

Wiltshire Police Chippenham



Chippenham Police – December 2009 Chippenham & Rural Villages

Sergeant's Message

At the end of the year I reflect on some of the progress we have made and neighbourhood priorities that have come and gone.

I am pleased to report that the annual festivities of Halloween and Bonfire night passed with very little incident across the area. This was in part due to high visibility proactive patrols by your local NPT with extra staff stepped up to work and also the support of local retailers in preventing the sale of alcohol, fireworks, eggs and flour to young people, thus reducing the likelihood of antisocial behaviour taking place.

I am grateful as ever for the hard work and support that Gwyn COMLEY and her Neighbourhood Watch team bring to our communities. The Wood Lane area has recently been adopted as one such priority where NHW has worked tirelessly to improve their presence and coverage within that locality. Together with an increase in our patrols and a number of arrests I am happy that a notable decrease in anti-social behaviour has resulted.

PC Rachel WEBB has also worked hard in unison with Highways, the area board and local councillors in the Hardenhuish area where significant improvements to the road layout will help redress the balance back in favour of local residents.

There are excellent examples of partnership work and I thank all those involved for their contributions throughout the year. We all at Chippenham Police look forward to yet more progress on a number of fronts – I wish all our communities and partners a very peaceful Christmas and 2010!

Allan GEORGE
PS 1291

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PRIORITIES AND ONGOING ACTIVITY

Chippenham Town Centre.

Beat Manager: PC Mike MOSS.

PCSO: Barbara YOUNG & Ali DUNCAN.

Email: chiptowncentrenpt@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR - Bath Road Car Park

There have been on-going talks with the Area Board over the car park. A system of bollards was proposed, however there are concerns over the longer term running costs to open and close them on a daily basis. We are working with Councillor CASWILL to try and find a long term solution.

A further suggestion of a barrier with card entry for residents has been put forward – there are of course funding issues which will need to be considered.

We are grateful that the Council Anti-Social Behaviour Reduction Officers have agreed to examine the options and bring proposals to the fore. As such we have further suggested the adoption of a mobile CCTV system which at a reduced cost to the other options, will have the added advantage of being able to be deployed on a longer term basis at ASB 'Hotspots' within the wider community as and when they arise.

There are a number of plans that have been put forward but partnership working is required along with funding. In the meantime we will patrol and vigorously enforce any incidents where breaches of the law are evidenced.

ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR – TOWN CENTRE

Extra evening patrols have been made during the weekend evenings by both the general Policing team and NPT. Persons committing offences have been dealt with and arrested or issued with fixed penalty tickets.

NPT have made additional use of pub-watch and encouraged its use to ban problem customers from licensed premises. Meeting have been held with the licensees and the level of service expected has been made clear.

Incidents relating to licensed premises have been monitored closely. Should an incident occur which can be directly linked to a particular premises, a further meeting with the licensee has been taking place. This has been to brief them on the incident, and to see what learning points and measures can be put in place to prevent like incidents occurring in the future. We welcome responsible drinking within the town and are keen that everyone involved is aware of their full responsibilities to ensure that this happens.

Once again we are grateful to the Council licensing department who with Police evidence provided have agreed to prosecute those late night take away establishments who exceed the terms of their license by failing to close on time.

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Chippenham Town South (Pewsham)

Beat Manager: PC Emma HIGGINS.

PCSO: Helen BRAY & Toni BROWN

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ASB- Pewsham/ Lodge Road

There have been no reports from Tesco of any ASB and staff state that things are quieter, although staff have stated that they may not call in if youths are hanging around outside and are not causing problems.

This will be kept as a priority as there are still reports from the public of youths with alcohol in carrier bags. There are concerns that the Christmas period will see a rise in ASB by youths – so far with additional patrols this has not proven to be the case. We are working with licensing and have visited each of the business premises to ensure that this does not happen. Feedback from local residents and NHW is that the area has been quieter of late – a trend we intend to maintain!

ASB- Kingham Close/ Sheldon Road

Since taking this priority on there were 3 logs in September, one log in October and zero logs in November.

There have been active patrols during problem times. Any youths located have been given stop forms, details recorded and appropriate action taken if alcohol located.

Contact has been made with Wiltshire Council in relation to the park. A visit has been conducted and several recommendations put forward to deal with the issue of youths climbing onto Roman Glass etc. A request has been made for further signs and lighting to be considered for the area.

