



Sept 2020

To all Chairs of Parish Councils and Parish Council Clerks in Wiltshire and Swindon

This communication sent on behalf of Wiltshire Police and Wiltshire Neighbourhood Watch Association aims to raise awareness of strategic developments introduced by Wiltshire Police to revitalise principles of neighbourhood policing across Wiltshire and Swindon. In March this year, just prior to 'lockdown' restrictions, Wiltshire Police introduced 'A Policing Model fit for the Future' in which Community Policing Neighbourhood Teams would once again be responsible for proactive policing, community engagement and working with partners to resolve community problems. Wiltshire NHW strongly supports this strategy which upholds the spirit of our Association's Partnership Agreement with Wiltshire Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner which reflects the desire of each partner to collaborate in supporting safer communities to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.

Wiltshire Police see the re-introduction of Community Policing Neighbourhood Teams as the most visible improvement in their approach to community policing with each Community Policing Team being led by a Neighbourhood Inspector and each team led by a Sergeant. Notwithstanding the impact of COVID-19 on police operations in recent months, there is clear evidence of improved neighbourhood policing across Wiltshire and Swindon.

Wiltshire Neighbourhood Watch Association and Wiltshire Police recognise the important role that Parish Councils play in supporting and maintaining a positive approach towards neighbourhood policing.

In support of strengthening the link between Neighbourhood Watch and Parish Councils, Wiltshire NHW would be happy to support any Parish Council in establishing a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme or, if schemes exist, support to local scheme co-ordinators. One idea Wiltshire NHW encourages Parish Councils to consider involves the inclusion of Community Safety on their full Council monthly agenda. Councils may already have a designated Councillor responsible for community safety, in which case this offers an ideal opportunity to establish, nurture and maintain links and relationships with local Neighbourhood Policing Teams as well as local NHW schemes. Ultimately, crime prevention and detection can only be enhanced if Parish Councils, Neighbourhood Policing Teams and Neighbourhood Watch Schemes work together to support community safety initiatives.

For more information please visit our website www.wiltshirenhw.org or your local Committee member in your town/area.

Paul Sunners

Chair Wiltshire NHW Association

wnhwa.chair@gmail.com

Tracy Ince 8486

Citizens in Policing

Watch Co-Ordinator - Wilts Police