

## **POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

### **15<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

#### **Introduction**

This report sets out a summary of the commitments I have undertaken since the last Police and Crime Panel meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2014. I write a weekly blog which provides a brief overview for the public of what I have been up to. This is published on my website ([www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk)) and the content of these blogs is copied below for the Panel's information.

## **MONITORING PERFORMANCE, REMEMBERING THE FALLEN AND MEETING THE PUBLIC**

Blog: 11-November-2014

#### **Monday 10 November**

Regular blog readers will be aware that Mondays are very busy with a number of briefing meetings. This week started with performance, which is also looked at in detail by the Strategic Improvement Board, which either my chief executive or I attend.

Generally performance within the force is good, but there is always room for improvement, and we need consistency across the piece. This meeting is a good start to the week as it sets all other work in context. Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary (HMIC) for our region, Dru Sharpling, came in for our quarterly run-through on inspections. There barely seems to be a time in which HMIC is not in the building. The next report is the Police Efficiency, Effectiveness and Legitimacy (PEEL) assessment which is due to be published on 27 November, so I had better not blog about the outcomes yet.

The morning briefings provided a good background for my Commissioner's Monitoring Board held in the afternoon. The agenda included HMIC Value for Money Profiles, Tri-Force Storm (command and control software) funding and phase three of regional forensics. We also discussed the Wiltshire Police estate and the Home Office Innovation Fund for 2015-16, as well as looking at budgets and the risk registers.

Off to see my doctor on the way to an interview with Jack Young for his Youth Matters programme on Swindon 105.5 Community Radio.

#### **Tuesday 11 November**

At 11am the staff at headquarters In Devizes gathered in front of the building for a short service of remembrance and to observe the silence. I read out a list of those members of the constabulary who served in the two world wars and made the ultimate sacrifice. I'm indebted to Richard Gardiner for the additional research that he has done on the names recorded on our memorial.



*(Above is Angus at the Devizes Headquarters memorial service)*

Community Messaging is in the second stage of launching, and this afternoon the Chief and I joined staff and officers at the Orbital Centre in Swindon to sign up members of the public and promote the scheme.

In the evening we held a Meet the Commissioner event at St Joseph's Catholic College in Swindon, which was lively, supportive and informative. These events are held around the county, in addition to our attendance at area boards in Wiltshire and localities in Swindon, and give the public a chance to meeting the Chief Constable and me in an open

session, supported by local officers. We expected Swindon residents, but one member of the public had driven 30 odd miles to attend, which proved that the publicity works.

### **Wednesday 12 November**

It's our regional meeting at Bridgwater in Somerset today. Actually The Chief and the PCC for Avon and Somerset and I were all early, so an impromptu meeting was held at the service station over coffee, which of itself was useful. The meeting had an update on the work of the regional programme boards, including the Regional Organised Crime Unit (ROCU), Major Crime, Digital Evidence Management and the Regional ICT strategy. We also talked about blue light interoperability, the Home Office Innovation Fund, mental health, veterans, victims and the emergency services mobile communications programme. A wide-ranging briefing. If I came away with one thought it is that we will probably be best to divide the region into halves, north and south, running in tandem with a common objective of coming as one a bit latter. The Dorset/Devon and Cornwall alliance means this is the more practical approach.

In the afternoon I chaired the regional Reducing Offending Board. Again this took the form of a briefing as we still can't have contact with the bidder for the Community Rehabilitation Company contract. However, we can celebrate that there is one preferred bidder covering all our area, which has the potential to be "a good thing".

### **Thursday 13 November**

The Force Chaplaincy had a gathering at headquarters and I was invited to update the chaplains on the progress of my agenda after two years. I'm impressed by the chaplains' commitment. I think that nationally only about five forces have such a support group, and being representative of all faith communities makes them universally approachable. I spoke for 20 minutes or so before answering questions.

Off to Melksham for a further Community Messaging Launch. By the end of January we will have launched across all communities in Wiltshire and all neighbourhoods will be covered. But we must remember it is community not police messaging.

In the evening Sara Jane and I were invited to join the The Superintendents Association of the South West for their dinner in Chippenham. Very good to meet the association's national and regional officers. The Chief spoke about Wiltshire and the challenges we face, but at the end of a long day the delegates did want to relax, as did I.

