

Police Review April 2010-April 2011
Atworth Parish Council

Your Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) within Atworth in the last year has continued with the designated team of PC Barry Dalton and PCSOs Maggie Ledbury and Janet Gould who by now have become well established and recognisable within Atworth Parish.

NPTs are the community based side of frontline Policing in that we continue to look at working on the problems that concern the residents of Atworth foremost. With this we continue to provide the numerous drop-in facilities at Neston Park farmshop; The Independent Church; alongside the mobile library visits and prior to the Parish Council meetings. This gives the community the chance to speak with us face to face and offers an alternative point of contact to both e-mail and phone. On top of that we continue to set quarterly priorities for the area at the Neighbourhood Tasking Group meetings. Details of all of these can be viewed on the new and improved Wiltshire Police Website:

www.wiltshire.police.uk

As of April this year there has been a major restructuring of the NPTs across the whole of Wiltshire with the number of NPTs being reduced from 76 to 27 teams across the county. This has come about to cut out of some of the duplication and bureaucracy involved with having the larger number of teams, and the need to make financial cuts across the Policing sector due to the projected funding cuts that are being so widely talked about at present. However the Chief Constable and the Wiltshire Police Authority have publically announced their intention to protect front-line policing of which they see NPTs to be the cornerstone.

What this means for Melksham is that instead of the three separate teams covering the 2 rural and town areas they have all amalgamated to become one larger NPT. There has been no loss of officers covering the area of Melksham and the old area boundaries are still in place as per the allocation of the designated officers, which means you're still stuck with Maggie, Janet and me. Other areas across Wiltshire have in fact looked at the way in which Melksham has run its joint area tasking group meetings in the past and seen this to be a good model on which NPTs could learn from. With these changes we now have a new NPT e-mail address which is viewed by all members of the team. The old e-mails addresses will still work for a while in order that we catch all the e-mails intended to reach us. This new e-mail address is as follows:

melkshamnpt@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

Crime Reports and performance:

The Melksham Community area as a whole has seen a 14.5% reduction in crime in the last year making it the 3rd best result across the county. Crime is shown to be down in all categories with the exception of theft of motor vehicles which has seen an increase of 4%.

Dwelling Burglary has seen a drop by 55% (53 total reports)
Non-dwelling burglary has seen a drop by 20% (88 reports)
Violent Crime dropped by 10% (236 reports)
Criminal Damage dropped by 16% (232 reports)
Theft from Motor vehicle dropped by 21% (68 reports)
Theft of Motor Vehicle has risen by 20% (24 reports)

Officers have within the last year been trained up in Local resolution process which looks at resolving recorded crimes by dealing with the wishes of the victim in the first instance. This may often lead to an approach which moves away from prosecuting the offender through the judicial system and having them pay for their misdemeanors in others ways. For example a young teenager whose never been in trouble with the Police before recently caught for damaging a car window has agreed to say sorry for his actions and pay for the broken window, rather than being charged with a crime and being given a caution or go to court. These processes have already been used within Atworth at the request of the victims.

The recorded crimes for Atworth last year are:

Dwelling Burglary – 3 reports
Non Dwelling Burglary – 3
Violent crime – 0
Criminal Damage – 3
Theft from Motor Vehicle – 5
Theft of Motor Vehicle – 0
Any other theft – 4

Community Concerns / Issues:

Speeding vehicles throughout the village has been the one ongoing concerns brought to the attention of the Neighbourhood Policing team almost year in, year out and short of having enough resources to stand at the roadside and carry out speeding checks day in day out, we have looked at the possibilities of tackling this in other ways. A recent survey showed the 85% of vehicles travelling along the A365 in to Atworth were travelling at 38mph or below. This figure made the area eligible for the Community Speedwatch scheme. This scheme takes willing volunteers from the community and trains them up in using the hand held speed detection device. Once trained volunteers can go out and monitor the speeds reporting back findings to the Speedwatch team who can then pass results on to local Policing units like the NPT or traffic officers. Due to the popularity across the county there appears to be a backlog in training all those interested but as your NPT we are currently taking the names of those who may be willing to volunteer.

Barry Dalton
PC 1947
Community Beat Manager
Melksham NPT

18/04/2011