

Wiltshire Police Corsham



Corsham Police November 2009

Neighbourhood Police Sergeant's message

I am pleased to start my message by reporting that the annual festivities of Halloween and Bonfire night passed with very little incident across Corsham and the surrounding areas. 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.

PC Bishop-Bailey, Corsham Town's Community Beat manager recently attempted to set up a Shop and Pub Watch scheme for Corsham Town. Unfortunately despite it being well publicised, only three licensees out of the fourteen public houses attended the Pub Watch meeting and only one reply was received to our letter in regard to setting up the Shop Watch. This is a disappointing response to valuable, proactive schemes that are of benefit not only to the retailers in sharing information about problematic customers, shoplifters etc, but also the wider community in dealing with antisocial and other nuisance behaviour.

A letter will be sent out to all the premises concerned explaining the issues and see if any progress can be made.

The Remembrance Day parades in Corsham, Colerne, Lacock and Box were well attended and it was good to see large numbers of people taking the time to turn out in inclement weather (especially the younger members of the community) and show their support for a very worthy cause.

Friday 4th December is the Corsham Christmas light switch on for the Town. There will be a short term closure of the High Street from mid-afternoon and additional staff will be deployed to assist with traffic control.

Wiltshire Police has been publicising details on the Force website about Police support volunteers. This is a new initiative whereby members of the local community who feel they want to contribute towards local Policing give up a few hours two or three times a week to work in their local Police Station. By giving your time and skills to us, you will assist Wiltshire Police in our aim to build stronger links with our local communities and involve them in the work we do. If you would like further details, please visit the Wiltshire Police website at www.wiltshire.police.uk and follow the link on the left hand site column marked jobs and volunteering.

Neighbourhood Watch still requires more support across the area. Anyone interested in setting up a scheme in their locality is asked to contact any of the NPT team based at Corsham.

Finally, may I wish you all a happy Christmas and New year on behalf of all the staff at Corsham Police.

Alex Reid – Corsham NPT Sgt

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Priorities & ongoing activity

Corsham Town (covering Easton, Westrop and environs)

ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR - Martingate Centre, Mansion House Mews, Springfield Recreation Park and Recreation park Alexander Terrace.

Antisocial behaviour in the Town has reduced and Police patrols continue particularly during evening and weekend periods.

During recent Police activity, two local youths were issued with £80 penalty notices for nuisance behaviour, whilst another was moved on by way of a 48 hour dispersal order out of the Martingate centre thus preventing their return and reducing further problems.

Another youth was given a £80 fixed penalty notice for cycling through the Martingate centre contrary to the Council byelaws.

Several amounts of alcohol have been seized and destroyed from underage youths and warning letters sent to the parents of those involved.

We will continue to Police the Town centre and respond to reports of any unsocial activity and deal in an appropriate manner.

Four S59 warnings were given to anti-social drivers in the Town (this is a useful piece of legislation that enables the driver of a vehicle being used in an antisocial manner to be given a formal, recorded first warning. If they continue in their behaviour at any later time, whether or not in the same vehicle on the second occasion their vehicle is seized from them and only returned when an expensive release fee is paid).

DRUGS - Town centre and estates.

Cannabis was reclassified earlier in the year by the Home Office and is again a Class B drug with higher penalties for its misuse.

It remains an offence to possess, supply or cultivate the drug and the Police will continue to enforce those found committing drug related offences.

A local youth was found sat in a vehicle with a small amount of cannabis upon their person for personal use. As they were not previously known to Police, they were issued a Cannabis street warning for this first time offence and the cannabis seized and destroyed.

On a separate occasion, another local youth was stop checked in the Town centre and searched. The individual was found in possession of a number of small bags of cannabis believed to be for supply and arrested. They are currently on Police bail pending further enquiries.

Intelligence continues to be gathered in respect of other locations causing concern relating to drug misuse and it is anticipated that there will be further action/updates to be reported upon in the next issue.

SPEEDING – Corsham area.

There were a number of areas raised as being of concern locally around the Corsham area relating to speeding. As a result, speed surveys were carried out in the following locations;

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A4 Pickwick
Dicketts Road
The Laggar
Valley Road (30mph)
Park Lane (30mph)

Kings Avenue
Pound Pill
B3109 Bradford Road
Elley Green
B3353 Velley Hill (30mph)

Newlands Road (30mph)
B3353 Pickwick Road (30mph)
Lacock Road (30mph)
Crosskeys Road (30mph)
Silver Street (40mph)

Of these fifteen locations, only two were found to have an issue with speeding vehicles that would be suitable for speed enforcement and/or Speed watch monitoring, these being Lacock Road and Valley Road.