### **Friday 14 November**

The Community Messaging launch continues, this time in Tidworth at a busy supermarket. One idea that we need to progress is the leafleting of estates by the Police Cadets. It is possibly something for the spring now but would give us in-depth coverage.

*(Below is the Tidworth Community Messaging launch with the Tidworth Neighbourhood Policing Team, myself and the Chief Constable Pat Geenty)*



Back to the office for a review of the Professional Standards Department and some preparation time for the Police and Crime Panel next week.

In the evening I attended a dinner held by the North Wiltshire Conservative Association at The Manor House Golf Club in Castle Combe. Very enjoyable.

### **Sunday 15 November**

After a morning meeting of the Old Dauntsians at my old school in Lavington, Sara Jane drove me to Heathrow for a flight to Leeds/Bradford Airport for the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners conference. I'm staying at the Majestic Hotel, and even in the dark it lives up to its name. The short flight time is swamped by the time spent in the airports, but I've never been to Terminal 5 before, so that was an experience. Early supper and bed, ready for the morning.

## TALKING CYBER CRIME AND VISITING FOOD CHAMPIONS

Blog: 17-November-2014

### Monday 17 November

The Association of Police and Crime Commissioners' (APCC) conference was held at the magnificent Majestic Hotel in Harrogate. Looking at the plans from the 1890s, each large room had a lounge and separate bedroom. The conference started with a session on the challenges that we have to overcome in the next five years. We were given the choice of five or so workshops. I attended the workshop on fraud and cybercrime which was interesting and confirmed to me two things: firstly we need to look at this regionally and secondly Wiltshire response to date has not been that bad. That said, there is so much more to be done.

In the afternoon we considered the National Policing Requirement and complaints. Again I can't be complacent, but others were excitedly telling me about things which we had already in place. In the evening there was a dinner at the hotel at which various third sector organisations spoke. Very engaging, but I was glad to hit the hay at 10pm.

### Tuesday 18 November

The notion of an early night was good as our first session of the day seemed to be the same time as breakfast but the two were half a mile apart! The PCCs held a session to discuss the idea of the law being changed to allow voters to recall their Commissioner if they are unhappy with his or her behaviour. It is clear that there are very many views, I might almost say 42, but it was an informative debate and I look forward to reading the APCC summary.

The highlight of the day was the Home Secretary Theresa May in the morning and the Shadow Policing Minister Jack Dromey in the afternoon. They both had different messages. The Home Secretary, whilst noting things that had gone wrong, was still supportive of the role of the PCC, whilst Mr Domey was pleased to have been invited and to tell us not to bother booking for next year (because his party intends to abolish PCCs). A stark reminder that there is an election coming. I was disappointed that no real alternative governance was suggested by the Shadow Minister. In fact, he seemed to be saying that there would be no local governance costs and no local police chiefs being appointed by local people, which I don't really understand.

More to come I expect. An interesting session on mental health chaired by Dorset PCC was another highlight.

Rather a long journey home, via taxi, plane and car. I hit the bed at around 11pm. Suppose who was better than those that had to drive the whole way!

### Wednesday 19 November

On Friday I will be visiting the Foyer in Swindon and seeing how C Change, who are sponsored by my Innovation Fund, are progressing. In preparation I met them to discuss progress to date. This was followed by a Police and Crime Panel meeting, which looked at what I had been doing over the past months by reference to my blog, the force's performance and a report on restorative justice and complaints. Time was short and I'm pleased that we agreed to make the sessions longer rather than to increase the frequency of meetings. I look forward to the panel's report on licensing which they are working on.

At lunch time I did an interview with the BBC on my first two years in office, before going to see a work project run by probation with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust through the Innovation Fund. They are working at regenerating a derelict site in Swindon and in the future will have a cafe selling food made from produce grown by the people on community payback. It has tidied up an eyesore, and given some useful training through unpaid work. I look forward to visiting again in the spring. The day ended with an evening visit to the dentist. Great end!



(Above: Angus at Swindon Food Champions being interviewed)

### Thursday 20 November

I was honoured this morning to be invited to open the new classroom at Dauntsey Academy primary school in West Lavington. There has always been a close link between the primary school and Dauntsey's School itself where I was educated, so I was very pleased to be asked to cut the ribbon on their new class room. Dauntseys Academy Primary School is set in an idyllic location on the edge of Lavington. The school itself is not old but the new classroom is bright and full of light. As well as governors and the Head Master, we also heard from two members of the school council who spoke with clarity and confidence.

