

# RWB & Cricklade Area Board Community Safety Group Meeting

Friday March 8th 2024

1200-1300 via Teams

## 1. Andy Corbett, Chair Crimestoppers Wiltshire

Our scheduled speaker from Wiltshire Police Burglary unit did not make the meeting, instead Andy Corbett who is a Purton Parish Councillor, stepped in with a presentation about Crimestoppers, where he has just taken over as Chair for Wiltshire.

<https://crimestoppers-uk.org>

Crimestoppers is a charity set up in the late 1980s to enable people to report crimes totally anonymously 24/7 365 days a year.

It is run by volunteers on a county basis, central team in Surrey with some paid staff.

Crimes are reported completely anonymously, cannot be tracked or traced, numbers / PS addresses are scrambled.

The service is free, operates in over 240 languages, and cannot call back.

It is a vital service for people who for whatever reason do not want to speak to police. Examples are due to fear of police in their country of origin, lack of trust based on past experience.

Two schemes:

- Crimestoppers
- Fearless (for young people)

Crimestoppers has achieved significant results in the West and South West. They work with OPCC and Parish Councils, lots of work around drug offences, information gathering, Operation Scorpion.

It's possible even to offer rewards to people anonymously – give out a special code to take into banks to exchange for cash.

### FEARLESS

<https://crimestoppers-uk.org/fearless>

This is targeted at Youth – give and receive information anonymously.

Particular interest in knife crime/drugs/ County lines

Provide helpful playing cards/apps.

Recommend that people hide their visit by deleting browser history – don't want to get caught out "snitching".

Fearless employs youth workers to talk to young people.

They also have Ambassadors, eg

Rise Trust /links with Neighbourhood Watch

There has not been a Crimestoppers Committee in Wiltshire for 8 or 9 years; there is now a local committee but need more representatives from the South of Wiltshire.

Questions and points raised included:-

- Setting up links with Spurgeons who are running the new Family Hubs
- Risks around collecting cash reward payments from banks
- Linking with military?
- Crimestopper call answer rates (15-30 seconds) compared to Police 101 (now 8 minutes, down from 23 a year ago thanks to focus from PCC and Catherine Roper)

Andrew Jack offered to help share information and contacts via the Area Board structure

## 2. Future Meetings:-

Second Friday of the month 1200-1300

Speakers to be confirmed:-

April 12th  
May 10th

**Present**

Bucknell, Allison	Wiltshire Councillor, Lyneham
Bowler, David	Wiltshire Councillor, RWB South and West
Ron Glover	Lyneham & Bradenstoke PC
Lay, Jacqui	Wiltshire Councillor, Purton
Shendie Green	Lyneham & Bradenstoke PC
Pat Farrow	RWB Town Council
Jack, Andrew	SEPM
Andy Corbett	Purton PC/ Crimestoppers
Rose Love	Clerk, Lydiard Tregoz(e)
Howard Chandler	RWB Neighbourhood Watch
Mark Clarke CTC	Cricklade TC

**Apologies**

Steve Bucknell	Wiltshire Councillor, RWB East
Candace Gaisford	Broad Hinton and Winterbourne Bassett PC
Mark Hopkins	RWB Town Council
Jonathon Hill	Cricklade TC (now stepped down)
Mary Champion	Wiltshire Councillor, RWB North