

Melksham Community Area Board

June 2014



1. Neighbourhood Policing

Sergeant:	James Williams
Town Centre:	PC Kane Fulbrook-Smith PCSO Helen Wilson PCSO Christopher Pugh
Rural North:	PC Barry Dalton PCSO Janet Gould PCSO Maggie Ledbury
Rural South:	PC Emily Thomas PCSO Rose Baldock

2. NPTs - Current Priorities & Consultation Opportunities:

Up-to-date details about Neighbourhood Policing Teams including team membership, current priorities and forthcoming community consultation events can be found on our Wiltshire Police Website.

□ Visit the website at: www.wiltshire.police.uk

Priorities:

- 1: Antisocial Behaviour – Eden Grove, Whitley
- 2: Antisocial Behaviour – King George 5th playing fields
- 3: Antisocial Behaviour – Aggressive begging in Melksham Town centre
- 4: Rural Thefts

3. Police and Crime Commissioner: Mr Angus Macpherson

PCC website: www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk

4. Local Issues and crime:

Since my last report to the Area Board in April the overall trend for crime is one of reduction. The figures in the chart below were updated on the 6th June 2014.

The recent incidents where two Melksham residents were stabbed to the leg, at different times and locations caused me concern and the chatter on social media reflects this. Offences of this type are very rare and Melksham has not had this type of crime for a very long time. Arrests were made for both offences and enquiries by our Criminal Investigation team continue. Your local team have increased patrols and we utilise other resources such as those from the Response teams and Tri – force collaboration to support our efforts. Other violent offences linked to the night time economy remain low and we have an effective working relationship with the pubs and food outlets. Membership of pubwatch continues to grow and has been instrumental to our preparation for the World Cup. There have been 5 violent crimes in Melksham linked to licensed premises since the 1st May this year.

While reductions around both types of burglary is strong for the whole sector there were five incidents over the last spring break week involving residents who went on holiday in their caravans were targeted. The absence of a caravan usually parked on a drive can be an indicator of an empty home. If

you find yourself in a similar situation consider using caravan storage elsewhere or while away ask a neighbour to park a vehicle on your drive, open and close curtains for your and put internal lights on a timer. Alarms and exterior security lighting should also be considered.

We have had a couple of catalytic converters stolen from the underside of vehicles. These items are of a relatively high scrap value. Cages can be purchased which fix around the converter and assist in preventing an attack. Prices are in the region of £50 which is significantly lower than the £350+ to replace. Parking close to buildings and in well lit areas can also deter thieves. Valuable items were stolen from a couple of vehicles where items were left on display.

The volume increase in the category of violence against the person unfortunately involves domestic incidents and is an area across Wiltshire that we are working to reduce.

ED Melksham NPT	Crime				Detections*	
	12 Months to May 2013	12 Months to May 2014	Volume Change	% Change	12 Months to May 2013	12 Months to May 2014
Victim Based Crime	1244	1091	-153	-12.3%	24%	28%
Domestic Burglary	70	37	-33	-47.1%	4%	11%
Non Domestic Burglary	163	65	-98	-60.1%	1%	9%
Vehicle Crime	116	98	-18	-15.5%	5%	15%
Criminal Damage & Arson	257	221	-36	-14.0%	28%	24%
Violence Against The Person	249	288	+39	+15.7%	47%	38%
ASB Incidents (YTD)	923	754	-169	-18.3%		

Wiltshire Police are engaging in a Summer Drink Drive campaign to run in line with the Football World Cup. With many matches finishing late in to the evening we would advise against getting behind the wheel of a car after drinking alcohol. Alcohol can seriously affect the judgement of drivers and offenders who are caught are dealt with robustly by the courts. The likelihood of losing your license and receiving a hefty fine will just be the start as your day to day life without a driving licence suddenly becomes more difficult. It is plain and simple do not drink and drive.

If you know of anyone who is drink driving or intends to, Wiltshire Police operate a dedicated drink drive hotline which you can access by calling 101 then select option 4. You may be saving a life.

Take reasonable steps to prevent becoming a victim of crime. Lock your property away, record serial numbers on www.immobilise.com take photos of your valuable property for future reference and add additional security measures to your houses and outbuildings. Do not leave valuable property in cars.

Matthew Armstrong
Sector Inspector
Devizes Melksham Pewsey