In the afternoon I attended a briefing for Health & Wellbeing Board members on Child Sexual Exploitation and then a board meeting itself. Pleased to hear that the Royal Unit Hospital Bath has achieved Foundation Trust status and about the work they are doing with the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases. We also had presentations on child and adolescent mental health services, the city Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership and the Care Quality Commission Inspection. We noted the Wiltshire Adult Safeguarding Annual Report and the preparations that are being made for winter in Wiltshire. I'm bidding for a place on the next agenda to speak about the numbers who are still being taken to custody as a place of safety. We have seen a good reduction but there is more to do and this board is the place to talk about it.

#### **Friday 21 November**

Somewhere in South Wiltshire we have a property store. That might sound unremarkable, but it is a major leap forward. This morning I visited the facility where property is recorded are sorted. It is a major improvement over the old system of chucking things in a basement, cell or attic. The staff have a real pride in knowing where things are and keeping the place tidy. I fancy we will have to have a little more space before we are finished, but progress is good and I was pleased to see it.

In the evening I visited the Foyer in Swindon to see the work that is being done by C Change. They were given a grant from the Innovation Fund to work with young people. In the first six months they have worked with 26 young people with complex issues, including involvement with social services, police and probation. I was very pleased to hear that they were beginning to work with other Foyers

## **CUSTODY IS NOT THE PLACE FOR PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS**

Blog: 24-november-2014

#### **Monday 24 November**

On Monday had a day of briefings and the Commissioner Monitoring Board (CMB). The CMB was on the progress of the police cadets and I was pleased to hear new groups are planned for the south of the county in the New Year. I also had an extensive briefing on issues surrounding those with mental health problems in custody. I think custody is not the right place for someone with mental health issues. I will be looking to take a briefing to Swindon and Wiltshire health and wellbeing boards about the need for those being held in custody to be moved to a place of safety.

In December and January I will be looking at finances and planning a consultation over the police and crime element of Council Tax (known as the precept). My first meeting to plan this debate was held this morning.

I attended a monitoring board in the afternoon which looked at Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) value for money profiles, asset management review, the Home Office Innovation Fund bids and Salisbury custody. The HMIC value for money profiles can be found at <http://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmic/publication/value-for-money-profiles-2014/>. They make very good reading for Wiltshire.

#### **Tuesday 25 November**

Today I am wearing my 'No to violence' t-shirt as I catch the 49 bus to Trowbridge to attend 'Wiltshire Domestic Abuse.' It brings together partners and agencies fighting domestic abuse. I am pleased to hear the Force's input and support for the conference.

In the evening I attended a meeting of the Conservatives in Warminster which was an open meeting for people to question me. It was disappointing to have some comments about the Force not responding to complaints, but equally it gave me a good opportunity to take away the feedback and deal with it. Generally those present were supportive of my office and the work being done in Wiltshire.

#### **Wednesday 26 November**

Wiltshire Criminal Justice Board (WCJB) has not met for some time. It is now chaired by the Chief Constable and as I'm the PCC have been asked to join the board. Today was a development meeting with members and associates together to review the terms of reference and the work WCJB can undertake in the next year. A productive start to a new year of work for a group which can cut through some of the delays and inter-agency squabbles.

#### **Thursday 27 November**

Another briefing day. Firstly, I had a debrief on a regional meeting that took place on 12 November. Then I attended a meeting with Wiltshire Council leader Jane Scott and her Swindon counterpart David Renard at one of our regional meetings to ensure we all know about the problems and challenges facing our individual organisations. That was followed by a meeting about the Police and Crime Panel and to follow up the actions from the previous meeting on 19 November. Towards the end of afternoon I had a telephone conference with the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners in respect of the planned police ICT company and what we want to get out of it for Wiltshire.

The next meeting was to review the performance of criminal justice. We want to ensure that files are presented to court in a timely manner. I am pleased at the good work put in place and delays due to 'police error' are minimised.

In the evening I attended the Force Awards. I handed an award to a team for setting up the Volunteer Police Cadets scheme and awarded a team of Special Constables the Lord Ferrers Award for setting up the Volunteer Police Cadets.

