

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

11th June 2014

Introduction

This report sets out a summary of the commitments I have undertaken since the last Police and Crime Panel meeting held on 6th February 2014. 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.

ROYAL VISITOR DROPS IN AS NEW COLLEGE TAKES SHAPE

Posted: Wednesday 19th February 2014

Monday 10 February

The Duke of York was in Swindon to visit the University Technology College (UTC). Opening in September 2015, it is being built in the old railway works, a fitting place. The Duke is a good ambassador and led a lively discussion with heads of some of the secondary schools.

Wiltshire is very lucky to have two UTCs opening, this one in the north and another in Salisbury, both helping young people in the county to be ready to work or go on to university.

Back to Devizes for a performance and finance update: regular meetings with officers. Returned to Swindon in the late afternoon to meet Cllr Hurley, with officers, to talk about the Community Safety Partnerships.

Tuesday 11 February

I'm very proud to have been asked to help judge the Pride of Swindon awards. I have to say it took most of the weekend to read all the nominations, but we did whittle them down to the required number. Really everyone was a winner just for being nominated. The awards will be presented on 13 March at Steam, a date to look forward to.

Back in Devizes to meet the local representative of the Black Police Association. Surprisingly it is our first meeting since I took office. In the last round of recruiting of officers we did seek to reach out to minorities, and I'm looking forward to hearing how we did. The recruitment of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) starts soon and again I hope that those from all our communities will apply and be successful.

In the evening I spoke at the South Swindon Locality meeting in Liddington. This is my home locality, so interesting to hear the wider issues that were raised.

Wednesday 12 February

Bournemouth University are holding a three day conference on cyber crime. Chief Constables and PCCs were invited to the first day. In preparation I reviewed the reports to Action Fraud from residents in Wiltshire. I have to say that many looked just like old fashioned crimes. There is talk about cyber-enabled crime, but I do have concerns that this is a smokescreen. When bank robbers moved to having a getaway car, did we call this motor-enabled robbery?

In the afternoon we visited [Dorset Victims' Bureau](#). This is where they support victims of crime and it was interesting to see how they are approaching the issues for which we will shortly be commissioning a service.

Then to my final area board /locality meeting of the current cycle. I don't remember how many times I have given the presentation on the precept (the police and crime element of council tax), but it will be good to move on to a new subject. I hope we will start a monthly newsletter in the spring. It would be electronic and circulated to both our contacts and as an update to area boards and localities when my office doesn't have a speaking role.

Thursday 13 February

Swindon Borough Council are doing some research on their governance structures and I was pleased to contribute to the consultation being done by a consultant.

Then it was off to Green Lane Hospital in Devizes, which has been built in the grounds of the Old Roundway Hospital. I hadn't visited Green Lane Hospital before, but I did visit Roundway when I was at school. We were encouraged to befriend patients of our age and to visit them in the hospital. Later my grandfather was there when he developed dementia.

I have to say the new facility is so much nicer! I wanted to see the "318" suite. This is where people in crisis are taken either from custody or as an alternative to custody. We seek to get to a position where no one with mental health issues is taken to custody so I now have an idea of what a suite looks like.

In the evening I attended the launch of the Police Cadets. Twenty young people from North Swindon were parading at Gablecross police station, before being given a lecture by the armed response group. I hope that this scheme will be rolled out across the county in the near future.

Finally a dinner in Chiseldon with the Justice Secretary and Lord Chancellor, Chris Grayling. Unfortunately not too much opportunity to chat, but I was able to give him a note from the South West Police and Crime Commissioners about the probation reforms including the creation of community rehabilitation companies. It is a shame that PCCs have no part in the choosing of these contractors. It is something that is so key to our role and to the agenda of most PCCs.

MEETING NEIGHBOURHOOD JUSTICE PANEL VOLUNTEERS

Posted: Monday 24th February 2014

Monday 17 February

An update on the roll out of Neighbourhood Justice Panels. On Saturday I will be giving out certificates to people from across the county that have been trained to run panels. They will be augmenting the already successful panels that are being held in Swindon. The emphasis now needs to move to referrals from the police, housing associations and Wiltshire Council.

Monday is a performance review day, so an hour looking in detail at the charts and graphs. Most of the concerns were raised in the week with at the improvement board. I do have a concern over the presentation of information at Area Boards and Locality meetings. I think that this can be improved such that better interpretation of data is given. Percentages are very misleading when numbers are very small.

Corporate Management Board in the afternoon reviewed the accounts for the year to date, progress on estates and IT. I'm pleased that we have opened recruitment for Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) again and look forward to a good response, especially from minority groups.

The next three days I'm joining colleagues from Wiltshire Council and Fire to do a 'Systems Thinking Course'.

Friday 21 February

It was very useful to me to do the Systems Thinkings Course and appreciate the tasks that we are setting throughout the constabulary and wider in reviewing what we do and how. The approach plays a key role in the Police and Crime Plan, and some of the reviews suggested there are underway or nearing completion.

After a catch up in the office, I met seven victims of anti-social behaviour, to hear first hand about their experience. For some the situation had been going on for seven years and was blighting them moving house.

Saturday 22 February

A pleasure to hand out certificates to newly trained volunteers for the Neighbourhood Justice Panels. Volunteers come from all over Wiltshire and will enable us to expand the scheme from Swindon to the rest of the county. Now we need referrals from the police, housing associations and Wiltshire Council.

A QUIET START, MANIC MEETING DAY, AND FARMERS ON PATROL

Posted: Tuesday 4th March 2014

Monday 24 February

Excellent start to the week with a visit to the dentist.

Actually the diary is mercifully quiet for the beginning of the week. It's quite nice to have time in the office just to read papers and catch up on events with the staff. Likewise it was useful to see the chairman of the Police and Crime Panel and discuss their work programme.

Two members of the senior staff of Wiltshire Police are on the senior command course run by the College of Policing at Bramshill in Hampshire. They have to do some project work and came in to discuss the strategic partnership with Wiltshire Council. I look forward to reading their work (if they let me). Interesting that the course has also covered relationships with Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs). Katy Bourne, the Sussex PCC, has met them.

Wednesday 26 February

Yesterday may have been a diary-free day in the office but today was manic with eight meetings.

Swindon Council, Wiltshire Council and Wiltshire Police all use volunteers to some extent. With this in mind we hosted a meeting to see what common ground there was around the recruitment and support of volunteers across the public sector. I think it was useful and the participants will be getting together again once they have sought advice back at base.

I will shortly be launching a rural crime survey on in advance of rural crime forums which will be held in the north and south of the county. The office have done a good job in pulling the questions together and today I had the easy job of signing them off.

I meet senior officers from the force every quarter for an update on stop and search. No real change since last time, and no recording backlogs, which has been a concern in the past. Pleased they are engaged with those developing mobile working devices for the front line cops, as this will reduce paperwork if they get it right.

