

Holford Parish Council AGM. Monday 13th May 2019

Further changes to the Neighbourhood Policing of the local area, means we now no longer have “Beat Managers”, and the Beat areas are now managed by PCSO’s.

Our old NBM’s are now called Demand Officers, & they are on hand to backfill when Response Officers are committed. Having said this, PC Jamie MUNRO is still very much committed to the AW052 Beat, but changes in shift patterns now mean we have little contact or opportunity to exchange information which is not ideal. Our Neighbourhood Sgt, Sgt Dan BISHOP covers the whole of the Wellington, Minehead, Williton & Watchet Beat Areas

Over the last year , Watchet & the surrounding rural areas have seen a real spike in Non-dwelling/shedbreaks, targeting tools & equipment such as Chainsaws/strimmers etc, with offenders becoming ever more sophisticated in their means.

Works vans containing tools have also been targeted, with access being gained overnight to steal tools within.

Working with NHW Co-ordinators , establishing Farmwatch & Horsewatch as a means of exchanging information & gathering intelligence , investigations to establish offenders, & where these stolen items are going, is ongoing.

Two recent events held, one at Williton pet supplies, & the other at an Agricultural merchants in Watchet signed up around 30 people to either Farm/Horsewatch, with over 40 items of horse tack security marked.

We rely heavily on members of the public supplying us with information, & recently executed a very successful Misuse of Drugs warrant locally, seizing a large quantity of cannabis plants.

Another successful Misuse of Drugs warrant- again initially brought to our attention by members of the public led to seizure of over 70 mature cannabis plants being found locally in a loft space, & on the back of that, an associated property in Minehead identified another 30 plants also seized.

With such a huge Geographical area to cover, with over 80 NHW Co-ordinators, it is impossible to get round to see everyone, especially as the numbers of vehicles in Williton has been reduced. For this reason, a NHW meeting has been arranged for Sunday May 5th at Bishops Lydeard Village Hall, as an opportunity for our Co-ordinators to meet the Beat team, exchange ideas & concerns, & to see how we can all best work together.

We continue to work with our Schools & young people, Licencing Authority, Housing Providers, Parish Councillors, Village Agents & Mental Health Professionals and also with the older & more vulnerable within our communities to keep them safe. We were recently were able to intercept “cuckooing” of a particularly vulnerable couple within our area. The contact we have from the Community, & the support & engagement we have with them is more vital than ever, particularly with the reduction in our resources.

In summary, our stats show for recorded crime over the last 12 months, an increase in total crime of 1.9%, & ASB related crime- which includes Road Related, Highway disruption, Concern for safety & insecure premises, as being up by 15%.

These statistics apply to the WHOLE of the AW052 Beat Area, covering from Williton down to Washford, Blue Anchor & Old Cleeve, across to Withycombe, Rodhuish & Roadwater. Across to Stogumber, Bicknoller & Crowcombe, up the A39 to Kilve & Holford, including Stogursey, Shurton, Burton & Stoford, then all the way back down the coast, includinh Watchet, & back to Williton!