The ceremony was held at Cumberwell Golf club. It is the first time for a while that the awards have been held away from police headquarters and it certainly made it a special evening for recipients and their families.



*(Team awarded for setting up the Volunteer Police Cadets scheme- Chief Constable, SPC Lee Hitt, Jill Quadri, PCSO Mandi Coles, PC Sandra Higgins-Hughes, SPS Rob Bewey and Angus)*

### **Friday 28 November**

Early train to Chippenham to attend an area board managers meeting. I thanked the managers for their work and advised them of my needs in the first quarter of next year. I will again be using area board to consult on the 2015/16 budget. So I look forward to a busy January.

In the evening I attended the Ethandune branch of the Conservative Association. They were running a question time in Bratton which I was invited to attend. The other panellists were the MP Andrew Murrison, local councillor Jeremy Wickham, and Deputy Speaker at the House of Lords Euan Geddes. The questions asked were on a broad range of subjects and it was quite nice not to be totally absorbed on policing matters for once.

### **Saturday 29 November**

Gosh its 8 o'clock in the morning and I am already at Gablecross Police station in Swindon for a briefing on Operation Harness. The objective today is to execute a number of warrants across the county in relation to drug offences. I accompanied officers on the raids. It was intriguing to see first-hand the precautions the criminal classes take for people who visit them in their properties. I can't help feeling that housing officers of the local authority and housing associations have a role to play ensuring tenants are using the property correctly.



*(Angus being interviewed for Operation Harness)*

In the evening Sarah Jane and I attended the winter wonderland charity ball, at the Mecca in Swindon. The ball was organised by Swindon Woman's Aid to raise money and awareness. It is the first time I have been to the venue since it was a cinema. Many memories of Saturday morning clubs and spectacular James Bond films flooded back. It was a very successful evening for Swindon Womens Aid and brilliant to see so many supporters helping them.

### **Sunday 30 November**

A day off and I went to the Royal Albert Hall in London to sing in the Messiah. Since being elected I haven't done a lot of sing in this role. It was a treat not to be the only tenor but to be around so many good singers. I think the whole chorus numbered around 3,000 and I hope the small number of seats taken by the audience enjoyed the performance.

## **PRESENTING THE RURAL CRIME SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS TO FARMERS**

Blog: 1-december-2014

### **Monday 1 December**

A day of briefing meetings, starting in Swindon with the launch of the Pride of Swindon awards which I am helping to judge. These awards recognise people who have made a difference to the community by helping others. Do you have someone in mind? You can recognise their contribution and achievements by nominating them for an award. Perhaps they are:

- A volunteer who has given their time selflessly for years.
- A child or adult who has displayed remarkable courage.

- A person who has helped reduce crime in your area.
- Someone who has given unselfish service to one of the hundreds of sports clubs in the town.
- An exemplary young person who should be recognised as a role model.
- An extra-special neighbour.
- An employee who has gone the extra mile for those in the community
- An inspiring teacher or a caring nurse or doctor.

There are two types of award: the first recognises the achievements of individuals in the community and the second honours a team of people who carry out an invaluable service that benefits local people. Visit this website to find out more: <http://www.swindon.gov.uk/campaign/PrideofSwindonAwards/Pages/default.aspx>

In the afternoon I was in the office for a catch-up about crime prevention matters with Head of Crime Prevention, Marion Deegan. This was followed by a finance update with the Director of Finance. Then I met[A4] the new director of Develop, the organisation which coordinates voluntary work for the county. To end my day of meetings I met the Chief Constable and his team to discuss his plans for next year.

### **Tuesday 2 December**

First meeting of the day was with a man who had an issue he wished to share in respect of policing in Wiltshire. This was a useful meeting and I have taken away some points we can certainly look into. This was then followed, coincidentally, by an update from my staff about complaints. We looked at new complaints that have been received by my office and the progress of existing complaints.

On Friday I have a meeting with some residents of Chitterne and South West Wiltshire MP Andrew Murrison. In preparation, I had a briefing from the local Inspector on the policing of speed in the area. This was followed by a briefing with the chairman of the Audit Committee in preparation for a meeting on 10 December.