Following the last regional meeting of PCCs and Chief Constables we are trying to get to the bottom of each force's appetite for regional collaboration. For us it is relatively easy: we need to collaborate. We will do this around more serious and complex crime, but will maintain our commitment to local policing through safer neighbourhood teams and local response.

We are committed to our three locations for custody and our local communications hub. Our strategic partnership with Wiltshire Council is paying dividends, especially around IT and estate. That leaves an awful lot of policing on which we can collaborate, and I hope we were clear to the project team that we were "in". Shuttle diplomacy continues ...

In the afternoon I had updates from two projects funded by my office. First the project with probation to support those released from short term custody. A good uptake from those in prison who would be eligible. It is about engaging with people when they want to, and getting to them before they return to established behaviours.

The second update was from **Fresh Moves** in Swindon which is a youth engagement project. I'm pleased that they **have** adapted to changes in demand. I'm particularly interested in the youth clubs they have set up and that they have been engaging with other projects in the county doing similar activities.

With the Chief and Martyn Underhill, the PCC from Dorset, I had an introduction to a charity called **Missing People**. They would like to expand their service into our region, so I expect we will hear more. This is an area of activity in which the Chief leads nationally at present on behalf of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO).

I was pleased to hear the Victims' Minister Damian Green announce that the Government is making available more money for victims. I was especially excited by the new money which is being set aside for **Sexual Assault Referral Centres** (SARCs). We have an excellent SARC in Swindon which serves the whole of Wiltshire, but I am giving thought to how we can get better provision in the south of the county.

Rounding off a busy day, I attended the **Wiltshire Air Ambulance** annual meeting in Devizes. It is sad to see our long association with the Air Ambulance finishing (because we will be joining the National Police Air Service in January 2015). But we will do all we can to support them in the transition period.

I nearly forget to mention that I started tweeting today. You can follow me at www.twitter.com/PCCWiltsSwindon

Thursday 27 February

Not long ago I visited Green Lane in Devizes which is the local mental health centre. Obviously **mental health** is an issue for the **police**, and readers will be aware that I recently signed the **Mental Health Concordat**.

I'm really pleased that the numbers of people with mental health issues being held in custody is falling. In fact the numbers are now at a level that each individual case can be analysed. I hope that the outcomes can

be shared at the [Health and Wellbeing Boards](#), and the practice will cease altogether. Good that no young people have been detained in custody this year.

After my monthly meetings with the leaders of the two councils, I held my quarterly Meet the Commissioner event in Chippenham Town Hall. Deputy Chief Constable Mike Veale reported on how Wiltshire Police is delivering my Police and Crime Plan. Acting Inspector Simon Wright reported on local policing matters. I was very pleased that Mark Davey from the [Youth Adventure Trust](#) was able to join me and tell us something about the good work they are doing in Wiltshire. There were lots of newspaper, online and radio mentions about the meeting, but the room was not packed. That said, if you are content why would you turn out on a cold, wet February evening?

Friday 28 February

Six am and it is another [Operation Harness](#) day. My first appointment is not connected to Op Harness, but is breakfast with the [Wessex Chambers of Commerce](#) in Bradford on Avon. The speaker was Tony Worgan, the editor of BBC Wiltshire, and I was pleased to ask him a question for once (as I am usually being questioned by his reporters and presenters). I asked whether he believed the local media had a responsibility to promote Wiltshire. There was a good answer from a public service broadcaster.

On to Trowbridge and then Southwick to join volunteers at the Community Speed Watch site, before going back to Bradford to join [Lorry Watch](#) on the historic Town Bridge. Only one lorry spotted while I was there and he had a Polish registration, so not sure how that will be enforced.

In the afternoon I was given a grilling by students at Bishop Wordsworth's School in Salisbury for their magazine. I was pleased that they were so prepared with their questions.

In the evening I joined officers for a briefing about the policing of Salisbury city centre that evening as part of Op Harness. Sgt Rich Goodman told his team that he wanted them to make the city as safe and welcoming as possible through to the early hours. They were tasked to visit as many licensed premises as possible to check for under-age drinkers and to deal swiftly with any outbreaks of trouble in the streets.

Then I moved on to Wilton Police Station where Sgt Dave Lennane briefed his team ahead of a night of patrolling of the Chalke Valley aimed at deterring rural crime. We then moved on to the wonderfully named Windwhistle Farm near Bishopstone where officers and Police Community Support Officers came together with farmers and gamekeepers for a mug of coffee before fanning out across the countryside.

If the farmers come across any suspicious activity, they quickly summon help. This is an especially good initiative which brings the Neighbourhood Policing Team together with volunteers who give up their time for the common good.

Home at 11pm, 17 hours after I left. Lie-in tomorrow?

CHARITIES, CLINICAL COMMISSIONING AND THE CONSTABULARY

Posted: Tuesday 11th March 2014

Monday 3 March

We are now planning for the next business crime forum. It is booked for Wednesday 22 October at the Corn Exchange in Devizes. As well as focusing on cyber crime, I'm keen that we have a session on how businesses can help with rehabilitation.

The Commissioner's Monitoring Board meetings seem to come around very quickly. In fact they are every two weeks, but time does seem to fly in this office. Very pleased that the finance team has got a firm finger on where required savings are due to come from. It is always worth remembering that savings of £4 million are required in 2014/15 and more than £3 million in the next year, even after the increase in the police and crime element of council tax.

There is probably a 'law' that states things you keep expand to use the available space. That is certainly the case on the police estate, with every nook and cranny being used to keep things. In order to deliver the estate strategy, I'm pleased the nettle has now been grasped and that there is a plan to sort out stored property being developed.

After two months of speaking at Area Boards, it is nice to return to the meet and greet session before the meetings. Chippenham Area Board was well attended and seven or eight people came up and made contact before the meeting, including Chippenham FM.

Tuesday 4 March

Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse (AAFDA) is a national charity based in Swindon. I've attended its last three annual conferences, but enjoyed a catch up in detail with Frank Mullane, who founded and runs the charity.

Then on to meet the Clinical Commissioning Group. I've said it before, but the link between health and crime is important to recognise, and by health I mean in its widest form. I think that what we are trying to achieve around Neighbourhood Watch and information exchange has a place in the health field as well.

A day late but an in-depth look at performance of the Constabulary. Although I attend the internal strategic board, I also look in depth at what is going on through the force reporting structures. This enables me to ask about the strategic direction in relation to various areas of crime.

Wednesday 5 March

An early drive across the plain to visit **Alabere**. This charity has grown a lot over recent years and operates on a much broader base than just Wiltshire. Inevitably the conversation got back to Maslow's hierarchy of needs, and the need for shelter. They run a good homeless service in Salisbury and it was interesting to hear the new work they are doing for veterans. As Wiltshire becomes a larger base with regiments based here, rather than moving around, so more soldiers will look on this as their home and this could lead to a potential increase in demand for the services of veteran support agencies in the county in years to come.

