrounding villages.

Police have been working with Wiltshire Council, considering effective ways to combat the problem of dropped litter in the town, particularly in the area of The Green. Plans are progressing rapidly and are expected to be delivered in partnership over the coming weeks.

Pubwatch has been restarted for Devizes Town to support licensed premises in maintaining a safe environment for everyone to enjoy. This will work in conjunction with Drinking Banning Orders which are on course with four letters having been sent out already and one person being considered for application for an order. While this mainly relates to the town centre it can be used anywhere and will have a positive impact in the surrounding villages too.

Crime figures

Devizes area finished in a strong position for the most significant crime types as listed in the table below.

EZ Devizes NPT	Crime				Detections*	
	12 Months to April 2013	12 Months to April 2014	Volume Change	% Change	12 Months to April 2013	12 Months to April 2014
Victim Based Crime	1191	1117	-74	-6.2%	26%	20%
Domestic Burglary	48	34	-14	-29.2%	38%	21%
Non Domestic Burglary	143	121	-22	-15.4%	20%	7%
Vehicle Crime	80	95	+15	+18.8%	10%	1%
Criminal Damage & Arson	259	205	-54	-20.8%	18%	12%
Violence Against The Person	289	335	+46	+15.9%	38%	28%
ASB Incidents (YTD)	1193	1015	-178	-14.9%		

\* Detections include both Sanction Detections and Local Resolutions

Over the last two weeks we have seen an increase in burglaries to sheds and garages. Bicycles and power tools have been stolen but the majority of offences record that nothing was taken. There have also been a number of instances where bicycles, secured to railings or property in the town have been stolen or had parts taken off them.

Over the most recent bank holiday weekend a further 4 sheds were broken into along the Bath Road with only a bicycle taken from one of them and the weekend prior approximately 16 sheds were broken into at the Green Lane allotments, during one afternoon. For the majority of these nothing was stolen.

Serial numbers of property needs to be recorded and items properly secured. Bicycles seem to be the target of the moment. I suggest that even in a locked shed, bikes are secured to something else.

I would also recommend additional security is considered such as lighting or audible alarms. A well known online auction retailer has garage / shed alarms on sale for £4.79 including postage. Such measures could make the difference, preventing someone becoming a victim of crime. Please consider passing this on to your friends and neighbours.

We have also seen an increase in the theft of catalytic converters from vehicles such as Ford Rangers, Citroens (MPV's and Vans – Berlingo, Xsara, Picasso, Dispatch) and Peugeots (406, 306, Expert) and other SUV's. Converters contain precious metals and are ultimately broken down and the precious metals sold on for recycling. It is possible to purchase protective guards to attach to vehicles which deter thieves. Costs vary but are significantly lower than the cost of insurance excess or replacing an exhaust and repairing damage. Where possible park vehicles in such a way to restrict access to the underneath such as close to walls, next to other vehicles and in well lit areas.

**Matthew Armstrong**  
Sector Inspector, Devizes Melksham Pewsey  
15<sup>th</sup> January 2014