In the evening I attended a curry night in aid of the Harbour Project in Swindon. The project provides support, information and advice as well as a signposting service to refugees and asylum seekers in Swindon. Refugees and asylum seekers of all backgrounds use the Harbour drop-in centre. For more information visit <http://www.harbourproject.org.uk/>

### **Wednesday 3 December**

A quick trip to the doctor in the morning then I had a look at the Wiltshire and Swindon Community Foundation grants policy. Back in the office in the afternoon for an update on staffing issues and a communications update before heading off to Dauntsey's School to see an enjoyable production of Jesus Christ Superstar.

### **Thursday 4 December**

Today I am in London visiting Guildhall. I am a member of the Civic Guild of Mercers' Scholars and a requirement to be a member is to take on an apprentice. My apprentice is the son of our Chief Superintendent Andrew Tatam and today we took part in an enjoyable ceremony in which he was bound to be my apprentice for four years.

I then hot footed it back to Devizes in the evening to address an open meeting of the National Farmers' Union (NFU) and present the initial results of the rural crime survey. The survey was a major consultation with farmers, land owners and others who live - or earn their living - in rural Wiltshire.

From the results, the top rural crimes which respondents had experienced were:

1. Theft of small machinery, including things like quad bikes and tools
2. Fly tipping
3. House burglary
4. Hare coursing

The survey has thrown up many useful comments and insights. When the analysis has been completed, I will be sharing the results with Inspector Matt Armstrong, who leads the Rural Crime Team, and asking him what the Force will do in response to the findings.

Back home at 11pm. It has been a long day.

### **Friday 5 December**

In the morning, in the company of MP Andrew Murrison, I met members of Chitterne Parish Council to discuss speeding issues in the village. We were accompanied by a highways engineer from Wiltshire Council. It was agreed that certain improvements would be made to the village. For instance, there is no street lighting so certain traffic calming measures are not appropriate. I think we went some way to addressing the issues raised.

Then, with Dr Murrison, I attended the first of my briefings with local MPs at which I spoke about crime and policing in his area.

In the afternoon I visited the St Lucy's sight centre in Devizes for a meeting with Wiltshire Sight. We discussed impaired vision and safe driving. They raised a number of issues that I will be taking forward with our Roads Policing Unit and the

Health and Wellbeing Boards. They estimate that, by 2030 , there will be 36,000 people with sight loss in Wiltshire and Swindon. So obviously there are issues that need much consideration.

In the afternoon, I went to see James Gray, he MP for North Wiltshire, to give him a briefing about policing in his area. We also discussed the need to keep local policing local to Wiltshire. I know that he has a very keen interest in the local provision of emergency services.

In the evening I attended the switching on of the Christmas lights at Royal Wootton Bassett High Street which was closed for the evening. The street was filled with colourful stalls and lively entertainment. I joined the local Neighbourhood Policing Team in their campaign to sign up local residents to Community Messaging which has launched in the area. Over 100 people signed up to Community Messaging that night, which is fantastic.

## SEX WORKERS ARE VICTIMS TOO

Blog: 8-december-2014

### Monday 8 December

I was very pleased to attend a performance of 'This Secret Life' at Churchfield Academy in Swindon performed by Sixth Sense theatre group. Over the last week they have performed across Swindon and Wiltshire. It is a very powerful play about domestic abuse and the control of a perpetrator over a young female student in her first relationship. I funded the play through my Innovation Fund and I was pleased to see the performance for myself and the debate that the students had with the cast afterwards about the issues raised in the play.

Back to office in the afternoon for an update about performance and the Commissioner's Monitoring Board. Then I went to Bath for a meeting with Avon and Somerset PCC, Sue Mountstevens and her Chief Executive, where we discussed the progress in regional working.

### Tuesday 9 December

A doctor's appointment first thing this morning. Then went to Gablecross police station in Swindon where I attended a presentation by National Ugly Mugs (NUM) and the Nelson Trust which runs the ISIS women's centre in Swindon. The NUM charity aims to improve safety and access to justice for sex workers. It was awarded £5,000 through my Innovation Fund, whilst Nelson Trust received almost £35,000 to employ a sex work outreach worker based at the ISIS.



*(from left Sue Lee ISIS outreach worker, Angus and Kerri Swindells Nation Ugly Mugs)*

In my view, NUM and the ISIS Women's Centre are two very important and very worthwhile projects that need our support. Sex workers are far more likely to be victims of violence and other crimes than non sex workers. A victim is a victim. All victims of crime, regardless of their background, are entitled to be as safe as any other resident of Swindon and Wiltshire.

