

Corsham Police February 2009

<p><u>Sergeant's message</u></p> <p>The New Year has started well with continuing proactive efforts by Corsham and other local staff to deal with many issues directly affecting the local community and their quality of life.</p> <p>We aim to provide a locally based Police service that is easily accessible to all and welcome constructive comments or suggestions to improve our performance and address local concerns.</p> <p>Alex Reid A/Sgt – Corsham Police</p>
--

Priorities & ongoing activity

Corsham Town (covering Easton, Westrop and environs)

1. **ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR** - Martingate Centre, Mansion House Mews, Springfield Recreation Park and Alexander Terrace Recreation park
2. **ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR** - Underage drinking Town centre and children trespassing on the Corsham commercial centre.
3. **DRUG WARRANTS** – Drug warrants executed across the area.

Staff have continued to patrol the town centre area and exercise their powers in respect of antisocial behaviour, suspected drug misuse and underage drinking.

We have conducted a number of stops checks with youths in the town area, Springfield Park, the school and villages and continue to maintain a highly visible presence, especially during the afternoons and evenings when the younger elements of the community gather.

Since the beginning of the month three quantities of alcohol have been seized from youths within the town area, thus preventing associated alcohol related disorder problems and the potential risk to health and safety that excessive drinking entails.

Letters have also been given out to local residents following reports of young children playing on the Corsham commercial site. This is not only an antisocial matter, but also an area of concern as there are many hazards present on the site and parents are stressed to prevent their children from straying onto the site, placing themselves at risk of injury and also potentially committing criminal acts such as graffiti and criminal damage.

In response to recent intelligence, we have executed a number of warrants under the Misuse of Drugs Act across the area. Several individuals have been arrested and quantities of cannabis and associated drug paraphernalia seized.

This is an ongoing priority for the foreseeable future to send a clear message that drug use and supply will not be tolerated within our communities.

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

1. **SPEEDING** – Westwells Rd
2. **ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR** - Former Royal Arthur Site
3. **LACOCK** – ASB and Criminal damage

The planned day of action was carried out on the 15th January, resulting in a total of four motorists being dealt with. Three persons were issued endorsable fixed penalty tickets and another was reported for excess speed. The highest recorded speed was 50 mph in the 30 mph limit.

There have been additional speed checks carried out since, most recently last week of January. This resulted in another five motorists being prosecuted for excess speeding offences in the area. Recent weather has prevented further checks, but this is an ongoing priority.

The Royal Arthur site has been patrolled regularly by staff at Corsham with support from their colleagues in Chippenham and the MOD police. Incidents have reduced as a result and warnings handed out to persons found on the site that trespass will not be tolerated and further breaches will result in the individual's vehicles being seized.

Agreement as previously reported has been reached for the installation of the bollards by the site developer and a date had been given for work to commence in the second week of February. Unfortunately, the developer has suffered contractor delays and the eta for work has slipped back two weeks. The plan is to provide two lockable removable bollards and additional large steel gate.

In the interim we will continue to provide a highly visible Police presence on the site whilst awaiting the construction to start.

There have been reported incidents of paint graffiti to doors and addresses in Lacock. PC Mandie Ball has carried out high profile patrols throughout the village and two suspected local youths have been spoken to. To-date there have been no further related damage matters reported.

Corsham North (covering Colerne, Box, Rudloe and Biddestone)

1. **CRIMINAL DAMAGE** – Colerne village
2. **GRAFFITI** – Rudloe estate
3. **BOX** – Parking concerns Northey Arms area

Local NPT staff are continuing with the patrol strategy for Corsham North, targeting Colerne and Rudloe and maintaining a visible Police presence in this area. Incidents have reduced and staff are proactive in their patrols whilst graffiti reports have stopped.

One individual involved in these matters has been dealt with for an unrelated offence, but as a result has left the area permanently and a second individual has received a harassment warning notice in respect of one incident of antisocial behaviour.

There have been recent concerns over parking on the main road close to the Northey Arms. My staff and I have carried out patrols in this area and will continue to monitor the situation. There is not a specific offence of parking a car on a footpath as the legislation applies solely to HGV's. Any contravention of double yellow lines is now a local authority responsibility to enforce, rather than the Police.

However, vehicles parked causing a physical obstruction still fall under the remit of Police powers and as such the local garage owner has been advised in regard of his obligations in ensuring suitable pedestrian access on the adjacent footpath.

