

Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board

Community Safety Forum Notes –9th April 2021

Meeting chaired by Cllr Allison Bucknell
Notes by Cllr Allison Bucknell

1 Welcome & Introductions

Cllr Allison Bucknell welcomed everyone, especially Inspector James Brain who will be replacing Insp Doug Downing from next week.

2. Rural Crime

PCs Emily Thomas and Peter Simmonds from the Rural Crime Team (local officer Mark not able to join us)

3 PCs and 1 Sgt across the County.

Cover areas of crime including:-

- Badgers
- Raptor Poisoning
- Endangered Species (CITES)
- Bats
- Livestock Thefts
- Equine offences – fly grazing, tack theft . A horse rider watch scheme should be starting shortly with volunteers
- Heritage Crime – Illegal Metal Detecting / Church lead theft
- Flytipping
- Fuel and machinery theft
- Hare coursing / poaching
- Illegal fishing (currently closed season)

Work with other areas of the police force and other partners – most officers have undergone some online rural crime training so will have a basic overview.

Emily and Peter are trained Police Officers with a passion for animals. There are around 33 other wildlife trained officers in the County and always more required.

Interesting new scheme with Smiths Developments of Gloucester – the **Bunding project** aimed to prevent access to areas where hare coursing is prevalent. Smiths will provide clean soil and lorries free of charge to create bund (will charge for wildflowers if required).

People in rural areas asked to get to know their local farmers – a recent incident, a local person helped the thief to remove sheep from their garden thinking the thief was helping the farmer.

Q: Is there a special number for Rural Crime Team?

A: All crimes to be reported through normal channels, RCT will be contacted internally if appropriate

Q: How do you report back to the community about your work?

A: The team has it's own Press officer

Q: What about the rise in Dog Thefts

A: This is an emotive subject for the public, and has always happened to a lesser degree. There is no evidence to support the public concern and many posts on SM are from abroad.

Advice – if the SM post is not from the Police then it is unlikely to be local so trust the police PR>
There is a Tactical Lead on Dog Thefts – Insp Gill Hughes (Trowbridge) who is collating info and will report back.

Action: Can the Police help with better PR to settle the public perception ? James will speak to Gill

Comment from Jim Reid – there was some PR after the discussion at the previous meeting.

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3. Police update

Inspector James Brain (James) introduced himself.

He is already Community Policing Team inspector for Chippenham, Corsham and Calne, and will be taking over RWB, Malmesbury and Cricklade but will NOT be in charge of Response – this is moving to a different inspector.

He has been a frontline, uniformed Police Officer since 2002 and in Wiltshire since 2009 (in Chippenham since 2020).

The past 12 months have seen unprecedented challenges however the police are now working more closely than ever with partners, which is a good thing.

Acting Inspector Kate Smith (Kate)

The police have seen a slight increase in demand.

The recent swan killing has generated a lot of interest.

ASB is on the increase (seasonal and Lockdown relaxation)

Despite much traction on Social Media, Dog Theft locally is NOT on the increase

PC Liam Currant (Liam)

Has been visiting licensed premises prior to reopening on Monday to make sure that they are all ready – looking good so far

Q: What will be the police's approach to COVID breaches?

A: Still Educate, Engage, Enforce but people have had plenty of time to get used to this so will Enforce more quickly if any issues

Q: What will be the police's approach to local policing when Lockdown restrictions removed?

A: (Insp Brain) -The force has a Tactical Adviser Lead for COVID who analyses the legislation , there will be a central strategy / governance which will then be rolled out locally. So too early to say at the moment as it will be a step-by-step approach

4 DWFRS update

Unable to attend due to work commitments

5. Community Roundup

Representing...	Name		
Purton	Cllr Jim Reid	✓	Stated that there is a good relationship between the police and Purton PC – thank you.
Braydon	Clerk		
Broad Town	Clerk Emna Diamant		
Clyffe Pypard	Cllr John Hughes	ap	
Cricklade	Cllr Angela Jensen	✓	Appreciate the support from the extra PCSOs. Cricklade Leisure Centre(CLC) is now owned by the Town Council and looking forward to having Police drop ins at CLC now that the Police Station is closed and on the market
Latton	Cllr Kevin Johnson	✓	Not much crime but SPEEDING. Kevin made an impassioned plea for more support, not just CSW but real police cars. James said that he was the Tactical Lead for CSW previously and this is a much valued service. Kate and Liam promised that there would be police presence over the next few days.
Lydiard Millicent	Cllr Derek Harden	✓	Derek is a new Parish Councillor and eager to learn more
Lydiard Tregoz	Rose Love (Clerk)	✓	Speeding is a problem in the village as well. Also, parking by Lydiard Park in the 60mph by the event field, which is making life difficult and dangerous for pedestrians (this is technically Swindon)

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			Kate says that there have been some recent successes with SBC and Swindon Police and they have good working relationships. Will look at this.
Lyneham & Bradenstoke	Cllr Mike Robertson	✓	Thanked Kate for support with Speed Indicator Device working group.
Marston Meysey,	Clerk		
Tockenham	Cllr Diana Kirby	✓	Thank you for the Rural Crime Team update. Also speeding issues.
Royal Wootton Bassett	Cllr Mike Farrow		
	Clerk Steve Nash		
Wiltshire Council			
CEM	Jane Vaughan	ap	
Lyneham	Allison Bucknell	✓	
RWB North	Mary Champion	ap	
RWB East	Mollie Groom		
RWB South	Chris Hurst		
Cricklade	Bob Jones		
Purton	Jacqui Lay		
Others			
Neighbourhood Watch	Howard Chandler	✓	Asked how many Covid Compliance Fines had been issued. There have not been many in this area, mostly younger people at house parties Insp Brain – in early days of Lockdown there was a focus on disrupting Drug Dealing which had continued despite lockdown. Generally people are better behaved now. There have been high profile fines elsewhere in the county
DWFRS	Station Mgr Phil Peaple	ap	Sent apologies as called away at the last minute
Youth	Cllr Sue Hughes	ap	
Police	Sgt Kate Smith PC Liam Currant Insp James Brain	✓	

6. Future Meetings:-

No meeting planned in May due to elections

June 11th – update on the various Watch schemes

Allison thanked all for their input to date and wished any candidates every success in the May 6th elections.