



POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

26th November 2013

Introduction

This report sets out a summary of the commitments I have undertaken since the last Police and Crime Panel meeting held on 16th September 2013. I write a weekly blog which provides a brief overview for the public of what I have been up to. This is published on my website (www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk) and the content of these blogs is copied below for the Panel's information.

SALISBURY SUMMER SPECTACULAR

Posted: Monday 9th September 2013

Saturday 24 August

Building on the Olympic Flame Event at Hudson Field last year, Salisbury City Council has put on the Salisbury Spectacular. This is a great opportunity for me to meet the public, so we set up our stall and spent the day there. We had many useful conversations and those who visited us were pleased that we had made the effort. Practically everyone we spoke to understood the logic of changing the location of policing in the City, and were not wedded to Wilton Road, whilst being concerned that the service levels were maintained. Our concern as well. Good to meet many Salisbury councillors and we had a prime spot for watching the great White Helmets motorbike display team.

Tuesday 27 August

I'm taking some time off to set up the funeral service for my father, but in the office today to discuss the risk register. I was pleased that the Police and Crime Panel gave me a hand in looking at the risks that my office face. We have now considered some of the mitigation and we have a living document to consider at my monitoring board meetings bi-weekly.

Thursday 29 August

Always good to get together with the leaders of Swindon and Wiltshire Councils and investigate ways we can better work together. The Community Safety Partnerships are core to this and we discussed these today, the similarities and differences between the two authorities.

Back to Devizes for a mid-morning visit to a community safety show being held in the Market Place. Actually we didn't have the best pitch and even though it was market day, we could have been busier. No matter, prevention of crime is the message we need to push.

I was really pleased that members of the Youth Parliament from both Swindon and the county were able to come over and spend a couple of hours with Assistant Chief Constable Andy Tatam and I. They are a great lot, and really up for working with me and my office, so we will build on that as we go forward. The Swindon team has a weekend workshop coming up and they are going to take the lead on preparing a survey for young people. With the county members they are taking ownership for the survey and will report back to me in due course. Exciting for me.

I also had an update on the launch of the Cadets, so watch this space!

Taking a long weekend, so won't be in the office until Tuesday.

LOOKING AT SMARTER WAYS TO HANDLE COMPLAINTS

Posted: Tuesday 10th September 2013

Tuesday 3 September

A long weekend charges the batteries, and so I was ready for an early start for complaints training at Avon and Somerset Police HQ in Portishead. I think we are still a bit ahead of the game with our appointment of Professor Johns as our **Independent Appeals Adjudicator**, but it was clear that there is still much we can do, particularly as a higher proportion of cases are now being dealt with 'in force'. Prof Johns also has some ideas I want to investigate to shine even more light into the system.

Wednesday 4 September

The morning was spent looking at Force performance and the routine business of my monitoring board. Wiltshire Council is having a major push on increasing the reporting of domestic violence, and as part of this there was a [Walk in White](#) through the streets of Trowbridge and I was pleased to do my bit. The trial period for Clare's Law ends soon, but I hope we can continue to be both proactive and responsive in sharing information to stop abusive relationships developing.

The Wessex Chambers of Commerce have been looking at ways they can contribute to helping ex-offenders, and so it was good they brokered a meeting with support service Splitz where we discussed new initiatives that could be developed.

Attending awards ceremonies is a pleasure, and the local awards given to staff and officers for going the 'extra mile' are uplifting. One was for a river rescue, saving a life while on holiday, and one was shared with a member of the public for the part she and the Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) played in the arrest of some prolific house burglars. It's a real shame there is not more publicity of these actions. Off tomorrow for my father's funeral, which I'm not looking forward to much.

Friday 7 September

Up early to be in the BBC Wiltshire radio studio for 7am and an interview about the Business Crime Forum and the results of the [Business Crime Survey](#).

It was a really successful day, with presentations by Detective Sergeant Jonathan Lee, Detective Constable Andy Taylor and Detective Constable Andy Cook of the Wiltshire Police Fraud Team about how to guard against various scams.

One hundred and fifty four people completed my Business Crime Survey. The highlights were presented by Nicky Calway, Senior Performance Officer, and Kieran Kilgallen, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner Chief Executive.

The main findings were that just over half of those who responded told us they had experienced crime or anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the last 12 months. Almost half of respondents reckoned they had lost between £1,000 and £10,000 per annum as a result of crime and ASB. We were really pleased to be joined by the Chief Constable for a lively question and answer session. The whole four hours flew by.

Work is going on at Monkton Park in Chippenham where the offices are being refurbished, but all seems well except for a little dust. It is always a pleasure to meet Cllr Peter Hutton and have the opportunity to learn more about his role as Wiltshire Council public protection lead, and where our interest overlaps. Busy weekend coming up with events both on Saturday and Sunday.

WHY I'D LIKE MORE SPECIALS TO STAY AS SPECIALS

Posted: Tuesday 17th September 2013

Saturday 7 September

It was a real privilege to attend the swearing-in (officially known as the attestation) of 19 new specials. As they were finishing their initial training, another intake was being recruited in a building across the way at the Wiltshire Police headquarters in Devizes. A number of those who have joined have a longer term aim to become regulars. I hope some will in time, but equally I would like to see people joining and making a commitment to the concept of specials. I'm looking forward to meeting colleagues in the force to look at the next move in the development and support of specials.

