

## Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board Community Safety Forum – Report to September Area Board

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### Overview

The Community Safety Forum was set up during the height of the Covid-19 Lockdown to bring together appointed representatives of the Towns and Parishes and the Area Board Members with the local Wiltshire Police Inspector and the Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Station Manager (Swindon West & North East Wiltshire – Westlea, RWB & Cricklade).

The group meets virtually monthly.

Police and Fire priorities and issues are discussed, along with any general concerns arising from the parishes.

There will generally also be a main topic of interest with a presentation and speaker.

Notes of the meetings are sent to those present to be shared as they wish within their own parishes/organisations.

### Recent Meetings

#### **September 2021**

Police Priorities	Speeding – joint project with MoD Lyneham to educate soldiers about driving safely when off base. Hare Coursing – may seem minor in itself, however offenders are often involved in more serious crimes Pedlars – rise in door-to-door sellers, not all of whom are legitimate. A social media campaign is imminent. Anybody concerns should be reported to 101.
Key Topic	<b>Police involvement in Public Events.</b> Richard Day , North Events Planner & Resource Co-ordinator, Force Operations, Swindon/Devizes Key points:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Responsibility for running a safe event and for notifying local people lies with the event organisers who should have Event Management Plan / Risk Assessments etc.</li><li>• Police role in event planning is advisory</li><li>• Work with Wiltshire Council and other partners via Wiltshire Councils Events Advisory Group (<a href="#">Event Safety Advisory Group (ESAG) - Wiltshire Council</a>)</li><li>• No powers to stop events, but will enforce through eg Public Order or Road Traffic legislation along with Local Authority</li><li>• Police presence cannot be guaranteed at events</li><li>• Traffic management for events is responsibility of organiser, can use CSAS accredited business</li></ul>
Parish issues	Speeding ASB On road cycle racing.

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**August 2021**

Police Priorities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ASB – there has been an increase due to school holidays and the lifting of lockdown restrictions so more community engagement taking place and increased patrols.</li> <li>2. Vulnerable people/ county lines – work still taking place</li> <li>3. Speeding traffic</li> </ol>
Key Topic	<p><b>Wiltshire Police approach to dealing with Mental Health issues in Wiltshire</b>  Ed Audritt, RWB Police</p> <p>Most crime and ASB has a mental health factor.  Police have mental health specialists working in their call centres / custody suites.  Police only able to deal with immediate crises outside of the home and then have to pass on to mental health professionals  More officers are now Mental Health trained and there is a MH Response Officers.</p>
Parish issues	Traffic and road safety issues relating to public events such as Lydiard Park and cycle races

**July 2021**

Police Priorities	Euro cup final policing
Key Topic	<p><b>Inspector James Brain</b>  e-scooter legislation (illegal to ride on pavements or highways at present)  Bicycles/mobility scooters on the pavements – contravenes Highway Code not illegal</p>
Parish issues	<p>Anti social behaviour  Noisy motor vehicles  Speeding and parking  Police 101 recording of incidents</p>

**June 2021**

Police Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speeding – Op Challenge, focussing on the smaller villages and outside RWB Infants</li> <li>• Vulnerable people and children – there will be 2 weeks of action</li> <li>• Cotswold Water Park Lakes – including ASB and poaching</li> </ul>
DWFRS Priorities	<p>Very much Business as Usual with a mixture of proactive and reactive work. Stations are still closed to the public. Safe and Well visits are taking place although there is a backlog. Referrals via the website.  DWFRS is working on Community Profiling to understand better the groups that exist in our communities eg where there are language/cultural differences.</p>

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Key Topic	<p><b>WATCH” Schemes</b> Tracy Ince, Watch Coordinator   Crime Prevention, Citizens in Policing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lorrywatch is too complicated, needs simplifying</li> <li>• Dogwatch has recently been introduced however the reality is that there has been little dog theft activity locally – much of the information shared on Social Media is out of date or from other parts of the country/ world</li> <li>• Purton is holding a community event on 24<sup>th</sup> July with police/DWFRS to which all are invited</li> <li>• There was a suggestion that a Hazardous Parking Watch scheme should be investigated. Whilst it is possible to report such parking to 101 it is not easy.</li> </ul> <p><b>Operation Fortitude</b> James Isaac Multi-disciplinary team which investigates organised crime. We are fortunate that there has not been a great need in this area, although they were brought in to investigate a case in January. They work alongside our local policing teams.</p>
Parish issues	Speeding Parking

Report from Cllr Allison Bucknell.  
September 2021