Performance

Police performance is bench marked against 'year on year' performance and our targets for both the volume of crime committed and the percentage of crime detected are set at the beginning of the financial year. These targets are set to ensure that our performance continues to improve, the targets for the volume of crime committed are set to ensure that the number of recorded crimes is reduced from the previous years and that the percentage of detections is increased. These targets are challenging and are designed to focus and drive activity.

As we approach the end of the financial year, a clear picture of Police performance over a sustained period is emerging. I am happy to report that the performance in Chippenham Corsham and Calne is very pleasing, the highlights of which are:

- The number of robberies is DOWN
- The number of burglaries is DOWN
- The number of theft from motor vehicles is DOWN
- The total number of crimes is DOWN
- Our target for detecting crime is 28% and your local police teams are detecting 28.7% of all crime committed in Chippenham, Corsham and Calne.
- One of the most worrying types of offence is violent crime and the Chief Constable set the Force a challenging 60% detection rate, your local police teams are currently detecting in excess 56% of violent crime committed in Chippenham, Corsham and Calne. We are focused on improving this area of our performance.

Overall this means that there have been fewer victims of crime than last year and when a crime does take place more offenders have been identified and brought to justice. I and my staff are focused on ensuring that this level of performance continues until the end of March and then on into the new financial year.

This performance has been achieved by focusing police activity on our priorities, whether these are prolific offenders, Force priorities such as violent crime or your locally identified neighbourhood issues all my staff work together to deliver results for their local communities.

Credit Crunch

The widely discussed economic down turn is likely to have a negative effect on overall crime and particularly theft and money based offences. As a result I have included some crime prevention advice at the end of this report. Whilst I do not want to create a fear of crime, I think some simple, pragmatic advice about keeping personal property safe is always welcome. As I believe crime prevention and Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) go hand in hand, I would also like to ask our NHW Coordinators to circulate this crime prevention advice and if further information or support is needed to contact their NPT Sergeant.

Kate PAIN

Sector Head
Chippenham, Corsham and Calne

Neighbourhood Watch

I am pleased to report initial progress towards both maintaining and further expanding the current NHW scheme in the area.

A recent meeting with the local Community area co-ordinator and several community area co-ordinators has shown a desire to update the existing scheme, whilst aiming to recruit new scheme members across currently unsupported areas and have a local Police point of contact within the town providing good links and regular contact.

Anyone interested in becoming a NHW member for a currently unsupported area is welcome to contact myself directly and I will arrange contact by our NHW Officer and the Community area co-ordinator.

A/PS 85 Alex Reid

Corsham Police

When providing information please make sure you remain safe and don't put yourself into any danger. Information that is particularly useful to us should include: What has happened, times, dates, locations, descriptions of those involved. Direction of travel and vehicle registration numbers and descriptions. Please remember that you can always phone anonymously should you so wish.

Take precautions when you go away

If you're going away, you can reduce the risk of a break-in by:

- Leave a light on if you're going to be out during the evening, but not so as to draw unnecessary attention to your home.
- You could also consider getting a timer switch to control the lights automatically. You can buy these from most DIY stores.
- Ask a friend or neighbour to keep an eye on your home. This could include opening and shutting curtains, switching lights on and off and making sure post and papers are pushed through your letterbox properly.
- Remember to cancel paper and milk deliveries before you go away.

Beware bogus callers

Bogus callers pretend to be officials from the council, engineers from gas, electricity or water companies, police officers or salespeople in order to gain access to people's homes and steal money or property. They usually carry fake identity cards and can seem very convincing.

How do I protect myself from bogus callers?

If someone calls round at your home, it's best to take precautions:

- Put the chain on the door before answering it - if you rent your home and don't have a chain, ask your landlord to fit one for you.
- Ask to see identification.
- Check their identification isn't fake - ask which company they're from, then phone the company to check the caller is genuine. Look the company up in the phone book rather than using a number they give you.
- Ask a neighbour or friend to come round while the caller is there.

Think about what's outside

- Never leave a key hidden outside your home (e.g. under a doormat).
- Always lock sheds and garages.
- Always put ladders or tools away - they could be used by an intruder.

Don't leave packaging for new appliances and goods outside your home. Always crush it and put it in the bin.

Contact details - Telephone 0845 408 7000 ext 733 817

www.corshamtownnpt@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

A/Sgt Alex REID, Pc Mike MOSS, Pc Pete CLARKE and
PCSO Shaun REDMOND

www.corshamtownnpt@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk,

PCSO Val WAGSTAFF

www.corshamsouthnpt@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk,

Pc Mandie BALL and PCSO Charles CAMPBELL