Sunday 8 September

The wet weather held off, in the main, for the [Emergency Services Show](#) at Hullavington. I had my marquee next to Wiltshire Police and it gave me an opportunity to meet many visitors and chat about my role and their policing priorities. The show is run by volunteers and raises thousands of pounds each year for a range of charities that have links to the blue light services. I would like to congratulate the organising committee and the many participants for a really enjoyable day. This is the third major show I have attended during the summer as part of my commitment to be available to the public.

Monday 9 September

Early meeting with Robert Buckland, the Swindon South MP, followed by a day of briefings. I think the list gives a good indication of the breadth of this role: Audit Committee, Police National Assessment Centre selection (a stage in the development process for senior officers and staff), finance update, Air Ambulance and National Police Air Service, the Strategic Policing Requirement and finally complaints. Each of these meetings lasts around 30 minutes, so the office feels more like a doctor's consulting room.

I was pleased to get out at 6pm and visit a group of young people at the [Wiltshire Assembly of Youth](#). It was good to see a couple of Wiltshire members of the [Youth Parliament](#) there as well. Listening to the views of young people in Wiltshire and Swindon is an important part of my role.

Tuesday 10 September

Every month I look at the Freedom of Information requests that are received. Whilst I am amazed by some of the things people want to know, I also think it is a way of keeping a finger on the pulse about the issues which are of concern to people. There are usually two or three requests where I ask to see the response and today's batch was no exception.

This evening is the second of our public performance meetings, this time in Salisbury, so final preparations were underway in the afternoon. I'm going to be joined by Simon Evans who will be speaking about Neighbourhood Justice Panels and the Deputy Chief Constable Mike Veale and Inspector Andy Noble on behalf of the Constabulary.

Wednesday 11 September

Early morning interview with [The Breeze](#) radio station about last night's meeting. I thought the meeting went very well. People had travelled a long way to be there and were very interested. In fact we rather over-ran. Inevitably it was an evening of statistics, but I think we are finding the formula for presenting the data in an engaging way. Community Speed Watch was on the public's agenda. I'm looking forward to the relaunch of the scheme next week. It was useful to have the Deputy there as some of the concerns raised were operational.

Later in the morning I visited the [Nelson House Trust](#) in Gloucester. They are about to start work on a project for the probation service in Swindon and Wiltshire. It is to support women who have been in prison and are returning to the community. It was very good to see the Gloucester project and I look forward to visiting their new premises in Swindon.

Back in the office for an update and final briefing around the Community Speed Watch relaunch. Two people have been recruited to run it so all is well so far. My first [Swindon Health and Wellbeing Board](#) this afternoon. Tomorrow it's the [Wiltshire board](#). I'm really pleased to have been invited to sit on these boards because so much local crime has its roots in health-related matters. Being in the centre of Swindon was also an opportunity to have a look at the cycling problem in Gorse Hill. It was quite quiet, but the numbers using the pavement outnumbered those using the road. I have to say I'm not sure what the solution is, but it is causing a nuisance.

Thursday 12 September

A large chunk of my Innovation Fund money went to the probation service for the prison gate scheme, so I thought I ought to get a better idea about the delivery programme that the probation management have in mind. It was also a chance to talk about the Nelson Trust project from the Wiltshire side. I hadn't realised that this work is in addition to the funding I've given, so a real commitment to this agenda by probation.

Although we have been mandated to join the [National Police Air Service](#), we will continue to support the [Air Ambulance in Wiltshire](#) as much as we can, as it is so important to our residents. I meet the chair of the charity on a regular basis for a briefing and had one today before, appropriately, driving over to Odstock for the Wiltshire Health and Wellbeing Board. Interesting how the agenda papers for Swindon and Wiltshire were so different.

POLICING MINISTER VISITS MONKTON PARK IN CHIPPENHAM

Posted: Friday 20th September 2013

Friday 13 September

Up early, as ever, for a business breakfast with Swindon Chamber of Commerce - the topic of the morning being pensions. Generously they always allow me a moment to speak so I was able to update members about our Business Crime Survey and promote the concept of the [Business Forum](#). The networking session was also very useful.

Swindon Domestic Violence Forum asked me speak about my agenda and the areas in the Police and Crime Plan around domestic violence. Unfortunately I couldn't stay for the rest of the meeting, but this was a good opportunity to make contact with the group.

Salisbury MP John Glen came to see me with an organisation called Missing People. He has been working in parliament around this agenda, and I hope we can support the initiative in Wiltshire.

I spent the evening at Lady Mead Care Home in my own village where they asked me to present the long service awards. Some of those receiving the award had been there more than 16 years and had looked after my grandmother years ago, so I was pleased to do it.

Saturday 14 September

The Swindon Youth Forum were meeting in my village for a residential weekend so it was no hardship to pop and see them. One of the projects for the weekend is preparing a survey of young people around crime which I will use in both Swindon and the county.

The rest of the day I spent at the Swindon Mela. I look forward to the Mela every year and this year I was pleased to be going along with my PCC marquee and a colleague. It was good to see cultural traditions being celebrated by members of our different communities and I enjoyed being the model for the turban tying demonstration and then choosing the winners.

Monday 15 September

I was up early to speak to BBC radio Wiltshire about our Community Speed Watch event later that day, ahead of a busy day.

A meeting of the Police and Crime Panel was held at the Town Hall in Devizes. I'm pleased we have agreed the protocol between us. We also gave a full performance briefing.

