

RWB & Cricklade Area Board Community Safety Group Meeting

Friday February 9th 2024

1200-1300 via Teams

1. Chief Constable Catherine Roper (CCCR)

Wiltshire Police is still in ENGAGE, improvements to date noted and the force is recognised for making progress. CCCR wants the force to be shooting for the stars, so need to keep improving. The operating model has changed. Fewer response teams but more to bolster front line services.

Need consistency across the County. The number of proactive officers has increased to focus on problem solving such as knife crime and ASB. There is now a dedicated Burglary Team.

The number of arrests is rising, ASB is reducing and also an increase in Road Policing Unit activity.

A number of questions were raised.

Key Areas for 2022

- Strategic Framework
- Improving Control Room
- Improve support for victims of crime
- Improve quality of investigations

Would CCCR look to increase the powers of PCSOs?

There has historically been a problem with eg arrests due to a lack of police officers. There are now 1200 officers in the force, so there should be less of a problem. That said, the decision regarding additional powers is not in the gift of CCCR. Any changes would need to be agreed with the unions (Unison), some PCSOs do not want extra powers, some do. There is an ongoing review, CCCR will look at the outcome of the review.

Should the role of Police and Crime Commissioner be retained?

The role of PCC is enshrined in law, to be the voice of the people and hold the police to account. Philip Wilkinson is absolutely holding CCCR to account.

How is Wiltshire Police dealing with Domestic Abuse as Domestic Abuse seems to be 1 in 5 crimes hence is something that needs to be looked at and stopped early on.?

Domestic Abuse and Domestic Violence is a priority for Wiltshire Police. Officers are required to take positive action in response to reports. This includes a whole range of actions, including referrals and arrests. The whole force has been trained on DA to be more investigatively curious. There has been an increase in arrest rates.

CCCR is national lead on Children and Young People. Practical support and signposting is offered, also referrals to MASH if required. Historically the impact on children was not understood.

There has been a failure in Wiltshire regarding Claire's Law – this has been investigated.

The education system has to include how to prevent unacceptable behaviour.

A "vulnerability centre" is being considered.

There is an annual conference on DA (Queen Camilla is patron).

There are CPS delays across all areas in bringing cases to court.

DA/DV also happens to men, but predominantly still women and children who are reporting.

CCCR would ask that **anyone who is a victim of anything should come forward**. The police need to rebuild trust so that people feel that reporting is worthwhile.

Trauma Bears

People in Purton area have been knitting trauma bears and are looking for an outlet. There are many parts of the police force who keep a stock of these so all welcome.

Increased visibility

A compliment was given about the notable increase in police presence both physically through the community engagement events and also the increased Social Media updates.

People feel happier that "something is being done" to tackle eg speeding issues, they share the SM posts and complaints to the PC have dropped.

Inspector Edwards explained that the NPT is now tasked with getting out and about more.

There is much greater collaboration now between the various police units.
There will be a FACEBOOK LIVE event for this area on February 20th where you can ask any questions.
The RWB NPT Community Commitments can be found here :-
https://www.wiltshire.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/media/downloads/wiltshire/about-us/engaging-with-communities/communitycommitment_rwb.pdf

RWB Town Council

Positive partnership working taking place, especially with RWB Academy kids on the edge and The Rise Trust.

A request was made for improved progress reports on ongoing cases as people think nothing is happening ,

A question was raised as to whether or not a Police Cadet for is being considered. CCCR would like to do more with Cadets but no firm plans as yet.

Mini Police is working well at St Barts Academy, having a huge impact.

Coercive Behaviour

This is not included in DA/DV

What should somebody do if they feel an investigation was flawed?

Raise a complaint to PCC.

Will the police align Broad Hinton and Winterbourne Bassett into the RWB Area along Area Board boundaries?

A recent review has just happened and this was not picked up, no plans in the near future.

Neighbourhood Watch

There is a very good relationship between NW and the Police.

In summary – Policing is by consent, and trust and confidence needs to be rebuilt with the Police after some recent incidents.

AB thanks CCCR for coming along and being so open and honest in her discussions.

2. Future Meetings:-

Second Friday of the month 1200-1300

March 8th -Darren Ambrose, Wiltshire Police Burglary Unit

A suggestion was made to include Parking as a future topic.

Present

Bucknell, Allison	Wiltshire Councillor, Lyneham (Chair)
Champion, Mary	Wiltshire Councillor, RWB North
Shendie Green	Parish Councillor, Lyneham and Bradenstoke
Diana Kirby	Parish Councillor, Tockenham
Rose Love	Parish Clerk, Lydiard Tregoze
Kevin Woolnough	Parish Councillor, Tockenham
Clr Jonathan Hill - Cricklade	Town Councillor, Cricklade TC
Mark Hopkins	Chief Officer, RWB TC Parish Councillor, Broad Hinton and Winterbourne
Candace Gaisford	Bassett
Andy Corbett	Parish Councillor Purton
Jim Reid (Guest)	Neighbourhood Watch, Purton

Lay, Jacqui
Mike Sharp
Howard Chandler
Gareth Edwards
Catherine Roper

Wiltshire Councillor, Purton
Parish Councillor, Lydiard Millicent
Neighbourhood Watch, RWB
Inspector, Wiltshire Police
Chief Constable, Wiltshire Police

Apologies

Steve Bucknell
Ron Glover
Pat Farrow

Wiltshire Councillor, RWB East
Parish Councillor, Lyneham & Bradenstoke PC
Town Councillor, RWB