In the afternoon there was a preparatory meeting for the audit committee taking place in the next week or so.

Thursday 6 March

Juggling a wife in hospital and the Police and Crime Panel today. Meeting seems to go well and was sorry to hear one of the independent members was leaving due to family relocation outside the county. Malcolm Grubb made a valuable contribution to the committees' challenge role.

Friday 7 March

From tomorrow the **Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS)** and **Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs)** will be active in every police force across England and Wales. Wiltshire has been leading with these by taking part in the pilots, but we must remember that they are only tools in the box. This ties in with International Women's Day on Saturday and a focus on domestic abuse.

WELFARE FOR DOGS, FOUR SPEECHES IN A DAY, AND DOING MY BIT FOR SPORT RELIEF

Posted: Monday 24th March 2014

Monday 10 March

A day of briefings at the office: performance, freedom of information requests, finance, the commissioning of victim services ... and dogs. All worthy of comment, but the dogs are particularly interesting. Working with the Dogs Trust we are planning to set up a welfare visiting scheme, similar to the custody visiting scheme. The idea is for volunteers to check on the welfare of police dogs. Watch the press for further information.

Tuesday 11 March

I knew it was going to be a long day when I left the house at 6am. First stop was breakfast with the Wilton Chamber of Commerce. Not just the first stop but the first of four speeches I'm giving today. Very good company - and supportive too. I wouldn't be surprised to see an account in Valley News, as the editor chaired the event.

A big day in terms of victim services as we held a further Victims Forum at Sarum College in Salisbury. We were very lucky to be joined by Baroness Newlove, the Victims' Commissioner and I was pleased she sat in with the working groups. Interesting discussions around domestic violence and, in particular, the role that doctors and surgeries could play. Something for the Health and Wellbeing Boards to consider.

I often do interviews for Spire FM over the phone or when a reporter comes to the office. But today is the first day I have visited the studios in City Hall. They are very impressive and much larger than I had thought they would be.

On to Tisbury for a Community Safety Partnership meeting. It was well attended for a public meeting at 4pm. After a speech there were a lot of questions, both about my role and in particular about Community Speed Watch. I am glad that the scheme is back working again.

Heading north, the last engagement was with the Salisbury branch of the Federation of Small Businesses, which was meeting in the Bear Hotel in Devizes. I spoke about business crime and my second Business Crime Forum which is being held on Wednesday 22 October at the Corn Exchange in Devizes.

Wednesday 12 March

The Innovation Fund (mine not the Government's), gave some money for murals to be displayed under the bridge at Biss Meadows in Trowbridge. They are being produced by A Level art students at Clarendon College and I went this morning to see the progress. I was glad to see a strong Trowbridge theme.

Back in the office for an update on Community Speed Watch. Who would believe how much can be saved, both in time and money, by the use of postage-paid envelopes rather than a franking machine?

In the afternoon I presented papers on mental health and health in custody to the Swindon Health and Wellbeing Board. Both the Chief Constable and I are committed to the Mental Health Concordat and I hope all the other members will be as well. The numbers of people with mental health issues being held in custody is falling, but even one is one too many.

Thursday 13 March

A meeting of the Crime Beat Panel at the Wiltshire and Swindon Community Foundation. This group makes grants with the money made from selling goods under the Police Property Act. Grants of up to £3,000 are available and we made 11 grants. Both the High Sheriff and I look forward to visiting some of the projects. The formal announcements will be in the press soon.

On a similar theme I attended the Pride of Swindon awards in the afternoon, held at Steam. As I said in my speech, the people and groups that are celebrated in these awards are also those who help build strong communities. Strong communities have less crime and more inclusion. It is always an inspiring day and a privilege to take part.

In the evening I went down to Salisbury for the area board and held the usual networking session before a meeting which I suspect was dominated by planning issues.

Friday 14 March

A day in the office, with an update on the progress we are making on refreshing Neighbourhood Watch. Later, a meeting of the Commissioner's Monitoring Board. I was pleased that I have now been able to sign off the Neighbourhood Watch project, both the technology and staff. Good progress.

On the way home I went via Trowbridge to see PC Stuart Welch who is raising money for Splash. He was doing a seven hour static bike ride, so deserved a visit.

Saturday 15 March

My office runs the Independent Custody Visiting scheme and I try to meet the volunteers when possible. They have an annual training day at Police HQ on mental health so I popped in to say hello and thanks.

Later in the day I was playing pool for Sport Relief. The Melksham Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) put on the event at the Canberra youth centre from 10am to 6pm, with a lot of help from local traders. I've never really played pool, but my snooker and billiard skills from

WORKING TOGETHER ACROSS THE SOUTH WEST AND CLOSER TO HOME

Posted: Monday 24th March 2014

Monday 17 March

Early morning start to go to Exeter for our South West Region meeting of Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables. Very pleased that collaboration over forensics, led by Dorset with Devon & Cornwall, Avon and Somerset and ourselves continues to progress. We are now going to do a telephone conference every two weeks to continue to push collaboration. Pleased that the Chief Executive of the College of Policing, Alex Marshall, joined us for a Q&A session.

Tuesday 18 March

Briefing session with Jim Grant, the opposition leader at Swindon Borough Council, first thing in the morning.

Then it was on to a meeting of the Transformation Board at Wiltshire Council. A very good presentation about the collaboration between the council and Wiltshire Police and an update on the progress of collaborative projects. Speaking of collaboration, in the afternoon I sat in on the One Swindon Board. It was good to agree that we will share data. Let's hope the message passes down the line. There is a great similarity between the One Swindon Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Wednesday 19 March

An update morning, with a briefing on the commissioning of Independent Domestic Violence Advisors and victims services. Then a detailed performance review of the constabulary. Late afternoon there was a Wiltshire Public Service Board meeting, quite health orientated this time.

Thursday 20 March

Arrived at Marlborough Police Station at 8am for a briefing on a rural crime operation. Good to see the Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) joined by so many specials as well as colleagues from Wiltshire Council and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. They will be looking for all sorts of offences during the day, and expect to pull over quite a few vehicles. Very encouraged to speak to a special who expressed frustration over how long it took to become independent. Good attitude!

I would have gone out with the teams but had to be at the Wiltshire Health and Wellbeing Board to present a paper on health in custody. Pleased that the board will be concentrating on mental health issues at the next meeting.

I was very pleased to be able to stand in as the driver for the Filling Station charity this evening. I rather miss my Thursday evenings on the streets of Swindon. Some new faces, some well known and the same issues.