This was followed by my monitoring board, the forum where decisions are formally made. The highlight for me was a report on the number of projects that are being managed around change in the organisation and with our partners. It was a useful stock take.

We have been working towards it for a number of months, and tonight was the event for **Community Speed Watch coordinators** from across Wiltshire and Swindon. I was very pleased that this was attended by the Chief Constable and to have his personal support for the scheme. We now have two new staff in post to support the volunteers and other work is on-going to make the recording and processing of speed watch data more efficient. I hope those who attended found it useful and enjoyed the tour including seeing the helicopter.

Tuesday 16 September

Swindon 105.5 is a community radio that really does work in the community. I was there for an hour talking about how things are going and it was an opportunity for me to find out how the station is progressing as well. They do work with ex-offenders which is excellent.

I rarely get lunch but did today, even if I had to sing for it as I was challenged by the ladies of Warminster. This was followed by me sharing my vision for the Special Constabulary with Wiltshire Police, and a review of my office arrangements with the Chief Executive. It is nearly one year in so it is time to do some reflection. In the evening I attended the force award ceremony. It was great to hear stories of those who have gone the extra mile, and to meet the proud families.

Wednesday 17 September

The Policing Minister Damian Green visited, but first I spoke at a Basepoint Business Forum in Swindon. **The minister visited Monkton Park in Chippenham** where both the police and council are now based. Mr Green was given a tour of the building, followed by meeting a group of frontline officers based there. He also met myself, the Chief Constable and council leaders from Wiltshire and Swindon. This arrangement is proving successful and so I was pleased the minister was able to visit and see firsthand how it is working. Evening off to celebrate my 31st wedding anniversary. Cheers!

END THE WEEK WITH UNVEILING OF MOSAIC AT ERLESTOKE PRISON

Posted: Friday 27th September 2013

Thursday 19 September

Working with partners from Wiltshire Council, an Alcohol Awareness campaign is being taken around the county. They are trying to get to some of the smaller towns rather than the larger market towns, so this morning they were set up in Amesbury and I visited first thing, before returning to County Hall in Trowbridge. Wiltshire and Swindon made a joint bid, which I was pleased to endorse, to the Early Intervention Foundation to have help in the county in changing lives at an early stage. It has been set up by Graham Allen MP and I'm really pleased we were chosen as it links so well with troubled family agenda. I hope that the staff at both councils take full advantage of the advice.

In the afternoon we held the first Victim Forum, facilitated by Victim Support, held at New College in Swindon. It was well attended by agencies and I think we got quite a lot out of the workshop sessions about where we will go with this in the future. Certainly the victims' pathway was popular idea, and that is work already in hand.

Amesbury Area Board in the early evening was held in Shrewton and the main topic was the effects of the road closure at Stonehenge.

The day finished with an enjoyable evening with the Rotarians of Calne and prospective members of their club. I'm obliged to the Constabulary for sending a car with siren and blue lights though Calne at the exact moment I was talking about good response rates in the county!

Friday 20 September

Each month we meet as a region and today was in Dorset. It is a very nice campus setting for their headquarters and the OPCC office. We were privileged to have a chance to speak to Keith Bristow, the head of the new National Crime Agency. There is a lot to think about with their new role, but one specific area that they are responsible for Action Fraud. All five PCCs gave Mr Bristow a message to take away about how we think the service needs to be improved. I hope that with all the really important work the agency has to do this gets some focus. At least I now know where to send complaints.

Monday 21 September

Very much an office day of meetings and briefings.

Popped into Devizes Area Board for the networking session before the meeting, but a relatively early night home.

Tuesday 22 September

With the re-launch of Community Speed Watch a week or so ago, I visited our two new members of staff in their office in Trowbridge. It was good to feed off their enthusiasm for the new roles, and they are very aware of the high stakes. I'll make sure I continue to offer them support until it is established.

I was very pleased to be invited to speak at the Wiltshire Voluntary Sector Assembly. The keynote speaker was Kevin Curley CBE and it was good that he recognised that PCCs would be commissioning services and challenged the sector to be ready. At the event I spoke about **active citizenship** being increasing vital to keep communities safe at a time of austerity.

The PCC Fund, which is administered by the Community Foundation for Wiltshire and Swindon, gave a grant to **Kandu Kicks** and I visited them playing football in Chippenham. They tell me that one team came second in the national street football competition and several members have qualified as coaches. Really good to see 40 young people with a purpose.

Wednesday 23 September

Back to Chippenham first thing for the Monahans Business Breakfast. I was going to talk about business crime but ended up as a talk about my job as Commissioner, as it became clear they still wanted to understand the role. Good meeting of around 80 people.

The day continued visiting Wiltshire Council and the Public Service Board, where the Nelson Trust presented about their project to support women who leave prison. It is the project I visited in Gloucester a few weeks ago and it will be opening its doors in Swindon and Wiltshire very shortly.

Thursday 24 September

Early meeting with my finance office to run through the audit report. We have a clear audit report, which is what was needed. There is work to do and we will be following up observations made by the auditor but pleased that there was nothing that was not already recognised internally.

Joined Friends of Erlestoke Prison for the unveiling of a mosaic that has been made by prisoners as part of their rehabilitation. The mosaic, which was unveiled by Robert Hiscox, was commissioned by the Friends of Erlestoke Prison with Victim Support. Directed by the artist, victims and prisoners met in a series of workshops to work on the message in the design, which is very striking.