A referral will be sent to Jonathan Stiddard regarding the alleyway. The graffiti and litter are an issue along there. It is believed that this will need to be taken up with the building site manager on Goldney Ave.

PCSO's are going to conduct house to house to confer with residents over the park (we believe the problem has stopped)

This will be closed as a priority as things have been put in place to deal with the issues and calls have reduced considerably. We will however, continue to patrol the area at peak times (evenings and weekends)

ASB- Wood Lane

A residents meeting was held on 14th November 2009, attended by approximately 55 residents reporting concerns over the level of criminal damage and anti-social behaviour.

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A further meeting was held on the 19th December with Councillor Bill DOUGLAS. Together with NHW, increased patrols and 3 significant arrests in the local area we have only had 1 reported incident of criminal damage/ anti-social behaviour since the last meeting. We will continue to work to maintain this progress and thank our partners and the residents for their support in doing so.

It is acknowledged that as Wood Lane is used as a 'cut through' to other areas late at night there is a higher volume of people travelling through the area than might be expected. There is associated noise and disturbance which we have asked the Anti-Social Behaviour Reduction Officers to assist with.

Chippenham Town West

Beat Manager: PC Arwen Lucena.

PCSO: Will JUDD & Elizabeth HOLLAND

Email: chipptownwestnpt@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR - Car Parks

Patrols have been carried out during the evenings in both Wickes and Sainsbury's car parks and a significant reduction has been noted in each. Sainsbury's have been closing the barriers reliably each evening which wasn't happening before and the management at Sainsbury's have reported that they have not received any complaints about vehicles from customers for a long time now. They are more than happy with police response and, coupled with closing the barriers, this appears to be deterring the drivers from using the car park. They have also reported a reduction in litter from the vehicles that use the back of the car park to eat their McDonalds. Any drivers seen using the car park for this purpose have been moved on and advised that the car park is for shoppers at Sainsbury's.

There has been a huge reduction in the vehicles using Wickes car park and the management company have also reported that they are not receiving so many calls as they have also been responding to reports of vehicles in the car park. On patrol the odd vehicle has been located in the car park but not the large amount of cars there used to be.

I am pleased that this priority will now been closed as at the earlier part of the year it was causing considerable upset to local residents.

Drugs – Allington Way

A number of warrants under the Misuse of Drugs Act have been conducted which were successful and arrests/ prosecutions resulted. We worked with the local Housing association where we were able to support each other with legislation that allows persons convicted of criminal offences to be evicted.

We will continue to monitor the area and note what whilst we continue to vigorously pursue any reports of drug taking, that Chippenham remains thankfully a very safe community in which to live. I repeat a common message from the Police that we welcome information on criminality to us and will treat any such information with complete confidence – where able we will always act on any information received.

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ASB – SOUTHMEAD – KINGSLEY PARK / CHELWOOD CLOSE

We have received several complaints of ASB and underage drinking in and around these areas. There are a couple of addresses where youths are gathering and causing a disturbance to neighbours and damage has been caused to vehicles and property in the locality.

We have therefore just adopted this as a new priority – a patrol plan is in place and I look forward to working in the community to educate and where necessary prosecute offenders.

STAINERS WAY PLAY PARK

After consultation with neighbourhood watch, reports have been received about ASB in the play park off Stainers Way near to Sheepscroft. There is inadequate lighting at the park which enables youths to hide in the park without being seen. There are reports of underage drinking and youths gathering in the evenings and leaving smashed bottles and so on behind them.

There are no signs to warn motorists that there is a park and residents are concerned at the speed at which people travel along the road, and so they are requesting signs and speed checks. As a new priority we will work with the Council Anti-social Behaviour team to help resolve these issues.

Chippenham Town North East

Beat Manager: PC Rachel Webb.

PCSO: Mike JONES & Matt DIBBLE

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Parking/Obstruction at Hardenhuish Lane

The meeting in October was very successful and the proposals put forward have almost been fully agreed. The works are planned to commence on 8th February 2010 at a cost in the region of £70,000. There are further proposals which will be put forward in 2010 for additional works which will cost approximately £15,000.

From the Bristol Road end of Hardenhuish Lane there will be new speed limit roundels and gateway surfacing. New 'SLOW' markings will be painted prior to the footpath link with Old Hardenhuish Lane, where there will be a staggered pedestrian barrier, and an improved crossing point with a refuge island in the middle of the road. Existing foliage to the south of this crossing will be cut back to improve visibility. The on-street parking area prior to the school will be retained and a new traffic island will be placed at the end of this area. A new footway build out at the school entrance will provide a safer crossing point, and traffic islands in the junction will discourage 'U' turning traffic.

