



Melksham Community Area Board Report October 2012

1. Neighbourhood Policing Team - Team Sergeant: Malcolm McLundie

Town Centre Team: Beat Manager – PC Kane Fulbrook-Smith; PCSO Luke Barnett; PCSO Helen Wilson & PCSO Christopher Pugh

Rural North Team: Beat Manager – PC Barry Dalton; PCSO Janet Gould & PCSO Maggie Ledbury

Rural South Team: Beat Manager – PC Emily Thomas & PCSO Rose Baldock

2. NPTs - Current Priorities & Consultation Opportunities:

See the Wiltshire Police website www.wiltshire.police.uk for information about the NPT including team membership, priorities and forthcoming community consultation events.

3. Police Authority Representative: Mr Angus Macpherson - please contact via Wiltshire Police Authority Tel. 01380 734022 or <http://www.wiltshire-pa.gov.uk/feedback.asp>

As shown in the performance table below, the volume of all recorded crimes has increased except for anti-social behaviour. On a daily basis reported incidents and crime are monitored and reviewed locally in order to take any opportunity to detect a crime and prevent a reoccurrence.

ED Melksham	Crime			
	September 2010 - August 2011	September 2011 - August 2012	Volume Change	% Change
Victim Based Crime	956	1168	212	22%
Domestic Burglary	37	46	9	24%
Non Domestic Burglary	89	101	12	13%
Vehicle Crime	68	144	76	112%
Criminal Damage & Arson	197	266	69	35%
Violence Against The Person	214	222	8	4%
ASB Incidents (Year to Date)	489	386	-103	-21%

The NPT concentrates its efforts on prevention and making interventions with those who are likely suspects. The NPT works in partnership with and addresses concerns from the community as well as tackling these priority crimes.

The information below provides some context with key messages to communicate to the community.

Burglary is occurring in residential locations. The burglar is entering homes through windows that have been left open, even if only slightly ajar. The burglar will take items of value.

It is thought that the burglar walks from house to house looking for an open window or gap to climb through, in order to carry out the crime. One incident shows that the burglar has reached through a small gap to grab a door key, and then gained access to the house.

Although it may be uncomfortable in this humid weather, the advice is to:

- 1 Keep windows closed
- 2 Remove house and car keys from near front and back doors – never have them on show

These small changes should reduce the risk of residents becoming victims of crime in their own homes and make it more difficult for the burglar!

Vehicle crime remains an issue across the area. The most common offence is theft from cars where sadly the owner has left the vehicle insecure, even if the car is parked on a driveway!

Property stolen and favoured by the thief includes sat navs, sunglasses, briefcases and cash. All these items are either in full view or in the glove box.

A number of people have been arrested for thefts, but cars are still being broken into. Residents are urged to lock their cars, to be vigilant and to report (at the time) any suspicious activity. The local team is aware of those who are committing such crime and will continue to stop them by lawful and proportionate tactics. Additional staff are deployed, some in plain clothes, to catch those responsible. Theft from motor vehicles will not be tolerated!

Violence against the Person is a concerning issue for police and one that increases fear and uncertainty amongst the community. The problems are not directly linked to the 'night time economy' but do impact on those who are law abiding and enjoying a night out.

The focus on reducing violent crime will remain. However, it requires a partnership approach between the police and the community, sending a clear message to perpetrators that violence will not be tolerated.

Anyone subject to or a witness to assaults (physical or non-physical) need to report what's happening as this is unacceptable behaviour and will be addressed by the police and other agencies.

On a separate note, NPT is noting an issue that should be shared with **dog owners**. Several incidents have occurred involving dogs, such as dogs attacking other dogs with people getting injured trying to separate them and others running loose and biting people.

The key message for owners and those in control of dogs is that they could be held responsible for their dogs' actions if it is deemed that they are "not properly controlled". This could result in control orders or vets' bills being sought at a magistrates court.

Lisette Harvey
Sector Commander
26 September 2012