NUMBER OF SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS THIS WEEK

Posted: Friday 4th October 2013

Friday 27 September

Op Harness day. A visit to a school in Swindon to meet the Chief and talk about drug awareness first thing for me. Operation Harness is a Wiltshire Police led initiative which focuses on community engagement. During the day more than 55 activities took place across the county including drug enforcement and education at secondary schools in Swindon, street surgeries with local Neighbourhood Policing Teams, various targeted patrols, cycle marking events and licensed premises checks.

The proceeds received under the Police Property Act, from the sale of lost property, are administered for us by the Wiltshire and Swindon Community Foundation. The grant making panel has linked in with the High Sheriff's Crime Beat Fund, so is made up of the present High Sheriffs and sheriffs past and waiting. We met in Devizes to consider a couple of applications, but the main round is later in the year, when £40,000 will be available with grants of up to £3,000.

I was pleased to be invited to the annual general meeting of Revival, a rape and sexual violence support charity based in Trowbridge. It gave me a chance to **speak about my concerns** around the right access and level of support being provided to those reporting these incidents.

Back out in the evening on a patrol with the neighbourhood team around Trowbridge. It was a good opportunity to talk to both the officers and members of the public we met on the two hour tour.

Saturday 28 September

My wife, mother and I attended a concert given by the Wiltshire Police Band and Ten in a Bar in aid of the Bobby Van Trust in Malmesbury Abbey. The evening was very enjoyable and we all sang land of hope and glory with gusto. Hope they raised lots of money for the good cause.

Sunday 29 September

I'm invited to speak about homelessness in Swindon and the work of the charities there, so I was pleased to make my annual visit to Calne Baptist Church, such good supporters. I then joined the Chief Constable to drive to Cardiff for the National Police Memorial Service. A very moving event to remember members of the police family who have died in service. A very important day for the families and it is good to be able to support them in this way.

Monday 30 September

Bi- weekly Commissioner's Management Board. An opportunity to put a few new things on the agenda, but always mindful of the number of workstreams that are currently being managed. There was also a bit of a realisation that this week that I'm in demand as a speaker, and the 'my job' talk is getting out dated. Remind ourselves that a ten minute speech take an hour to craft!

In the evening I was invited to attend the Swindon Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Very pleased to do this on an occasional basis, and I hope they appreciated the address on the first 10 months. Good that the constabulary were there as well and questions tend to be operational.

Tuesday 1 October

The 'one year ' in office theme is developing and we have collected some case studies for the national Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) and are starting work on using the one year on date as an opportunity further explain more about my role to the public.

A useful meeting with the Chief Fire Officer, the Chair of the Fire Authority and the Chief Constable. Changes in that service are happening independently of police service changes, and it was an opportunity for us to share our visions. It will be interesting to see what national direction is given to the fire and rescue service in due course.

Wednesday 2 October

Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service have been the leaders in the Drive Safe, stay alive presentations given to 15 and 16 year olds across the county. It is a very powerful presentation, and I was privileged to hear it today. I say that because it includes real people there in the hall giving testimony about what it like to lose a child or friend in a car accident. I have to say the swagger and buzz of the audience had gone by leaving time. A really great educational project and I suspect a real contributor to road safety in the county. Good of the Empire cinema to give the venue too.

In the evening I was invited to speak at Malmesbury School as part of a lecture series they hold. I hope those who were there enjoyed that evening, I certainly enjoyed sharing the excitement and privilege of the job.

Thursday 3 October

Alcoholics Anonymous held an awareness day in Chippenham and I was invited to speak, alongside Mark Gilman, the national strategic recovery lead, Maggie Rae, Wiltshire Council corporate director for adult social services and public health and Chippenham MP Duncan Hames.

The early evening was spent at South Wilts Area Board, this time held in the village of Coombe Bissett.

NUMBER OF SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS THIS WEEK

Posted: Friday 4th October 2013

Friday 27 September

Op Harness day. A visit to a school in Swindon to meet the Chief and talk about drug awareness first thing for me. Operation Harness is a Wiltshire Police led initiative which focuses on community engagement. During the day more than 55 activities took place across the county including drug enforcement and education at secondary schools in Swindon, street surgeries with local Neighbourhood Policing Teams, various targeted patrols, cycle marking events and licensed premises checks.

The proceeds received under the Police Property Act, from the sale of lost property, are administered for us by the Wiltshire and Swindon Community Foundation. The grant making panel has linked in with the High Sheriff's Crime Beat Fund, so is made up of the present High Sheriffs and sheriffs past and waiting. We met in Devizes to consider a couple of applications, but the main round is later in the year, when £40,000 will be available with grants of up to £3,000.

I was pleased to be invited to the annual general meeting of Revival, a rape and sexual violence support charity based in Trowbridge. It gave me a chance to **speak about my concerns** around the right access and level of support being provided to those reporting these incidents.

Back out in the evening on a patrol with the neighbourhood team around Trowbridge. It was a good opportunity to talk to both the officers and members of the public we met on the two hour tour.

Saturday 28 September

My wife, mother and I attended a concert given by the Wiltshire Police Band and Ten in a Bar in aid of the Bobby Van Trust in Malmesbury Abbey. The evening was very enjoyable and we all sang land of hope and glory with gusto. Hope they raised lots of money for the good cause.