Friday 21 March

Very enjoyable meeting of the independent Audit Committee at Gablecross Police Station in Swindon. As well as the challenge they offer, they are also very supportive. At the end of the meeting they were given a presentation on how performance is monitored. I suppose most of the members come from a financial or commercial background, and they grasped it very quickly. The Chief Constable and I are going to be able to choose our own auditors in the future. I hope we can drive a better financial deal than when we were mandated.

I missed the attestation (or swearing in) of new officers in the afternoon. Good to see a further 14 constables joining the Chief's team.

Sunday 23 March

The annual Rule of Law service was held in Salisbury Cathedral. Judges, magistrates and civic leaders as well as the Deputy Lieutenant and of course the High Sheriff and visiting Sheriffs take part. This year is a big one for Salisbury with the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta. I must go and see the Salisbury copy some time. The collection was for the [Amber Foundation](#) which I visited just a week or so ago.

COMMUNITY TRIGGER, INNOVATION FUND AND FEEDBACK FROM HMIC

Posted: Wednesday 2nd April 2014

Monday 24 March

Shortly the Community Trigger will be implemented, by which a community can demand action if a trouble has not been addressed in their area. This morning I observed a meeting called by Swindon South MP Robert Buckland to address some neighbourhood problems in his area. Council and police attended and it was clear to me that the problem needed an action plan. This was exactly the sort of issue for which the Community Trigger is designed.

The Policy Exchange has published an interesting report called Future Courts. It reflects some of the ideas that Dorset PCC, Martyn Underhill and I shared with Minster for Policing, Criminal Justice and Victims, Damian Green a few months ago. It suggested that magistrates play a larger part in neighbourhood justice panels, which actually I don't support. The report also suggested that PCCs run the court estate. This is more interesting, as part of the report suggests that courts are held in police stations. This, of course, goes against our direction of travel in Wiltshire. However the concept of 'pop up courts,' using technology for data transfer and video links is worth looking at. We are already doing the review of out of court disposals therefore this was a good read.

As blog readers know, Monday tends to be a briefing day, sessions on freedom of information, performance and finance. Next week is the end of the financial year ...already! Furthermore I attended the networking session held by Devizes Area Board in Bromham. Quite a crowd was drawn by community awards being made.

Tuesday 25 March

My advisory panel for the Innovation Fund, Wiltshire Council Leader Jane Scott, Swindon Borough Council Leader David Renard and Rosemary Macdonald from the Community Foundation for Wiltshire & Swindon

sat for a couple of hours looking over applications. This was the final round and there were 51 applications. Actually several of the applications were for the extension of funding for existing projects and in the end the decisions were quite easy and unanimous. Twelve applicants were accepted and the full results are due to be announced on Thursday.

My final meeting of the day was with one of the Constabulary dog handlers. There is a move to set up a trust for retired police dogs, cunningly called WAGS (Wiltshire, Avon and Somerset and Gloucester.) This is part of the Tri Force arrangement and I'm happy to endorse it and encourage their fundraising.

Wednesday 26 March

Early morning today. Was standing at Junction 15 on the M4 for Op Harness. Today's activity involved officers from Roads Policing Unit at Wiltshire Police, along with staff from the Driver and Vehicle Standards agency and Her Majesty's Revenues and Customs (HMRC).

In the afternoon I had a monthly meeting with our strategic partners from Wiltshire Council, where we discussed staffing transfers and the estate. Good to see that the Corsham Campus is progressing well. Officers and staff are looking forward to moving. Later this week we will be opening tenders for the sale of the old site in Corsham, which I await with interest.

Thursday 27 March

This was another early morning. Had to drive to Bristol Zoo for a conference organised by the Home Office. The conference was to brief and engage partners about serious and organised crime. The key message was that all agencies have powers which are best used together to disrupt organised crime. I suppose one might reflect that nothing is new: Al Capone was brought to book for tax offences rather than violence.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) report on domestic violence published today. Nationally much is to be done. It would have been useful if the HMIC team had visited the OPCC in the preparation of the report. Several of the recommendations made for Wiltshire are part of the investment plan, and the investment that will be made using new and existing funding streams in the new year, especially around Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA). We can always do better and must read the report in that light.

In the afternoon I attended a meeting with those charged with the redesign of the estate, including the new custody suite in Salisbury. I have asked that the independent custody visitors are given an opportunity to comment on the designs.

Friday 28 March

Today was my first attendance at the Youth Offending Board Executive in Wiltshire, although the office has been on my behalf in the past. Several matters to take up in relation to the Constabulary engagement with the team, and I will be on the case at my Commissioners Monitory Board (CMB) on Monday. I hope to have a meeting soon with Wiltshire Council so I can understand the scene around the provision of youth services in the future.

Saturday 29 March

An enjoyable morning in the Town Hall in Devizes as Peter Allington is sworn in as the new High Sheriff. We also said thank you to William Wyldbore Smith for his service in the year. I know that we will see a lot more of him, as he is particularly interested in education and the part it can play in crime reduction.

Sunday 30 March

In the Market Square in Salisbury a Youth Market is being held. Forty stalls showing off the craft and initiative of young people as well as a stage for music acts. It is part of a national initiative and wouldn't it be great if similar events were held in our other market towns. Two more are planned for the summer. Good place to buy a Mother's Day present!

AN INSPECTOR CALLS ... AND A RESHUFFLE MEANS NEW NAMES ON THE DOORS

Posted: Friday 4th April 2014

Monday 31 March

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) is carrying out two inspections of the constabulary at the same time. I have been invited to meet the inspectors from both teams and I am glad to be getting a briefing this time on what they are looking at.

A little bit of free time in the diary, and that is a good thing because I'm working on revised appendices for my Police and Crime Plan. My Monday performance review and a meeting with my Independent Appeals Adjudicator, Allan Johns, to be briefed on complaints, will feed into my work on the appendices.

New faces at my Commissioner's Monitoring Board (CMB) in the afternoon because the Constabulary has had a reshuffle. I was pleased to welcome Kier Pritchard as Temporary Assistant Chief Constable and Zoe Durrant as Assistant Chief Officer for Business and People Development. Not only have people's roles changed but also where they sit, so I have had a short tour of the building, looking at the names on the doors.

The CMB looked at the HMIC report into domestic violence and the work that needs to be done by both the Constabulary and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) in reducing offences and building victims' confidence. I also had a briefing on Freedom of Information (Fol) requests made to the constabulary and to my office. The number of requests is extraordinary and the costs and time involved in processing them across the public sector must be frightening.

In the evening I was invited to speak at the Chippenham Rotary Club. I found out that the club has its own hall. It must surely be the only club (or one of the very few) in the county with a home of its own. Interesting to note that the venue, in the constituency of Lib Dem Duncan Hames, used to be the Liberal Hall.

