

**SOUTHERN WILTSHIRE AREA BOARD**  
**(7 June 2012)**

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**Keeping our communities safe**

**Purpose of the Report**

This paper sets out a proposals for the theme of community safety.

**Community Safety**

At the end of the 2011/12 Municipal Year the Area Board conducted a survey asking for views about what the Area Board's priorities should be for 2012/13. Once again participants identified the issue of Community Safety as being important to them and about which they felt the Area Board could bring about some improvements.

This paper sets out a way in which this could be progressed in 2012/13.

**Current situation**

Communities have responded to concerns about safety by creating numerous "Watch" schemes – Neighbourhood Watch, Street Watch, Community Speedwatch, Farm Watch, Lorry Watch. These schemes exist in isolation from one another yet all have the same basic objective – for participants to keep their eyes and ears open when moving about their community (or even whilst still at their own property) and to be prepared to report to their NPT anything which strikes them as out of the ordinary or suspicious in any way.

Our NPTs make regular reports via their e-mail list (especially through their Neighbourhood Watch contacts) and appear frequently at Parish Council meetings.

**Proposals**

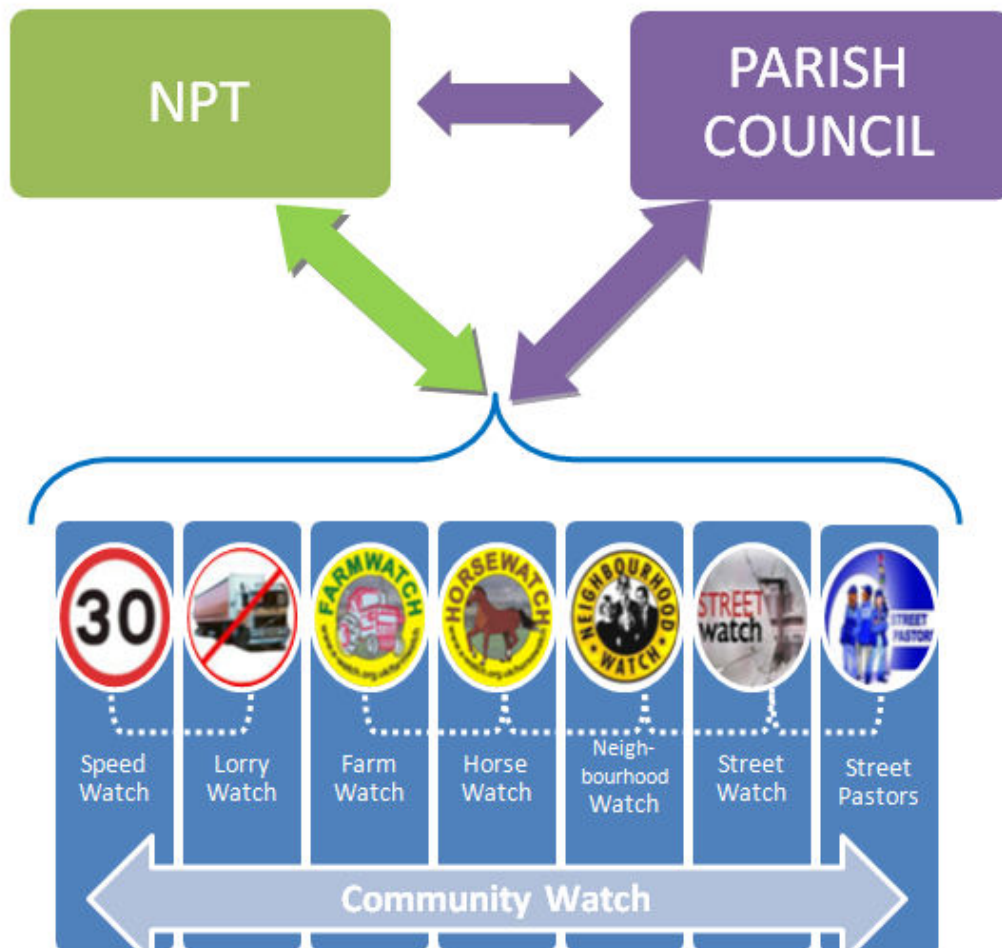
The Area Board feels that opportunities exist to revitalise Neighbourhood Watch and other voluntary community schemes and also to build on the NPT/PC liaison – both with each other and with the community at large.

Our ambitions can be summarised as follows:

- For each PC to have a lead councillor for Community Safety.
- That there should be a police report to every PC meeting. When the NPT can't attend in person they will be represented by the lead councillor who will deliver a brief report (probably only a couple of bullet points) provided beforehand by the NPT via e-mail or telephone.
- Every opportunity should be taken to enhance the role of Neighbourhood Watch coordinators. This could be by: NPTs providing 'alerts' about current criminal activity in the vicinity; the coordinators making reports to PCs; and participating in

- Community Safety networking events engaging members of all the various Watch schemes.
- A joint “Community Watch” report to appear regularly in parish magazines and a circular delivered to households inviting their participation in informal “Community Watching”.

The overall relationships which would be forged by such actions is depicted below.



**Recommendations:**

1. That the proposals as set out above be adopted.

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