Sunday 29 September

I'm invited to speak about homelessness in Swindon and the work of the charities there, so I was pleased to make my annual visit to Calne Baptist Church, such good supporters. I then joined the Chief Constable to drive to Cardiff for the National Police Memorial Service. A very moving event to remember members of the police family who have died in service. A very important day for the families and it is good to be able to support them in this way.

Monday 30 September

Bi-weekly Commissioner's Management Board. An opportunity to put a few new things on the agenda, but always mindful of the number of workstreams that are currently being managed. There was also a bit of a realisation that this week that I'm in demand as a speaker, and the 'my job' talk is getting out dated. Remind ourselves that a ten minute speech take an hour to craft!

In the evening I was invited to attend the Swindon Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Very pleased to do this on an occasional basis, and I hope they appreciated the address on the first 10 months. Good that the constabulary were there as well and questions tend to be operational.

Tuesday 1 October

The 'one year' in office theme is developing and we have collected some case studies for the national Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) and are starting work on using the one year on date as an opportunity further explain more about my role to the public.

A useful meeting with the Chief Fire Officer, the Chair of the Fire Authority and the Chief Constable. Changes in that service are happening independently of police service changes, and it was an opportunity

for us to share our visions. It will be interesting to see what national direction is given to the fire and rescue service in due course.

Wednesday 2 October

Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service have been the leaders in the Drive Safe, stay alive presentations given to 15 and 16 year olds across the county. It is a very powerful presentation, and I was privileged to hear it today. I say that because it includes real people there in the hall giving testimony about what it like to lose a child or friend in a car accident. I have to say the swagger and buzz of the audience had gone by leaving time. A really great educational project and I suspect a real contributor to road safety in the county. Good of the Empire cinema to give the venue too.

In the evening I was invited to speak at Malmesbury School as part of a lecture series they hold. I hope those who were there enjoyed that evening, I certainly enjoyed sharing the excitement and privilege of the job.

Thursday 3 October

Alcoholics Anonymous held an awareness day in Chippenham and I was invited to speak, alongside Mark Gilman, the national strategic recovery lead, Maggie Rae, Wiltshire Council corporate director for adult social services and public health and Chippenham MP Duncan Hames.

The early evening was spent at South Wilts Area Board, this time held in the village of Coombe Bissett.

A TRIP TO THE SOUTH OF THE COUNTY

Posted: Wednesday 16th October 2013

Friday 4 October

I'm in the south of the county. In fact I can almost smell the sea from here! A visit to Semley Village Stores with the local Police Community Support Officer for what is known as a "street consultation". It is an opportunity to speak to the residents about their concerns. We also met the chairman of the parish council. Back to the office for the rest of the day, before attending a political dinner in the evening where I was the speaker.

Monday 7 October

Not a great start to the day with car problems making me late for a Mens' Fellowship Breakfast in Warminster. The event has been re-scheduled in February. Things got worse with a puncture on the way back to Devizes. The rest of the morning was taken up with looking at freedom of information requests and other internal meetings. My **Innovation Fund** is being publicised again. Applications for the second round of funding need to be in by 15 November. A total of £315,000 is available in this round.

Tuesday 8 October

I received an update from the Swindon and Wiltshire **Youth Offending Teams** (YOTs). There is still a problem with trials being held in Chippenham for Swindon youths. The statistics are being collected, but there is an issue around non attendance as well as the difficulty of giving the young person support, either by the family or the local YOT, who have a great knowledge of the individual. It was pleasing to note a reduction in the number of young people entering custody, but no complacency around reoffending rates.

I had some training on social media during the day. I hope all readers of my weekly blogs are facebook friends. If you are not, please visit my page when you have a chance:

www.facebook.com/wiltshireandswindonPCC

In the afternoon we had a rerun of the recent ministerial visit to Monkton Park, Chippenham (where Wiltshire Police and Wiltshire Council are sharing the building), but this time our guest was Councillor Mike Bawden from Swindon. It is always good to show off the joint working and I hope we will be able to do a similar thing with the localities in Swindon

Wednesday 9 October

Attended an Association of Police and Crime Commissioners event in London. We started at the Home Office with addresses by the Home Secretary, Theresa May, and the Policing Minister, Damian Green. The launch of the **National Crime Agency** was the theme for the Home Secretary, but also exploitation and the possible introduction of a Modern Slavery Bill. We also heard about concerns over places of safety for people with mental health issues and the use of greater triaging by professionals.

We had addresses from Professor Shirley Pearce, chair of the **College of Policing** and Dame Ann Owers, chair of the **Independent Police Complaints Commission** (IPCC). It is a matter of concern that, nationally, 50

per cent of appeals to the IPCC are upheld. I think we are nearer 30 per cent in the year to April for Wiltshire, but that is still too high.

In the afternoon we had our annual meeting and then various presentations. The best was from Northumbria about vulnerability training. I will be getting the details as this may be worth running in our county. I have to attend a friend's funeral tomorrow.

Friday 11 October

A presentation by the Bank of England at the [Swindon Chamber of Commerce](#) breakfast. The Bank says there are some signs of growth, but that it does not expect the economy to "roar away". It is expecting inflation to be back to two per cent by 2015, but employment is still a concern. In Swindon youth unemployment is a real issue with far too many young people who are not in education, employment or training (known as NEETS). It would be brave to make a causal link to crime, but it will certainly not help the perception surrounding "young people hanging about".