In the evening I went to the Wiltshire carol service at The Minster church in Warminster. I was accompanied by the Chief Constable and his wife. It was a very nice service, in a church I haven't visited before and it was lovely to see young people from the local school singing so beautifully.

### Wednesday 10 December

Today I am wearing my bobble hat to support the National Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC). To show your support for the charity you had to wear a bobble hat and donate £2 by sending a text to NSPCC. The money raised will go towards their ChildLine which offers 24 hour support to thousands of adults, children and families. Please visit <http://www.nspcc.org.uk/fighting-for-childhood/our-services/nspcc-helpline-childline/> for more information.



The day started early as the Mayor of Swindon, Teresa Page invited me to breakfast at Big Breakfast Plus. This scheme provides hot meals six days a week to homeless people and serves 30 people every day.

After breakfast my wife Sarah Jane kindly drove me to Marlborough where I joined the local Neighbourhood Policing Team to sign up residents to Community Messaging. The stall we had in the market was constantly busy with people eager to see what Community Messaging was all about. In the space of three hours we signed up 79 people which is a fantastic result.

Back to Swindon for the afternoon. Had a meeting with the Chief Executive of Swindon Council to discuss locality and area meetings before joining colleagues at an advisory board for the Swindon Health and Wellbeing Strategic Planning Forum. In the evening I joined fellow trustees of the Big Breakfast Plus for a Christmas get-together at The Sun Inn at Coate Water

#### **Thursday 11 December**

The Duke of York is opening the University Technology College (UTC) in Swindon this morning. I was invited to join the line-up to meet him on arrival. The college is very impressive and the provision of UTCs in Swindon and Salisbury will, I believe give great opportunities for those of a more technical mind than the typical university route. I am very excited that two good facilities are opening in Wiltshire and Swindon.

I then hopped on the train to Salisbury to attend an open day at the Turning Points social enterprise. This was an opportunity to see the premises, meet staff and to sit in on one of the training sessions they hold with drug users as part of their rehabilitation. It was also good to meet recovered users who act as peer mentors.

From Salisbury Station to Chippenham for a meeting with Wiltshire Council leader Jane Scott and her corporate directors to discuss our programme on estate integration and partnership working.

Today, the Home Secretary's proposed reforms were announced to allow directly-elected PCCs to take charge of complaints against their police force.

As elected Commissioner I am answerable to the public on police and crime matters. I welcome this announcement as it is important the public have trust in the police complaints system.

One of the first things I did in office was to appoint an independent adjudicator to review complaints against the force. This arranged protocol with Wiltshire Police is to bring as much independence to the system as possible under the law as it stands. What is proposed by the Home Secretary will build on our work so far in Wiltshire.

#### **Friday 12 December**

I was due to meet John Glen MP for Salisbury today but, like all best laid plans, we ended up speaking on the phone. For the rest of the day I was in the office before sneaking off, at five o'clock, to catch the train as Sarah Jane and I are going to spend the rest of the weekend in London.

## **REVIEWING WILTSHIRE AND SWINDON'S ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISIONS: EVERY DEATH IS ONE TOO MANY**

Blog: 15-december-2014

#### **Monday 15 December**

Monday was, as normal, a day full of briefings. My first was from Inspector Steve Cox, Head of Tri-Force Roads Policing Operations. We discussed the number of fatal road collisions in the county this year to date. It was noted that this year there have been a number of Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) which have ended with multiple fatalities due to there being more than one person in one car.



Looking back over the years, there has been a marked reduction in Wiltshire and Swindon RTCs that have resulted in people being killed or seriously injured. There was a peak in 2007 of this type of incident but the figures have been reducing since then. However, every death is one too many. We can never be complacent. The Roads Policing Unit (RPU) will be busy over the Christmas period enforcing the no drink/drug drive campaign to try to prevent any more fatal collisions happening on Wiltshire and Swindon roads.

I am pleased with the on-going work the Constabulary does with our partner agencies to educate young people about the dangers of driving. These discussions reminded me of a meeting I had a couple of weeks ago with Wiltshire Sight and the potential need to investigate those driving with poor eyesight.