Tuesday 1 April

I forgot to mention last week that I had the opportunity to visit Our Space, the new cafe for young people set up in Sussex Square, Swindon. Many of the young people I met there said that they would be "hanging about" if the cafe was not there. I was pleased to put some start-up money as part of an earlier round of my Innovation Fund. It will be interesting to compare and contrast this project with the BIOS mobile youth club over time. However, the latter does not have a pool table and I'm becoming something of an expert at the game.

After my enjoyable meeting with HMIC about the use of police time, I visited Sandlewood Court in Swindon. This is a mental health unit with both in and outpatient facilities. I was very impressed with the facilities and the Section 136 suite where those in crisis are held for assessment. I'm very pleased that Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership which runs the centre is allowing its suite to be used for the holding and assessment of young people. This is a much better place than custody, where I'm pleased to say no young person with mental health issues has been held this year. I was also impressed by the gym which is available for both current patients and those who have passed through, building confidence and inclusion.

Wednesday 2 April

Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service has announced that it is looking at merging with its Dorset counterpart. The chief fire officer gave me a briefing about what this might mean in practice. The fire and rescue service offers a great deal of public safety advice in the county and we agreed to work some more on this. I understand that public consultation will; be happening in the summer.

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary, Tom Winsor, has published his end of year report on policing, which includes some reflections on PCCs. An interesting read.

Thursday 3 April

Probation is being broken up and part will be run in future by community rehabilitation companies (CRCs). Wiltshire is part of Area 13, with Gloucestershire and Avon and Somerset. The contracts for the services are being awarded by the Ministry of Justice, and PCCs are not party to the contracts. Obviously the objective of the CRCs will have a large overlap with our roles, and we have had the opportunity to give some input to the workshops. I invited all the bidders to visit and talk about my objectives in the Police and Crime Plan. I hope that whoever wins realises that they are only one part of a bigger picture which needs to be joined up.

In my role as part of the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners reference group, I had a telephone meeting with colleagues to discuss a proposed annual conference for PCCs. Getting together is important, but it must be a working conference.

The final tranche of the Innovation Fund grants were announced today. **Twelve bidders shared around £315,000.** I have put in hand the evaluation of the projects, although it is far too early at this stage to make any reasonable judgement.

Friday 4 April

An opportunity over coffee first thing to read an NSPCC report called How Safe are Our Children. Interesting to note that, since 2010, there have been 84 reports published in support of early intervention. It suggests that there is much rhetoric, but money is still being spent on being "reactive" rather than "preventative". It

chimes with the Police and Crime Plan and the current HMIC inspection on use of police time, in which inspectors are also looking for evidence that the constabulary is working to reduce demand.

A second regional PCCs phone-in this morning. A bit more focused with an agenda, and we were able to action a couple of points of interest to us all. Early days and it would be better if we could see who we are talking to.

I met Neighbourhood Watch and the project team who are developing the plans for the county. Good work being done and I'm quite excited that this will be big news in the summer.

Out for dinner at Bowood this evening, so shoes polished and bow tie tied. End of a busy week and, unusually, nothing in the diary for the weekend.

A TANDEM RIDE, A FLURRY OF MEDIA INTEREST ABOUT SUPPORTING SEX WORKERS AND THOUGHTS ON THE FOI 'INDUSTRY'

Posted: Tuesday 15th April 2014

Monday 7 April

Just looking at the diary for the week it seems quite light. That is, of course, in terms of meetings and events, which is good as it will give me some time to spend in the office reading and writing. That said, Monday started with an interview at BBC Wiltshire in support of the Salvation Army in Swindon about a new service it is launching as part of the Recycles project. The idea is that homeless people at the Salvation Army's Lifehouse centre gain cycle repair and customer service skills. Customers benefit by being able to buy affordable restored bikes and by being able to use a professional repair service. Now there's the option of hiring a bicycle made for two. And so it was that, in the pouring rain, South Swindon MP Robert Buckland and I found ourselves [trying out the tandem](#) around the athletics track in Swindon to publicise the new venture. It reminded me of when I owned one when I was about 17 and I rode it all over Salisbury Plain. Slightly more difficult 40 years on.

I then went over to Coombe Castle's new factory and distribution centre in Melksham which was being opened by Princess Anne. Very interesting to see a family firm doing so much exporting out of Wiltshire. This was followed by another interview and some photos. It's been a bit of a press day.

Tuesday 8 April

A welcome "free" day, with only a detour to Calne Area Board on my way home.

Wednesday 9 April

Regular meetings today, starting early with the chair of the Police and Crime Panel, followed by a look at Constabulary performance and a review of the progress on the regional forensics project.

Thursday 10 April

Be careful what you wish for. Today looked light, but media interest in some of the Innovation Fund awards is dominating with BBC radio, South Today and Heart FM all wanting to speak about two projects to intervene in the lives of sex workers that I am funding. Actually some really positive messages and support from those who live in the affected areas who recognise that the sex workers need to be supported out of their lifestyles. Held an estates review meeting in the morning, primarily around the changes in Salisbury, before speaking at Swindon Rotary Club.

Following that I met Simon Evans who is delivering the Neighbourhood Justice Panels across the county. Good engagement from the police and we decided that an introduction to restorative justice for Wiltshire councillors needs to be arranged, in view of a successful presentation in Swindon.

After being filmed for BBC South Today, off to Westbury Area Board in [The Laverton](#), a splendid community venue. Really pleased that the area board wants to introduce [safe places](#) in the town.

Some evening reading as Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) has published its report on the [Strategic Policing Requirement](#), and how constabularies are doing in terms of compliance.

Friday 11 April

The HMIC report was 105 pages long and, whilst not specific to Wiltshire, it does highlight an area that the Chief Constable and I will need to discuss, especially as there are two further reports to come. The HMIC seem to be dominating my time at present.

A much better regional phone conference today, more focus and four out of five PCCs on the line. Good to share information and to know what we are all doing. I'm happy to "borrow" good ideas if they can work in Wiltshire and equally happy to give away ... except when it comes to governance.

Very pleased to be re-establishing my regular meetings with Zoe Durrant, Assistant Chief Officer Business & People Development, following her return from senior management training. Update on Freedom of Information is a regular meeting. It is an industry for both those who ask and for those who have to reply. In the first quarter of this year there have been more requests than in the whole of 2005. There were just over 600 requests to the Constabulary last year compared with 436 in 2010. It probably costs more than £200,000 a year to process the questions and supply the answers. Just think what this is costing the public sector as a whole.

In the afternoon I held the Commissioner's Monitoring Board, discussing insurance, the National Police Air Service, terms of reference for the Audit Committee and governance of regional projects. A good week, but by no means a "light" one.