We had a wash up in the office about my Business Crime Forum held in Devizes in September, which I think we all felt had gone well. The challenge is around getting a better response next time to the [Business Crime Survey](#). In the evening Scouts were visiting Gablecross police station and I gave a short talk about my role before attending the commissioning service for new [street pastors in Swindon](#). Very interesting to meet someone from the Ascension Trust, who were the founders of the street pastors movement and to hear how the idea came about and how it has grown. I wish all the best to the new volunteers.

WORKING REGIONALLY WILL HELP TO BALANCE OUR BUDGETS

Posted: Friday 18th October 2013

Monday 14 October

Refreshed by a weekend with, unusually, no engagements, we had our regional meeting. This time hosted by Tony Hogg, Devon and Cornwall PCC, in Exeter.

I continue to think that these meetings are one of the most important events in the diary. It is clear to me that unless we work on regional basis none of us will balance our budgets. We had an update on some of the regional work that is in hand, and a further update on where savings might be made. But there is nothing much in the pipeline and that does worry me. We did agree to do some more work around ensuring interoperability of the command and control IT systems and I gave an update to colleagues on where we in Wiltshire are on the second generation of mobile and remote working. I hope at least one other force will work to our timescales in the implementation. We did hear about the government's Innovation Fund (not to be confused with mine!). This is available to enhance regional capability and interoperability. What will happen is the government will give each of us less in the settlement but allow us to bid as region for the money. It is up to us to get our act together so we are ready to access these funds.

Tuesday 15 October

Fresh Moves, formerly known as Positive Futures, in Swindon is one of the projects that we fund through the office. Partners in the fire service and Police Community Support Officers lead a week long course at the fire station known as Salamander. The 12 young people identified by Fresh Moves were on the course and I was invited to spend the morning with them. The young people are quite challenging, but the discipline and team work binds them over the week. It was only day two, and whilst there was not 100 per cent engagement most were taking part. The girls lead the way in abseiling down the tower. I'm sorry that I can't pop back on Friday for the passing out parade.

After briefings in the office, the afternoon was the two weekly Corporate Management Board. We had a discussion about the future finances and the possibility of me raising the policing part of council tax (precept) in March. I have to say that this seems a likely prospect when one looks at the emerging funding gap as some of the grant that we have had fall away. Our spend per head of population is the third lowest in the country and our central funding is the sixth lowest in the country. Other updates were on the Corsham Campus, Bluez 'n' Zuz and a presentation on the Force's volunteers strategy.

Thursday 16 October

Even on a day's leave, like yesterday, there is work to be done. Actually I had a lot of help from the office in preparing for my speech at Public Policy Exchange conference. The title was 'Putting Victims First' and I was able to share some of what we have been doing in Wiltshire as well as learning from the other speakers and the practitioners in the room. Still a lot of disquiet about national commissioning of victims services, but also a recognition of how fractured the current local scenes are.

As I was in London anyway, I had no excuse not to attend a reception at 10 Downing Street. There were 150 others, but met up with a few PCCs and in particular Tony Hogg from Devon and Cornwall, which enabled us

to follow up on a few items from Monday. The inside of No 10 is very stately, with large reception rooms on the first floor overlooking Horse Guards, and a oak and barreled ceiling dining room large enough to entertain all 41 PCCs at once! It was an experience to walk up the staircase with all the photos of the past Prime Ministers and we even got to meet our host. I have to say Tony and I were like school boys as we left, taking photos of each other on the famous door step.

TWO EVENTS SUPPORTED BY MY INNOVATION FUND HELD THIS WEEK

Posted: Thursday 24th October 2013

Friday 18 October

I was joined today by Dan O'Brien from BBC Wiltshire who came to spend time shadowing me for a forthcoming day in the life of a PCC feature to tie in with my one year anniversary of taking office. My day started as usual at 8am in the canteen where I was joined by Deputy Chief Constable Mike Veale before moving into meetings with the Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer, followed by a performance briefing, a stop and search briefing, a briefing on an alcohol support project and speaking to councillor Keith Humphries from Warminster about campuses. A short break at noon to do a radio interview for Heart FM on the crime figures before we went to Swindon to the launch of the [disability hate crime project](#), commissioned through my Innovation Fund.

We then went on to meet officers in Central Swindon and had a briefing from them on the work they are doing to raise awareness of human trafficking and sexual exploitation with those who work in the hotels in the town.

In the evening I had a Conservative Association dinner.

Saturday 19 October

[Thirteen new Specials were sworn in](#). It was good to hear the diverse backgrounds and skills they were bringing to the organisations and I was pleased that this time around there were a greater proportion for whom being a Special was an end in itself.

Monday 21 October

Highworth Warneford School invited me to see a play that was being given to year nine by the Solomon Theatre company. Called Last Orders it was about a 15 year old and her friends at home alone, bored and the consequences of them raiding the drinks cabinet. Things go seriously wrong with the evening when older boys are invited around. The hard-hitting performance lasts about an hour and then I watch the workshop that the students undertake when some of the lessons from the play are debated. It was a really powerful morning for me. You can view a photo of me with the cast and a teacher on my Facebook page - www.facebook.com/WiltshireandSwindonPCC

In the afternoon I was in Salisbury law courts for a meeting of the Wiltshire Judicial Issues Group where I was invited to speak about and share some of my thoughts on out of court disposals and neighborhood justice panels. Keen blog readers will know that we have an ambition in the Police and Crime Plan for appropriate community and victim-focused restorative justice outcomes to be used in at least half of detected offences. This ambition obviously has a link to our partners in the courts service.

