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**Atworth Parish Assembly April 2011  
Report: Neighbourhood Policing Tasking Group**

## **1. General**

The Neighbourhood Policing Tasking Group has the objective of promoting discussion between local policing teams and communities, and agreeing priorities for action. It comprises members of the local police force, parish councillors and representatives of the communities, although in fact anyone with an interest in local issues may attend.

Atworth is served by the Melksham Rural North group, along with Melksham Without (Shaw, Whitley, Beanacre, Bowerhill) and Broughton Gifford.

Mavis King and myself have attended the meetings, but any resident with an interest in policing in Atworth can also attend.

The meetings take the form of an opening plenary session in association with the Melksham Community Safety Group, often featuring a guest speaker on a subject of topical interest. Following that session, the Police Tasking Groups usually split up to deal with their own priorities.

During the year, Peter Harris agreed to be the Community Area Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator, and the new co-ordinator for Atworth is Rosemary Ward.

## **2. Issues and Topics Raised**

During the year April 2010 - March 2011, the Melksham Rural North Group has discussed and assisted with the following problem areas.

### Anti-social Behaviour

There have been various reports of anti-social behaviour, most notably in and around the King George V Playing Fields in Melksham. The policing team have been tackling this successfully.

### Traffic Issues

We have continued to discuss the issue of traffic speed and behaviour as topics of safety and quality of life. Some of us have been out with police during roadside speedchecks, and the metro-counter has revealed that there is a significant proportion of vehicles travelling at somewhat excessive speed. Some parishes have loaned speed indicators, but in general it is evident that in this part of the country and county communities must press harder if they wish for progress. Atworth's meeting of last September has not so far changed matters.

Community Speedwatch has been suggested but seems not to be the first choice in this locality.

### Dog Fouling

This has been and remains a persistent problem in all of the group areas, and continues to be so in Atworth. It also results in objectionable disposal in hedgerows. It is difficult to see a way to clear resolution, other than some example prosecutions.

### Littering

As has been reported elsewhere, several parts of Melksham Rural North have been affected by litter thrown out of cars, and various kinds of rubbish left in lay-bys, or off minor roads.