This meeting was followed by a performance update before going to the Strategic Improvement Board which was chaired by the Deputy Chief Constable. The key outcomes from the meeting were:

- Victim satisfaction remains good
- Public confidence in Wiltshire Police remains steady
- The number of crimes recorded continues to reduce in line with our most similar forces
- The recent Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) inspection into 'value for money' showed Wiltshire to have an excellent profile.

The purpose of the Strategic Improvement Board is to highlight areas for improvement and a few were identified. We spent a lot of time looking at the corporate risk register which identifies those areas that need improvement through reminding staff of procedures.

In the afternoon I attended the Wiltshire Criminal Justice Board (WCJB) chaired by the Chief Constable. We thoroughly analysed the productivity of the working groups and I think the WCJB is in a strong position to relaunch in 2015.

My final meeting of the day was an update from our Finance team on the current situation of budget cuts coupled with their thoughts on next year's settlement which is yet to be confirmed.

#### **Tuesday 16 December**

Today started with a quick communications update, then I was presented with a preview of the relaunch of the PCC website. Over the past two years, a huge amount of content has been uploaded to my website and it has grown at a considerable rate. But more content means more pages and navigation around my site can be improved. Therefore, a redesign and a clearout is timely and I look forward to seeing the new site.

I then attended a meeting on regional collaboration and discussed our work on missing people. My final appointment of the day was visiting the new police officer recruits at the training department in Devizes HQ. It was good to welcome them to the Constabulary and to hear how their determination and hard work had got them to where they are now. Later in the week, I will be attending their passing-out ceremony.

In the evening Sarah Jane and I attended the carol service organised by The Friends of Erlestoke Prison. It was good to meet the new prison governor. The choir was the Wessex Male Voice Choir and the music was provided by Bratton Silver Choir. Both were excellent and, for the first time, I felt as though Christmas was near.

#### **Thursday 18 December**

A researcher at Keele University interviewed me today. She is doing a research project into Roads Policing Units since PCCs have been in post. From the briefing I had earlier in the week with Insp Cox, I was able to answer most of her questions easily. I look forward to reading her research especially as she is looking at other forces and her work is independently evaluated.

My office and other key members of staff had our Christmas lunch at The Crown in Devizes which was enjoyable. With a full stomach I joined the Roads Policing Unit and was a passenger for the afternoon. It was enjoyable and informative to talk to an officer about the Tri-force working and I was shown the Automatic Number Plate Recognition capability on the ground in Wiltshire. We didn't deal with any RTCs but we did stop an uninsured driver before returning to the south of the county from the north.

In the evening, I attended a Filling Station event with the Mayor of Swindon. This is a project where food is given out to the homeless every Thursday night and I am very passionate about this service.

#### **Friday 19 December**

I had a good meeting with the Audit Committee in Swindon. I was pleased that the chairman Bill Fishlock was re-elected for a further period and we recognise that change will happen in the coming year. No major new work for the committee at present.

I had a meeting with the MP for South Swindon, Robert Buckland. We discussed crime in his area and I invited him to WCJB in his role as Solicitor General. I returned to Devizes for internal meetings and then had a telephone interview with the Salisbury Journal.

I then joined the Chief Constable at a passing- out ceremony for an intake of 20 new officers who I saw earlier in the week. This ceremony is attended by the officers and their families. Having seen the intake earlier in the week, it was interesting to see how their demeanour and confidence had grown. They will be posted in the New Year.

**Saturday 20 December**

From 6pm I joined Swindon officers on Operation Harness focusing on the night time economy (NTE). First I was in Sussex Square where there is a regular problem with anti-social behaviour (ASB) but there was no one to be seen on this cold night. We then visited Old Town and went into a few of the pubs but, as it was early evening, it was quiet. We moved on to Newtown and again it was very quiet. I was coming to the conclusion that many people had spent their money on Friday night and were recovering today.

I went to the boxing at Mecca and there was no large or disorderly crowd. I finished at 11pm in Wood Street. It was busy but everyone was good humoured. Although, I have to say it would have tried my patience trying to get into one of the venues as the queues were huge. Overall it was a good-natured scene in Old Town. I expect there will be other opportunities to celebrate between now and Christmas and I hope they do it in good spirit.



**Angus Macpherson  
Police and Crime Commissioner  
For Wiltshire and Swindon**