In the evening I attended a presentation, which I also supported through the Innovation Fund, by charity Unchosen. During which three films were shown highlighting the problems of human trafficking. These real life stories heighten everyone's awareness of human trafficking, exploitation and the associated crime. We should not think that leafy Wiltshire is immune to such things and awareness is essential.

Tuesday 22 October

After a quiet morning, the Chief Constable and I attended the Wiltshire Cabinet Transformation Committee in Salisbury which we have both been invited to join. This was the first meeting so set the scene for the future and the terms of reference. It was a good opportunity to contribute to the debate around the campus project and our joint commitment to a 'system thinking' approach to our problem solving.

We were then both at an evening meeting of the One Swindon Board where the challenge was to review and prioritise various projects that have been put forward by partners for joint working across sectors. This was a challenge as all the projects were more than worthy but by grouping some we were satisfied that by the next time we meet we will be able to look at business cases which address the primary objectives of the group including reduction in crime, improve community cohesion and overall safer communities.

Wednesday 23 October

The Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APPCs) ran an event hosted by the City of London Police. It is the first time that PCCs from across the country have had a proper briefing on economic crime and fraud from the national fraud intelligence bureau and we were also briefed on the new set up for national investigations of fraud and the reporting of crime through Action Fraud. The day raised more questions than it answered which was its purpose and I look forward to future meetings now that we have got an idea of the emerging landscape.

We also had speeches from Norman Baker MP and James Brokenshire MP who spoke about cyber threat to the UK.

In the evening I attended the 43rd Wessex Brigade boxing finals at Tidworth. Readers may be aware that, through my Innovation Fund, I have put some money into Wiltshire Police Outbox which will work across ten boxing clubs in Wiltshire and Swindon. This was an opportunity for me to seek to engage with the Army in this initiative.

Thursday 24 October

An important part of my routine is a monthly meeting with Professor Johns to look at complaints and at the time when police integrity is being widely discussed nationally he and I decided that we needed to beef up the plan for next year around this area of work. I also had a meeting about freedom of information requests this morning.

This afternoon I'm due to join Malmesbury Neighbourhood Policing Team for a street visit outside the Co-op on Gloucestershire Road from 2pm – 3pm.

I then have an evening off working duties and taking my wife out for dinner.

ANOTHER DAY IN THE LIFE FEATURE AND MORE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THE POLICING PART OF COUNCIL TAX

Posted: Monday 4th November 2013

Friday 25 October

As part of the coverage marking my one year in office, BBC Points West (TV) are joining me for the day. It isn't the busiest of days, which is a good thing, as setting up camera equipment takes far longer than the radio stuff. Anyway, I'm due to spend the morning with the Roads Policing Unit as my last outing with them was cut short. No calls in so we were on general patrol duties. One person was stopped for not wearing a seatbelt, but it was a useful opportunity to speak to the officers about the job they do and the challenges they face. Back in HQ to chair a meeting on the estate at lunch time. I suppose it is the nature of these things that they take time, but after a year I would have liked more to show in this area. Anyway the strategy paper was circulated and will be discussed and hopefully adopted in the next two weeks. In the afternoon I made a return visit to the underpass in the meadows of Trowbridge. They is a project with Clarendon School to do some art work where currently there is only graffiti.

Finally an interview with the BBC. The feature is due to be broadcast on Points West on 14 November. In the evening I attended the High Sheriff's concert at Marlborough College. This was attended by the Duchess of Cornwall and was a very memorable evening of Handel's music in the beautiful setting of the College Chapel.

Monday 28 October

A monitoring board in the morning, where we looked in more detail of what the finances will be during the next few years. It is clear to me that as government money continues to reduce and we are top sliced for more and more (this time the Innovation Fund and the Independent Police Complaints Commission) it looks like we will have to increase the precept by just over £3 per year. We will still have the lowest precept in the south west, but the effect for us would be to reduce the potential gap by £3 million in 2016/2017, when central government freeze grants are due to be removed. During the next few months I will be consulting about this important area.

The Innovation Fund funded an information event for the Polish community in Trowbridge. I was impressed by the number of agencies that attended and the number that had information in Polish. The weather wasn't at its best, which kept the numbers attending down when I visited, but it is certainly a format I would like to see in other communities.

In the afternoon I had another family friend's funeral, before attending Chippenham Rotary Club in the evening as their guest speaker.

Wednesday 30 October

I'm off for four days but 'popping in' to the office first thing saw me there for the rest of the day, clearing a good number of things which had been hanging around.

Saturday 2 November

I spent an enjoyable morning with the Wiltshire Army Cadets at their training base just outside Tilshead. This is another youth engagement project, and while it may not suit everyone, a number said that if they weren't doing this they would be 'hanging around'. The qualifications match the Duke of Edinburgh Awards and the young people were having a fun time. Not too much drill and bull nowadays, but instilled discipline and pride. Glad to hear that they are expanding into more schools.

