

Whitchurch Annual Town Assembly – Local Police Report.

In 2008, we set about identifying Neighbourhood Priorities after discussion with The Town Council and input from members of the Public who attended the beat surgeries.

These were :-

- 1-Targeting those who do not keep to the speed limit
- 2- Parking issues within the Whitchurch area
- 3- Youth involvement, activities and tackling underage drinking.

Speeding

We have worked with the Roads Policing unit carrying out speed campaigns in all areas of the beat on roads in and out of Whitchurch and in the Bourne Valley. This has now ceased but I carry out regular patrols and use my vehicle as a visible presence on the roads within my beat area. But with the return of RPU to Whitchurch you will see and have probably already seen RPU officers in and around the Whitchurch area.

After consultation with Whitchurch Town Council they leased a Speed Indication Device with Overton Village Council from Basingstoke and Deane that is being shared between both parishes and moved to different sites by the Borough. The sign encourages drivers to slow down and to be more aware of their speed on the entrances in and out of Whitchurch and Overton.

Parking

We are one of the partners that have worked with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council to implement parking restrictions within the Whitchurch area. Phase two is currently on a trial basis in different roads in the town.

Youth Involvement

In February, August and October of last year and February this year we worked with many different agencies assisting with Community events for the youth of Whitchurch and surrounding areas. Other agencies included the Community wardens and Kingfisher Housing .

Helen was involved again with Cycling Proficiency at the primary school and attended the residential week with the year six. She also continued her good work with The Whitchurch Youth Project.

The issue of under age drinking on a Friday and Saturday evening was addressed by regular patrols on these evenings involving Police, Police Specials, PCSOS and Community Wardens. Operations were run during the summer holidays, Halloween and bonfire night. These patrols have and will continue this year.

Regular updates on work around these priorities can be seen on the Hampshire Constabulary website.

In 2009 we are now repeating this process and looking to identify what you as the public consider to be your priorities.

`Your Voice Counts` leaflets that you have on your chairs are being delivered throughout the neighbourhood in the next month . If you could please take the time to complete them we will collect at the end of the meeting.

There is also a box in the Town Hall if you wish to put your reply in there.

The Beat Surgeries have continued through 2008 and into 2009. This offers you an opportunity to come and speak to me, your safer neighbourhood team about any matter , be it big or small.

The next Surgery is on Tuesday 19th May 2009 from 3-4 pm.

We are looking for volunteers to join the Whitchurch Neighbourhood Watch Scheme as some streets in Whitchurch do not have a coordinator. It is an ideal way of keeping the public informed of incidents that are being reported to the Police. If anyone is interested in getting involved please contact feel free to contact me.

Partnership working to reduce the crime and disorder is a statutory requirement – every six months there is a multi agency meeting where representatives from other agencies attend to discuss issues that are impacting on the lives of people who live in rural communities. This information sharing enables us to all work together.

In Autumn last year we worked with Hampshire Trading Standards tackling the issue of unauthorised trading which is something that we will be repeating soon.

Statistics say that the average resident living in the Basingstoke rural area will become a victim of a burglary once in 140 years, however the fear of crime continues to rise and the presence of a safer neighbourhood team (me) means there is a regular point of contact for you as the community to speak to.

Crimes for the period 01/04/08 -31/03/09

Over this period there has been an increase in criminal damage from 42 – 53

Decrease in thefts from 25 -22

Burglaries in a dwelling remain at 4 the same as last year.

There has been a decrease in Vehicle crime and incidents of Public disorder and assaults.

Burglaries to out buildings remain low compared to the whole of the other rural neighbourhoods.

Recent reports of Criminal damage in February and March has resulted in several youths being arrested.

Finally,

I am sure you will all agree that it was sad to see Helen leave this easter, She was a fantastic asset to the safer neighbourhood team and greatly missed. She has joined the Police regulars up North and is enjoying it.

I would like to thank the Neighbourhood Watch team for their hard work, to Cathy the best Town Clerk around and to everyone in the town for their continued support. I couldn't do my job without you. I will continue to work together with you and the other agencies to deal with community concerns.

PC Paula Deery