COURTS, CUSTODY AND COLLABORATION

Posted: Wednesday 23rd April 2014

Monday 14 April

Beginning to think that as it is Monday it must be Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC)! First thing is a round the table discussion with HMIC on valuing the police, followed by a working lunch with the inspector and a tour of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in Trowbridge in the afternoon. How did it go? Well one has to wait for the reports to find out and I still don't get one in advance to check for accuracy. Anyway I suppose I should be glad that I have been invited to join the working group as one of the PCCs that is looking at the HMIC new PEEL process. What is PEEL? Police Efficiency, Effectiveness and Legitimacy. Watch this space.

The day with HMIC was broken by my quarterly update from the Head of Roads Policing. Any death on the road is a tragedy. In 2013 there were 23 deaths in 22 occurrences. In the first quarter of 2014 there have been three deaths. I understand that neither speed nor alcohol were factors in any of these. Our tri-force collaboration has just gone live and cross border working has started, with no significant issues to date.

Tuesday 15 April

The new Director of Public Prosecutions held a meet and greet in Portsmouth which the Chief and I attended along with PCCs from Hampshire and Dorset. Very interesting to hear her views and many things, not least that she wanted to hear more from victims. I'm troubled that the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) proposes to survey victims. Given that both the police and PCCs already do, this might be one survey too much so suggested that they subcontract to the PCC and consolidate their questions to the existing set.

Wednesday 16 April

Following his swearing in, the new High Sherriff Peter Addington has hit the ground running. He came in this morning to talk about some of the groups that have been supported by the PCCs Fund within the Community Foundation. He will be visiting some in the coming months and also supporting the Police Cadets.

Food banks have been in the news this week which was serendipitous as today I have a long standing diary engagement to visit the Trussell Trust in Salisbury. It was a very informative visit and confirmed that it is an organisation which challenges. It challenges why people need food banks, but also challenges users to ensure that they do not become dependent upon them.

Just around the corner to the Salisbury Law Courts where the Chief and I were invited to a meeting with judges and defence solicitors. Communications in this area about changes to the estate in Salisbury have not been as good as they might have been. I expect it would have been easier if I was a member of the Local Criminal Justice Board, but anyway we gave them all an outline of the progress and the timeline. There will be a period during which prisoners will be held at Melksham, but the essential thing is that there will be new custody unit in Salisbury.

Thursday 17 April

As we do more commissioning for victims (we are already overseeing some of the existing service provided by Victim Support) they came to update me today, followed by a meeting to consider whether to support Eve's Law. This challenges the need to give addresses in open court, especially when there is a history of domestic violence, which may be in unrelated cases or civil proceedings, but put the victim back at risk. Happy to support.

Not unconnected, there are times when it is not appropriate for victims and witnesses to come to court. We already have a system by which prisoners and the police can give evidence over a 'live link' from our three custody units. This is now to be expanded so victims and witnesses can use a similar link from both Salisbury and Swindon, but not from the custody unit!

In the afternoon we hosted a networking session for the recipients from the final round of the Innovation Fund. The organisations have been covered all week on Wiltshire Radio. It was great to meet them and talk about what they are going to do.

Now off for Easter.

SEEKING BETTER CARE FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

Posted: Tuesday 29th April 2014

Tuesday 22 April

The Easter break was very welcome and involved a combination of digging the vegetable plot, hanging wallpaper for my daughter and suffering from a cold (or was it flu?).

I very much enjoyed attending the service for Easter which was recorded in Malmesbury Abbey on Saturday evening by BBC Wiltshire. I managed to keep the diary clear for today, which was interpreted as me not being in the office. In the event it was a cunning plan to shut the door, read and write.

Wednesday 23 April

The second Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC) summit was held in Taunton. Before that we had a private meeting with NHS England to talk about our desire to have a better provision for the victims of sexual assault in the south of the county. With regard to the summit itself, the new commissioning arrangements continue to move along slowly. It seems to me that there are three aspects: the SARC as a supported building, the Independent Domestic Violence Adviser (IDVA) service that is provided both in the SARC and the community and the forensic examination aspect. I hope that PCCs will be the commissioners of the IDVA service in future as this seems to make sense for the wider community. I'm always pleased when our SARC is held up as a good example.

Thursday 24 April

An 8am briefing in Salisbury on Operation Harness in the south of the county. It is centred on drug warrants and counterfeit currency. Accompanied police and Spire FM on a drugs raid in the centre of the city. Good support from the neighbours who were pleased to see positive action. Follow this link for [the results](#).

By lunchtime I was in Swindon for the [launch of the BIOS van](#). This mobile youth club was one of the projects that was funded by my Innovation Fund. Since then it has attracted a great deal of local support in Swindon and has already been out doing its work. I hope to join it soon and look forward to the evaluation. Seems to me that it might be a model worthy of wider use in our county.

Friday 25 April

Very pleased to meet the chief executive of a new charity called [Serve On](#). It is for ex service personnel and seeks to make use of their skills. As well as international emergency activity, they also want to work with disaffected young people and offenders. I wish them luck and I'm happy to give my support.

The latest crime figures have been published. They suggest that crime in Wiltshire is continuing to drop at a steady pace. However, I continue to have concerns about the drugs data. Something for the Commissioner's Monitoring Board to discuss.

Saturday 26 April

If there is one thing that is guaranteed to bring on the rain it is me joining the street pastors on patrol. I accompanied the Warminster team who have been operational for about three years. We met at 11pm and signed off just after three am as the last licensed premises was closing. All good humour in Warminster, but the driving rain kept most people off the streets (except us).

GETTING FUNDS IS TURNING INTO A LOTTERY

Posted: Wednesday 7th May 2014

Monday 28 April

A morning of meetings, looking at such things as the performance of the constabulary, and then a meeting of my Monitoring Board. Much discussion about the new custody unit at Salisbury and agreement that the other sites in the city should be known as Bourne Hill Police Station and Five Rivers Police Station. We have settled on custody "units" rather than any other name, so Melksham and Swindon will be re-signed in due course. We finalised our bids to the Home Office Innovation fund, most of which are regional. Bids to the Victims Fund were also discussed. Funding is increasingly looking like a lottery. There is a similarity to running a charity ... always looking for money through grants. I gave an update following the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) summit in Taunton and on the emerging plan for a vulnerable victims suite in the south of Wiltshire.

Unusually, Chippenham held their area board in the afternoon, with a focus on older people. I went along for the networking session, before heading back for an interview with BBC Wiltshire on the recruitment of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). We need a further 15 PCSOs for the next intake.

Tuesday 29 April

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) hosted a full day conference in Gloucester on inspections and performance. I'm glad that I've been invited to join a national working group because it concerns me how much inspection is going on. Perhaps I should find an office for them here in Devizes. Also we need to get through to them the change in the landscape. HMIC still see the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner as a force cost.

Wednesday 30 April

My PCC colleague in Avon and Somerset, Sue Mountstevens, hosted a conference on the crisis in mental health. As the practitioners cover both of our areas we were invited to attend. I have to say that the crisis provision does vary across the region, but I was pleased that we were up at the top. However there is still much to be done. Having a friend who is using the service at present has given me an unwelcome opportunity to hear about it first hand.