A new footway link and pedestrian crossing point will be built adjacent to Old Hardenhuish Lane, and a high visibility guard rail will be installed, which will prevent crossing outside of this point. The existing footway and refuge island at the school exit will be removed, and the island within exit will be replaced with a refuge island.

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The crossing point at the exit will also be improved and widened.

Past this and north towards the coach entrance the on-street parking will be retained. The footway will be built out at the coach entrance to provide an improved crossing point and protect the on-street parking area.

To the north the area of the footpath into Cepen Park is subject to the planning proposals to be put forward in 2010. This area cannot have a zebra crossing as the average speed of the traffic is 39mph, and so is too fast.

The crossing point at the entrance to Hardenhuish School will be improved and widened. A new disabled bay will be marked up adjacent to St Nicholas Church, where there will be a new length of footway and a crossing point to the church car park. New 'SLOW' marking will also be provided.

Thanks to Highways, Councillor Bill DOUGLASS and PC WEBB and her team for helping to drive this forward.

Criminal Damage – Monkton Park

Reports of damage have continued in Monkton Park, although the problem has improved following the adoption of increased patrols and stop checks where people were stopped and given advice and education on their conduct and how this is perceived.

Although property damage has decreased there has recently been a number of incidents where property has been moved, but no damage caused.

It is thought that the persons causing the problems in Monkton Park are not from the area, and are using this as a cut through. The blue bridge that makes this possible is however there to stay. We welcome the improvements and note that we must maintain the momentum to stay on top of the situation.

ASB - COWLEAZE

This is a new development and a mixture of occupancy types. There are a number of different housing associations with properties in this location.

There has recently been a rise in the levels of reported ASB, coming in particular from six different addresses. To date 1 of these residents has moved from the area, however the problem remains. There is ongoing consultation with the housing associations to ensure that we are united in using the full powers available to us all.

Any reports of criminality will have positive action taken. I am optimistic that with our partners in the Housing Associations that we have the necessary tools available to help reduce reports of ASB.

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Chippenham Rural covering Biddestone, North Wraxall, Castle Combe, Yatton Keynell, Langley Burrell, Stanton St Quinton, Kington St Michael, Kington Langley, Sutton Benger, Christian Malford, Burton, Grittleton, Hullavington and Seagry.

Beat Manager: PC Heather Barham,
PCSO: Norman Webster & Steven Butler
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The newly formed NHW scheme in Biddestone has already proved its worth. A number of stone ornaments stolen from Castle Combe were recently located in the village by scheme members. This is a good example of the benefits of NHW and the increased vigilance it provides to the community. There have also been a number of shed breaks within Biddestone. Patrols have been stepped up and NHW also made aware in an effort to deter further offences.

Please ensure that any items of value are not left in insecure sheds and also consider strengthened locks and the fitment of inexpensive shed alarms to deter offenders.

Stanton St Quinton Church has had a number of stone roof tiles stolen. Police have advised the use of Smart Water, a commercially available treatment that is applied to property and can identify it if later recovered and also can show up on offenders under ultraviolet light if located.

Four youths were recently moved on following antisocial behaviour in Stanton St Quinton and their details recorded. Strong words of advice were given and they were advised Police will continue to patrol and target anyone found behaving in an antisocial manner. Hullavington has also experienced a degree of antisocial behaviour, progress towards resolving this has been made with a meeting with partner agencies to find a practical solution. There was one incident of theft at a Hullavington store by a local youth. At the request of the shopkeeper the youth was dealt with by words of advice and monies repaid for the stolen item. Their details have been recorded should they re-offend in a similar manner.

There has been a series of fraud related offences at Leigh Delamare where an offender has related a false story in order to obtain monies from unsuspecting members of the public. This offender has been identified and will be dealt with in the near future. The NPT Team continues to carry out the published street meetings, in some villages attendance is very good, whilst in others no-one attends.

We ask for your help in this matter and pass the word around. Details are published on the Wiltshire Police website and flyers published by the Parish councils. Flyers will also be sent out to the NHW. Contact is also made in the villages that the mobile library visits each month. This is a good local point of contact and allows for minor issues to be reported or discussed that do not require more formal action. We also attend meetings/clubs or coffee mornings if invited and able to do so. This is another good opportunity to meet a broader cross section of the community.

If you have a group or club you wish us to visit, please use the contact details published above.

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