

Bourton on the Water Parish Council Police Report:

The local police team is based at Stow-on-the-Wold. The team comprises of:

PC 1501 Alison Palfrey

PC 2431 Peter Escolme

PSCO 9288 John Allen

PSCO 9251 Charlie Symes

Between us we cover 43 parish councils from Aldsworth to Broadwell.

Peter & Charlie are the dedicated officers for Bourton and Alison & John the same for Stow; however we support each other and have removed 'boundaries' so that the parishes we serve have full coverage. This means any one of us at any time can be tasked to deal with any issue in the village. We are all based at Stow Police Station.

Policing in the last year, like life in general has been challenging; having to implement and understand new legislation and guidelines that were often fluid has dominated how we worked. The demand on the Police did not reduce but the types of incidents we were tasked to deal with, were matters that we have never had to experience before.

As we move into summer peak season and the incident demand will move to that of previous years.

The issues that we have been dealing with of late include Anti-Social Behaviour & Criminal Damage to the Melville Play Area.

The foot-patrols will continue throughout the spring/summer months; in addition, we are being provided with two electric bicycles so that we can patrol more effectively between various parts of the village.

We have also been conducting speed-checks/general traffic check-points to support the PCC Policing Plan: Safe & Social Driving.

A lot of questions we are asked when out on patrol is that of parking; there is still a belief that the Police are responsible for parking matters despite this being dissolved to the Local Authorities in early 2000's. We have no power to issue tickets for parking on double yellow lines.

Parking appears to be an emotive subject for many local residents but the Police can only act in a small number of situations.

As it stands it is not an offence to park on the pavement outside London (though there is a private members bill in Parliament looking to include the whole country).

The Police deal with the offence of Unnecessary Obstruction of the Highway -

Regulation 103 of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 creates the offence of unnecessary obstruction. No person in charge of a motor vehicle or trailer shall cause or permit the vehicle to stand on a road so as to cause any unnecessary obstruction of the road.

Examples though not exhaustive could be parking on a dropped curb preventing someone from accessing their driveway. It is dealt with via the issuing of a £30 non-endorsable fine. (no penalty points)

I would encourage all reports that are not life threatening to be made via 101 or email via the force website.

This gives us oversight to the issues that are occurring and “what gets measured gets done”.

There is ‘unhidden’ demand in the North Cotswolds that is not recorded on police incident systems. When matters are reported on a more informal basis, such as directly to the team via email or telephone this call to service is not recorded. When decisions are made across the force to the allocation of officers versus resource there is a danger that the recorded stats do not reflect what is actually happening with the work we do for our communities.

Please do not feel that you cannot call the team via telephone at Stow but we need to protect the team numbers by ensuring that all incidents are recorded.

If you see any of us on patrol please do not hesitate to stop and chat.

Kind regards,

Peter

Peter Escolme

Constable 2431

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