Thursday 1 May

A big day for vulnerable people, especially children, as the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), opens. This is based in Trowbridge and brings together all those agencies which are involved in safeguarding. There is no longer an excuse about sharing information as everyone sits in the same room and they all work together. Very pleased that Wiltshire and Swindon are integrating around this, and there is still room for other agencies to join as appropriate.

Over the next few weeks I will be seeing many of those supported by my Innovation Fund, and today it was Alabaré. They will be providing accommodation for runaways, where it is not appropriate for them to return home. I think this is a service which is welcomed by custody staff as custody is certainly not a place where they should be.

The final meeting of the Community Speed Watch project board. This is now "business as normal", once the final actions of the meeting are delivered. The next event will be the annual meeting, which I hope will be a very positive affair.

Friday 2 May

A review of the risk register. As we start again for the new financial year, the existing risk score become the base line for the new year, and the reviews will now revert to being part of the bi-weekly Commissioner's Monitoring Board meetings. In the afternoon I was in Salisbury Law Courts to be interviewed by BBC South Today about delays in court. Our provision of video links between cells, courts and victim suites will improve the service.

Saturday 3 May

I have been driving past the signs for Downton Cuckoo Fair for years. Because the Salisbury Spectacular is not being repeated this year, we thought it would be a good place for public engagement in the south of the county. It is a great event and very popular with around 20,000 people visiting. We didn't speak to them all, but it was a great day (albeit a long one) with lots of conversations.

Sunday 4 May

Whilst we were at the Cuckoo Fair around 500 people were involved in the Wiltshire Cycling Sportive starting at Five Rivers. The event went professional on Sunday with the centre moving to Wilton and I was pleased to join Wiltshire Council leader Jane Scott and some of her colleagues at this great event. Very well organised and I don't think the public road users were very inconvenienced and certainly in all the villages through which the race passed there was lots of interest.

Monday 5 May

A Bank Holiday and I'm having one too!

GETTING IN TOUCH WITH THE INNOVATORS

Posted: Thursday 15th May 2014

Tuesday 6 May

It was enjoyable to have had at least one day of the long weekend to myself.

Planning for the new Salisbury Custody Unit continues and the project team gave a briefing today to Chief Constable Pat Geenty and me. There continue to be challenges around the process. Just like moving house,

there are always a multitude of difficulties which have to be addressed whilst not losing sight of the objective, which in this case is to provide robust policing for Salisbury and a custody unit for the south of the county.

After that meeting I attended part of the autism training session being given by SEQOL, a Swindon-based community interest company funded to the tune of £29,500 through my innovation fund. The project focuses on enhancing the skills of frontline staff in their relationships with offenders who have, or may have, autism. The University of the West of England will be involved in evaluating the project.

After lunch Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service came to talk about the delivery of another project I have supported through the Innovation Fund. First Aid for Young Drivers will provide five sessions of three and a half hours for groups of 15 young people aged 17-25 in south Wiltshire to promote safer driving and training to prevent accidents and equip young people with practical first aid skills.

I have regular meetings with the chair of the independent audit committee. Bill Fishlock met Clive Barker (Assistant Chief Officer/Chief Finance Officer) and me to talk about their work plan and the next meeting's agenda.

The manager of the Swindon Sexual Assault Referral Centre (known as SARC) came to give me a briefing. I'm especially interested in the rape support line, having read in an NHS England report that Wiltshire and Swindon don't have one. Not quite true, but I hope we can promote it more widely, even within NHS England

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Wednesday 7 May

Another recipient of Innovation Fund money came to brief me, but they also brought a camera crew along. Circles South West received £78,739 to train community volunteers to support sex offenders returning from prison to the community. A circle comprises four or five community volunteers who are trained, supported and supervised by professionals. The sex offender is referred by their probation or police offender manager and they volunteer to join the circle. The circle meets frequently for 12 – 18 months, assisting the core member to establish an independent non-offending lifestyle.

The aim is to provide social support, improve social and life skills and for the offender to be involved in suitable education, training, employment or voluntary work in a bid to stop them re-offending. The Innovation Fund money will allow for Circles South West to run six Wiltshire circles a year, supporting 12 high risk sex offenders and the communities they live in. It will involve recruiting and training about 60 volunteers, who will be managed by a part-time co-ordinator. I was very pleased to do a piece to camera about why I wanted to fund the service.

In the afternoon I attended the Swindon Health and Wellbeing Board .

Thursday 8 May

Following the theme of the week of meeting the beneficiaries of the Innovation Fund, today I spoke to National Ugly Mugs over the phone and the Nelson Trust came in.

National Ugly Mugs received £5,000. The organisation aims to reduce crime and protect vulnerable people by improving the safety of sex workers and their access to justice. The National Network of Sex Workers project identified the need for the scheme and a pilot, funded by the Home Office, was run. Since then, individual police forces have each been providing money for the scheme to provide intelligence about crime against sex workers.

Sex workers are often targeted by serial sexual predators who use them as test victims because they believe the victim will not report the incident to the police for fear of reprisal. More than 700 incidents have been reported since the scheme began with less than 25 per cent willing formally to report the crime to the police. These include 122 rapes, 60 sexual attacks and 305 acts of violence. The majority (95 per cent) allow us to share the intelligence with the police and the Serious Crimes Analysis Section (part of the National Crime Agency) anonymously but to provide all the information about the perpetrator. This project will provide for a training event and support for Wiltshire Police officers and further support for the project to reach sex workers across Wiltshire and Swindon.

The Nelson Trust received £34,382 to employ a sex work outreach worker. The Manchester Road area of Swindon is known to be a place where sex workers operate. Aside from kerb crawling in the area, which presents a risk to local women and girls, there are a range of anti-social behaviours which represent a threat to local residents and businesses. The most vulnerable are the sex workers themselves who are at risk of rape, sexual assault, violence, trafficking, robbery and a range of serious health problems associated with sex work and substance misuse. Home Office research recognises outreach work as one of the most effective ways to address street sex working.

The grant will be used to employ a full-time sex work outreach worker (SWOW) who will liaise between the Swindon Sex Worker Forum (and its partners) and women sex workers. It is anticipated that between 20 and 30 women will be provided with support. The ultimate goal of the project will be to move women away from sex work, although this is only likely to apply to the minority. Other support will focus on assessing and dealing with priority issues which might include physical or sexual health, drugs and alcohol etc to minimise the impact on the women and the local community. The service will be based at the ISIS Women's Centre in Swindon, a partnership between the Nelson Trust and Wiltshire Probation Trust which serves the whole of Wiltshire.

I also had briefings on complaints and performance, which slipped from their usual Monday slot due to the holiday.

