



**APRIL 2008**

## **EAST SECTOR**

March has been a busy month on East with successes in many areas. We have made much progress regarding use of Class A drugs and vehicle crime but are still being plagued with petty, but very impactful minor damage. For a change I have focussed the update upon what is happening in specific NPT areas:

### **Rural**

The Blunsdon Village Shop was subjected recently to a burglary whereupon Cigarettes appear to be the main target. Similar offences are occurring in other areas of Swindon including Highworth where three males wearing hooded sweatshirts were captured on CCTV (you may have seen the pictures in the Evening Advertiser)

I would urge vigilance to give us the best opportunity to halt this issue. Any concerns may be directed to Highworth Police Station for the attention of the Beat Manager, PC Chris Butler.

### **Covingham & Eldene**

Criminal Damage in this area has a direct link to Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB); many of the actions taken by the NPT have involved the dispersal of gathering youths from retail centres as well as actions to stop a nuisance element who have targeted the FAIRLAWN area - here damage has been sporadic and no pattern has emerged. Much of the damage is believed to be caused by youths who have no intention of gaining anything other than 'a reputation' with their youth associates.

Reports of ASB at the Liden Centre have also increased but heavy patrolling by Beat Manager PC Ben Collier and his team has produced a dramatic fall in the last three weeks. We would urge residents to contact us with any emerging issues.

### **Wroughton**

Following a spate of nuisance damage offences, work by the Wroughton NPT (under Beat Manager, PC Tony Miles) has resulted in the arrest of a number of individuals and a dramatic fall in offences.

This team have also been engaged with providing a reassuring presence around the Ridgeway School during the recent 'Hammer-attack' trial.

### **Parks & Walcot**

The Parks and Walcot area suffer heavily under the misuse of drugs and the actions of those profiting from their sale. On March 20<sup>th</sup> the entire East Sector, under the guidance of Sgt's Phil Staynings and Mandy Lynch, undertook a warrant at a local address and detained a number of persons responsible for the sale of 'Crack' Cocaine. Along with the arrests, drugs and a significant amount of cash were also recovered.

We have long been aware of crime which can be associated with drug-abuse and this area of offending remains a strong focus for the work of the East NPT's.

### **Upper & Lower Stratton**

Thefts from Motor Vehicles have been a major issue in this part of the East Sector with a number of offences in not only residential areas but also within the Greenbridge Retail Park and local

Trading Estates. Coordinated actions by the Beat Managers PC Kirsty Wilson and PC Jo Phelps, along with our Crime Targeting Team have resulted in the arrest of persons who have admitted a large number of offences. As ever prevention is the cure and I urge persons not to leave valuables in vehicles. Thanks to the Empire Cinema at Greenbridge who have supported us with Crime Prevention advice on their electronic notice board.

Notwithstanding any of the above Wiltshire is still one of the safest places to live in the country and in continuing to work together I have no doubt that 2008 will see this continue.

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