



## **Neighbourhood Policing**

### ***Current NPT Priorities:***

Up-to-date information about Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs) including profiles, priorities and forthcoming community consultation events can be found on the Wiltshire Police website [www.wiltshire.police.uk](http://www.wiltshire.police.uk)

### ***Team Structure:***

<b>Sergeant:</b>	Sean Brady
Town Centre:	PC Kane Fulbrook-Smith, PCSO Helen Wilson PCSO Christopher Pugh
Rural North:	PC Barry Dalton PCSO Janet Gould PCSO Maggie Ledbury
Rural South:	PC Emily Thomas PCSO Rose Baldock

As you will all be aware, changes have been made within the management structure at the level of Inspector, for the responsibility of local policing and overall performance. The Melksham neighbourhood policing team has not changed.

I am pleased to report that I have secured Sergeant Sean Brady as the dedicated Sergeant for the Melksham area. Previously his efforts were shared between Trowbridge, Melksham and Bradford on Avon. This supports me to deliver a more sustainable approach to the supervision and motivation of the team, a closer focus on responding to community needs and partnership working in order to tackle crime and disorder.

### **Crime Overview**

My team have responded very well to the changes at management level and have really started to get to grips with some of the problems faced in Melksham.

For example, there have been continuing reports of anti-social behaviour at McDonalds. Working with the management of the restaurant chain we helped them identify what they can achieve themselves to make the restaurant a better place for customers and to support their staff in the working environment. Alongside that is our (Police) responsibility to support through targeted patrols and to deal with the perpetrators of ASB. Working together in this way delivers a sustainable solution and will allow Police resources to move swiftly to the next issue.

The Kennet and Avon canal has been subject of attention following a series of breaks to canal boats along its entire length from the border with Berkshire to Avon. Increased patrols are being made by my team on bicycles. This gives a greater access than cars while still retaining the ability to cover large areas on patrol. This visibility has been effective in reducing offending and providing reassurance to users of the canal and towpath.

At the conclusion of this report is a table showing the rolling 12 month position for the most significant crime types.

The tabled figures include those recorded during some significant crime series in the Melksham area during 2012 and therefore the percentage change column can be misleading and give undue cause for concern.

In March I reported to the Town Council of an increase in dwelling burglary of 130%, or 0.75 of an offence per week. As can be seen in the table below, one month on, the volume increase has dropped by 9 showing the equivalent increase of 0.56 offences committed per week.

Non-domestic burglary remains the focus of attention due to the increase in recorded offending. The figures contain the crime series in Nov/Dec '12 and Jan '13. You are aware from my predecessor of this increase during which 69 offences were recorded in the 3 months.

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There is a current series of theft of motorcycles. Off road bikes and scooters have been targeted in garages, vehicles and sheds.

Across the wider area we have seen an increase in the theft of Catalytic converters. While there has only been one in the Melksham area these items contain precious metals and secure a good price if traded (this is not a suggestion to start!). Offenders will cut exhaust systems apart to remove these, often causing more damage than the cost of the unit itself. Most commonly targeted vehicles are commercial vans and four by four vehicles. If you own one park it in such a way to restrict access, within a lit area or somewhere subject to CCTV.

Please report any suspicious activity to Police (descriptions of people and vehicle registration numbers are most useful).

Lock your property away, record serial numbers on [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com), take photos of your valuable property for future reference and add additional security measures to your houses and outbuildings.

If our residents and communities are taking all reasonable precautions to look after their property I can concentrate the efforts of my team on targeting the offenders, not reacting to offences already committed.

ED Melksham NPT	Crime				Detections*	
	12 Months to April 2012	12 Months to April 2013	Volume Change	% Change	12 Months to April 2012	12 Months to April 2013
Victim Based Crime	1056	1110	+54	+5.1%	21%	27%
Domestic Burglary	49	79	+30	+46%	4%	7%
Non Domestic Burglary	88	154	+66	+74%	4%	6%
Vehicle Crime	140	132	-8	-6%	6%	5%
Criminal Damage & Arson	225	241	+16	+7.1%	21%	29%
Violence Against The Person	232	218	-14	-6.0%	41%	54%
ASB Incidents (YTD)	59	79	+20	+33.9%		

Wiltshire Police are compared against a group of 8 most similar forces. Wiltshire Police have performed in line with peers and better than average for Victim Based Crime and significantly better than peers for Domestic Burglary in the previous 12 month period (April 2012 - March 2013).

\* Detections include both Sanction Detections and Local Resolutions

**Matthew Armstrong**  
**Inspector, Devizes, Melksham, Pewsey**

20/05/2013