BUDGETS UNDER PRESSURE AS THE GOVERNMENT TAKES A SLICE

Posted: Monday 11th November 2013

Monday 4 November

A day in the office, with briefings at regular intervals, including one on finance which tied in well with my consideration of a letter drafted by a colleague in the region about the forthcoming budgetary pressures. We are being top sliced by the Government so that funds can be provided both for the Independent Police Complaints Commission and an Innovation Fund (not mine, I hasten to add, but the Home Office's). You can read the letter [here](#).

Taken together these could be the equivalent of three per cent on the police and crime element of the Council Tax (also known as the precept), at a time when we are effectively restricted to two per cent. None of us wants to increase the precept for the sake of it, but we do need to ensure the police are on the ground in our neighbourhoods and that the wider operational requirement is maintainable.

Tuesday 5 November

The Constabulary will be announcing a new round of recruitment. This is the second since I took office, and it is encouraging that we are now able to undertake these regularly. I'm pleased that we are renewing the "pool", and that applications will be accepted over ten days this time. Lots of media interest, so four interviews before lunch.

Always good to see Wiltshire Council member Jonathon Seed, whose cabinet responsibilities include campuses. I had the opportunity of an update on the progress of the Wiltshire campus project. My programme of opening police stations is inextricably linked to the campus programme and there are a couple of areas which I would like to prioritise.

One of the regular events in my diary is a performance review. We look at a wide range of statistics from across the county, and identify those areas where we feel there is concern. This time we identified three and I will be asking the Chief Constable for a briefing on what the inspector concerned has in mind for tackling the trends.

Wednesday 6 November

Today was the first opportunity to meet the Constabulary's Chaplaincy as a group. I'm afraid that there just was not enough time for our meeting. I did most of the talking, as I really wanted to get over what my role is. I think I achieved that. I hope this will become an annual event. I certainly valued the feedback from the chaplains and it is obvious that there is a lot of misinformation in circulation, especially around matters concerning the Constabulary estate.

At lunchtime I spoke to the Salisbury Chamber of Commerce at their 90 minute networking lunch. My theme was that business crime is not victim-less crime and that we need business men and women to report to Action Fraud if they are victims of scams, and to Wiltshire Police if they suffer other sorts of business-related crime. Only by full reporting will we get a true picture of the problem, and only then will we be able to seek the necessary resources to tackle the problem.

In the evening I was invited to speak to the Broadgreen Residents' Association about my role. Broadgreen is a very multicultural part of Swindon and it was interesting to see how the community manages some of the problems that arise. Many seem to be the general municipal issues that affect us all, parking and rubbish.

Thursday 7 November

I was in London this morning to give a talk to Inside Government's "Working in Partnership to Build Safer Neighbourhoods and Stronger Communities" forum. I spoke about putting victims, witnesses and communities at the heart of policing.

Back to Wiltshire for an evening meeting at Warminster Area board where I was warmly welcomed. I have to say it is very refreshing to go to these boards and hear the appreciation of the way in which Community Speed Watch is working. I have asked that the town send my office a copy of the town plan. Many questions about policing had been raised in the course of research into the plan.

Friday 8 November

The Chief Constable and I attended the Royal British Legion Field of Remembrance event at Lydiard. Despite the rain it was a very moving event. Row upon row of wooden crosses, representing the sacrifice of more than 400 service men and women in the current conflict. As the leaders of the councils were attending we took the opportunity at the end of the ceremony to spend an hour discussing our work together, especially that of our Community Safety Partnerships.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary visited this afternoon. I am pleased to say that Wiltshire is not on the naughty step in respect of performance. We discussed the new [Police UK website](#). This is something I must keep my eye on to ensure that accurate information about our force is being published. I'm very wary of bald statistics; context is everything.

Whilst we were meeting, the Home Secretary was addressing the Policy Exchange think tank in London with a speech headlined [Police and Crime Commissioners one year on: warts and all](#). I was interested that Mrs May said "around 70 per cent of people know about their police and crime commissioner". If so, I hope they will all read my blog and become facebook friends: www.facebook.com/WiltshireandSwindonPCC. In the evening I attended a dinner addressed by Edward Timpson, the MP for Crewe and Nantwich. He is the Minister for Children and Families, so has a keen interest in the troubled families agenda. I suddenly remembered that I had listened to a programme on the radio in which his father was interviewed. The family shoe repair shops, which are on many of our high streets, have a policy of recruiting ex-offenders. Indeed they have training workshops in prisons.

I hope I can persuade James Timpson, the firm's chief executive, to work with me in Wiltshire to encourage businesses to do the same. I'm always concerned when I hear of those who have a dilemma about declaring a conviction and not getting a job interview, or taking the risk and not declaring. We know the right answer, but when you need work this is a problem.

Saturday 9 November

Every year the Special Constabulary have a prize giving and speech day and today it was held at St John's School in Marlborough. I was able to say that I will be making a specific grant to the Special Constabulary in the next year. I'm working with the Chief Constable on what is needed, but my initial aim of 300 specials is too blunt an instrument. I was pleased that 20 specials gained certificates to indicate that they can patrol independently, but we also lost several who have joined as regulars in other forces. I have attended three swearing-in ceremonies (known as attestations) this year and we have had 60 joiners. We are on track, but we now need to develop the detail.

In the evening my wife and I celebrated deepavali (or diwali) with the Tamil community. We have been going to this event for many years now and the standard of dance improves each year. It is always a great evening.

Angus Macpherson
**Police and Crime Commissioner
For Wiltshire and Swindon**