Overall this is a positive result and shows that in the majority of cases, speeding is quite often a perceived problem, rather than a real one.

Of the remainder, four are suitable for Speed watch monitoring (a volunteer run speed check scheme – please see footnote), these being Elley Green, Crosskeys Road, Park Lane and B3353 Velley Hill.

Silver Street failed to meet any of the target criteria for Speed watch monitoring as average recorded speeds were within the Association of Chief Police Officer guideline limits.

Once consultation with Wiltshire Council highways has been made and suitable sites identified then the Camera Safety partnership can begin formal checks and enforcement activity will be progressed.

OTHER ISSUES OF NOTE –

Metal thefts and stone thefts continue to be an issue across not just the Corsham area, but also Countywide and beyond, driven in part by the ongoing economic downturn.

Recent high price values for scrap metal and stone tiles have meant that criminals are now targeting these types of material as it is seen as a relatively easy way of raising quick money.

Whilst local Police patrols do endeavour to cover the whole area on a regular basis, criminals will often target the more remote, rural areas and commit the thefts where there is little chance of being caught, often during the night hours.

A proactive day of action was carried out last week in respect of metal thefts. Scrap metal dealers across the County were visited and their records examined (in law each must retain records of who is visiting the location, vehicle details and the value of monies paid).

This was a successful operation and it provided many useful intelligence leads in respect of those who regularly visit scrap dealers.

Please keep an eye on your and your neighbour's property and consider strengthening security measures where necessary. As per usual, if any suspicious activity is witnessed, then please report to the Police.

For further information on Crime Prevention, please contact the Crime Reduction Officer, Mr David Budd, on 0845 408 7000 or Direct Dial 01225 794659.

Distraction Burglary, Bradford Road, Corsham. There has been a recent crime where an elderly, partially sighted victim was visited by two males who offered to do gardening work for a relatively low sum of money. Once this was paid, he was then distracted by one of the two males whilst the other went back into the house and stole a large sum of money.

I would again ask that vigilance is paid to your neighbours, especially the elderly and vulnerable members of the community, particularly if there are unknown persons/workmen visiting.

A quick telephone call to the Police can often have the details verified as genuine or not and allow us to take positive action where necessary.

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Corsham South (Covering Lacock, Neston, Gastard, Notton)

LACOCK - There have been numerous reports of vehicles contravening the one-way system by the Abbey. Nine traffic monitoring exercises have been discretely carried out by the NPT on that stretch of road at a variety of times and all have been negative to-date. The NPT will continue to monitor the situation.

There have also been reports of vehicles using the National Trust car park early evening driving in an antisocial manner, speeding and wheel spinning. A solution to this problem has been an agreement to lock the exit barrier when out of hours, thus preventing any subsequent re-entry over the alligator teeth barrier on the exit.

GASTARD – Speed checks carried out by the NPT continue periodically along Velley Hill (But please note the update above in respect of speed enforcement).

NESTON – A local individual known for long term antisocial behaviour, disruptive behaviour and a cause of concern in the community was evicted from their property after work by the Westlea Housing association and local Officers. As partnership agencies we regularly work together and share information to find a solution to issues that disrupt the quality of life everyone should be entitled to.

There have been a few reports of horses having their manes plaited which is of some concern to their owners. This is occasionally done by offenders as a means of identifying a horse suitable for stealing and seeing if the owners are vigilant or not. These reports are being monitored and passed for local patrols to be vigilant where incidents are reported.

Corsham North (covering Colerne, Box and Rudloe)

COLERNE – Meetings are continuing to try and resurrect the Youth Club for 11-15 year olds. This is currently in the pipeline for April next year.

Vandalism is starting to occur sporadically around the village, patrols will be stepped up to counter these nuisance crimes.

As per the earlier report in the Corsham section, there have also been some instances of lead thefts off of roofing in the Colerne area. Again, patrols will be made and enquiries continue.

BOX – Two males from out of the County were arrested by British Transport Police attempting to steal metal adjacent to the Railway line in Box.

Reports of local youths causing a nuisance around the village, knocking on doors etc. This is being monitored by the local NPT team and patrols made around the affected areas.

Complaints have been received of youths congregating within the Recreation Ground car park apparently smoking drugs. This has been patrolled robustly, checks made and to-date no drugs have been found on any person or in any vehicle present. Police patrols will carry on at random times and checks carried out where appropriate.

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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).

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 below;

Contact details - Telephone 0845 408 7000 ext 733 817

Corsham NPT

corshamtownnpt@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

Sgt Alex Reid, PC Lauren Bishop-Bailey & PCSO Shaun Redmond.

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