Then it was off to the Warminster Area Board. Very happy to hear that the SAFE places scheme for vulnerable people is rolling out there.

Friday 9 May

Briefings in the morning on human resources issues and Freedom of Information requests before addressing a Ministry of Justice conference for those organisations who want to provide services to the new Community Rehabilitation Companies. I hope I gave them a flavour of what I think we need in Wiltshire, but I guess most know as they are established and already providing the service.

The Chief Constable has created a new post for a superintendent entitled "Crime Prevention" and so I spent the afternoon with Marion Deegan reviewing my Police and Crime Plan and the Chief's Delivery Plan as she gets to grips with the sheer breadth and volume of her new portfolio. I think we will be working very closely together.

SHOWING OFF OUR NEW WAYS OF WORKING

Posted: Wednesday 21st May 2014

Monday 12 May

Pleased to welcome my PCC colleague from Avon and Somerset, Sue Mountstevens, to Monkton Park in Chippenham. The meeting was about regional collaboration, but it gave us an opportunity to show off the co-location of Wiltshire Police with Wiltshire Council. As you would expect there were not many officers in (they were out and about on duty), but the two she spoke to were very supportive of the new ways of working (though they did add that they had been sceptical before the move). What struck me was the value they placed on working with colleagues from Wiltshire Council and on sharing information with them where appropriate. They also liked the kitchen.

Back to headquarters to chair the Commissioner's Monitoring Board (CMB). Agenda items today included the Salisbury Custody Unit, an application for funding to the Ministry of Justice and a presentation on the results of the most recent public opinion survey. I am pleased that the new build custody unit is still on course for the end of 2015. Interesting that in the unprompted question about what sort of crime and anti-social behaviour concerns people, "teenagers hanging around" still tops the poll at 19 per cent.

The discussion at CMB was a good preparation for speaking to Salisbury City Council about the custody and policing proposals. This is in advance of the public meeting next Monday at City Hall. The issues raised were dealt with, but were mainly about planning rather than policing and there will be consultation on that in the summer.

A drive back across the plain to speak to the Wanborough Village Assembly, with many familiar faces in the audience and, for me, a familiar offering of the "My PCC job" talk.

Tuesday 13 May

About four or five PCCs have been invited to join a working group set up by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) about the new PEEL inspections, so an early start to get to London. The session was chaired by HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary, Tom Winsor, and we worked in four small groups. I thought it was a well structured day and certainly gained the impression that HMIC was listening to the concerns of PCCs. We have principal objectives in common, however PCCs have an electoral mandate and the HMIC does not inspect us, so it is not surprising that there is a tension to be managed. I think the College of Policing has a lot to offer, and certainly have no problem with HMIC inspecting against professionally agreed standards or procedures sponsored by the college. We all pressed for notice to be taken of costs in recommendations made by HMIC. That said, perhaps they do not have the skill to calculate such operational costs.

Wednesday 14 May

Regional meeting hosted by Gloucestershire Constabulary at their magnificent headquarters. Also a chance to see their new custody unit. They have opted for central provision, whereas we are sticking with three units around the county, with a commitment to build a new unit in Salisbury once Wilton Road Police Station has closed. That's localism. Updated on the regional forensics project, the tri-force collaboration and the National Police Air Service. We also agreed to put some funding into making regional work a reality. We keep talking but outcomes are slow. That said, it is better to be talking than not.

Thursday 15 May

Performance review in the morning and then Mayor Making in Devizes in the evening.

Friday 16 May

Technology working well as I joined a video conference from my front room at home. We were discussing the public meeting on Monday in Salisbury and finalising the speaking roles etc. Would be good to try more meetings this way.

I was in Swindon for the unveiling of the Pride of Swindon Award winners in the Library, prior to a "wash up" meeting in the Mayor's Parlour. Good to see the winners again, and troubling that one, an elderly man, has been bitten by a dog which was being walked near his home. I hope the owner is identified through the appeal that has been made.

Thanks to Swindon Borough Council I can now borrow their offices for meetings, which facility I used in the afternoon.

In the evening I joined a Question Time type panel for Flame FM. Being election time all parties had to be represented which led to a large group. Most of the questions were about Europe and not very much on crime and policing. Anyway an enjoyable hour and an excuse to have a meal out with Mrs Mac.

MAY 19TH - 22ND

Posted: Friday 30th May 2014

Monday 19May

Wiltshire Police are hosting officers from overseas Police Forces (Brunei etc) and at the start of their week there was a short presentation on Wiltshire Police and an official welcome. I didn't get much time to talk to them, but they were interested in the fact that I was 'elected' and that I held public meetings. In fact, the day is somewhat dominated by the meeting this evening in Salisbury on the future provision of policing in the city.

A call from John Glen to brief him was followed by a meeting with the Chair of the Police and Crime Panel. Following the elections in Swindon and new posts in the County, the makeup of the panel will be different in the new year.

The Salisbury public meeting was not that well attended. There were a surprising number of officers and staff, but as far as the public were concerned, the major issue was around the planning issues on the engine sheds site. This is very understandable and whilst we were able to give some reassurance, it will be looked at further during the planning applications.

Tuesday 20May

Early start with BBC following up on the meeting in Salisbury. Major comment seemed to be that the meeting was poorly attended. There was lots of publicity, so perhaps people now know the answers to their questions, which is what we undertook to do at the last meeting.

Briefings on proof of age for licensed and mental health concordat before catching the bus to Salisbury and on to the Police Federation Conference in Bournemouth. Good to catch up with the local reps.

Wednesday 21 May

A relatively late night with the Federation and early morning train to London to the APCC conference. Good presentations by Norman Lamb, minister for Care and Support and by Norman Baker, the minister of State for Crime Prevention. Pleased that they also stayed for questions which was very useful. Generally a useful day, but had to catch early afternoon train to Chippenham for meeting with John Thompson from Wiltshire Council and to attend the Public Service Board, where I was presenting the Mental Health Concordat. A quick cup of coffee at the Wootton Bassett Area Board before home, about 48 hours after I left!

Thursday 21May

A full day of meetings starting with an update on victim's commissioning and our emerging victims bureau. This was followed by a meeting with the Neighbourhood Watch working group and then straight into the Force Ethics board.

Very pleased that the High Sherriff was able to join me in the shortlisting for the Neighbourhood Awards. Comments from others awaited, but I think we know where we are. Very useful to read the citations and to get see what activities the public value.

Mental Health Concordat again at the Health and Wellbeing board in Wiltshire. Mental Health was the theme of the day, but sudden realisation that the ambulance service are not at either the H&WB or the public service board. Further to that I have never met them!

Friday 22 May

Usual regional phone in at 8.30, followed by the Monitoring Board. On the agenda today: National Police Aviation Service, Police Stations, PCC Funding, Governance, Victims, Restorative Justice and Youth Engagement.

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