

Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board

Community Safety Forum Notes – 13th January 2023

1. Welcome and Introduction

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Allison Bucknell who welcomed all present.

2. Philip Wilkinson – Police and Crime Commissioner

Philip updated about the appointment of the new Chief Constable, Catharine Roper, who is coming from the Met Police, bringing a fresh pair of eyes to policing in Wiltshire following critical reports. Reports did not criticise frontline, but did highlight failures in management and strategic planning, all of which need to be addressed.

He also encouraged people to have their say on the Budget/Precept for PCC.

YOUNG COMMISSIONERS

Sprang out of national programme “Leaders Unlocked”.

Young Commissioners are mainly disadvantaged young people who have committed to be better citizens. Around 30 Young People aged 15-25.

They set up their own networks to discuss issues that are important to them, and feed this back through conferences set up by PCC.

They conduct surveys/ see opinions and their views are important and interesting. 2 examples Mental Health and Stop and Search.

Already their suggestions have been incorporated into the Police and Crime Plan, and police training has been amended in light of the feedback.

- More responsible citizens
- Better engagement
- Improve Police Training
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RESPONSIBLE YOUNG CITIZENS

This takes place annually at Potterne for Junior School pupils, looks at issues facing young people today eg knife crime, gang culture, online safety.

Great feedback.

Points raised:

Young Commissioners are based all over Wiltshire but their work is not visible to Area Boards. Could this be looked at so there is more of a connection.

Suggestion that in this area, PCC looks to engage with Rise Trust who work with young people and families in most of our more disadvantaged areas.

3. Police update –Inspector Louis McCoy

Inspector McCoy is the new Police Inspector for RWB, Malmesbury and surrounding villages, based at RWB. His role covers both NPT and Response for the area.

Sgt Kate Smith has now returned to the work to replace Sgt Jamie Ball.

Updates on local concerns:

New Years Day incident in RWB, lead protagonist was from Swindon. He is detained, others on bail.

Daily checks are made by officers at varying times.

Hi vis patrols have been increased, however it is considered that the wider public is not at risk as this was not a random attack.

Clack Hill, Bradenstoke – officers continue to attend and ticket when time allows

Cricklade – Patrols continue around Leisure Centre and Play Areas.

RWB – patrolling Jubilee Lake and play areas.

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Cricklade TC would like to use Social Media to help to catch graffiti offenders, will work with police to make sure they get it right.

Queries raised about the asylum seekers who have been housed at The Wiltshire. A few incidents have been reported which appear to involve guests, eg walking in large numbers in the middle of the A3102 and possibly attempting to stop vehicles, and also query about the Covid status They are free to come and go as they wish.

Weekly meetings with Home Office, Council and the many other agencies working with the residents, it is early days. Their medical needs are being assessed, and vaccinations are taking place. Suggestion that perhaps more “cultural” work needs to take place as to what is or is not acceptable in our communities.

Question on when/whether PCSOs will be given power of arrest, this takes place in some counties, not in Wiltshire.

Inspector McCoy explained that officers are allocated to areas based on criminality levels, there is capacity for 120 PCSOs, currently there are 99. Some use this as a stepping stone into police force and may not stay very long.

Need to look at PCSOs staying in post longer and more continuity to help build relationships with the local community. This works well in Cricklade and Purton with Mo, but has to develop in other areas.

Bradenstoke – some drivers are regularly driving the wrong way up the hill with their lights off so as not to be seen, and there are frequent reports of speeding. The police will attend when they can but resources are limited.

Latton raised concerns that Community Speed Watch is not working and is falling apart. Philip Wilkinson reported that prosecutions are up 68% so there are improvements.

Police 101 call response raised again – call handlers very unkeen to log calls which reduces public confidence. Suggest inviting Inspector Matt Young, who has taken over the running of the Police contact Centre (101), to a future meeting.

4. DWFRS update

No representatives present due to other commitments

5. Community Roundup

Incorporated above

6. Future Meetings:-

Second Friday of the month 1200-1300
February 10th 2023

Possible future subjects:

Update on CSW

A day in the life of..

Update on DWFRS

Agencies working with Young People

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Present:

Cricklade
Lydiard Tregoze
Tockenham

Cllr Angela Jenson
Rose Love (Clerk)
Cllr Kevin Woolnough
Cllr Diana Kirby

Cllr Andy Corbett
Cllr Shendie Green

Cllr Kevin Johnson
Cllr Candace Gaisford

Apologies:

RWB East
RWB North
Cricklade
Purton

DWFRS
Police

Cllr Steve Bucknell
Cllr Mary Champion
Cllr Bob Jones
Cllr Jacqui Lay

Phil Peaple
Sgt Kate Smith

Purton
Lyneham & Bradenstoke
Latton
Broad Hinton and W. B.

Wiltshire Council

CEM
Lyneham

Partners

Police
NW Purton
NW RWB
OPCC

Andrew Jack
Cllr Allison Bucknell

Insp Louis McCoy
Jim Reid
Howard Chandler
Rob Llewellyn