

Wantage West NAG continues to meet on a regular basis to discuss issues of local concern. We are currently investigating the problems relating to on-street parking enforcement in the area particularly in Wantage town centre. We have had meetings with West Oxfordshire District Council who have a very successful scheme which would be good to take forward here in the Vale, if possible.

We have also been made aware of speeding vehicles which are causing concern in many areas, more recently along Main Street in Grove. Some motorists are ignoring the Vehicle Activated Signs calling for people to Slow Down which is not acceptable so we are hoping action will be taken to deal with this. Speeding was one of the top three priorities during our recent public consultation, so we are taking the matter very seriously.

Litter was also an area of concern too, however, Cllr. Hannaby and Cllr. Patrick have been able to secure money from the County Council to undertake more weed control around Grove and Wantage, which we hope will help to alleviate the matter. There have been some instances of fly-tipping since the recycling area has been removed. Fly-tipping is an offence and must be reported to the Vale of White Horse District Council through their waste collection service on **03000 610 610**.

Another area causing us concern is the recent cold-calling of certain charity workers who are asking people to sign up with their individual bank details to direct debit payments on a regular basis. Some of the pressure put upon those who answer the door unwittingly is causing concern and in some cases, potential donors have had to call the charity in question to cancel the direct debits which have been signed by them in haste. Although it appears that some of the charities using this method of getting extra money is legal, we believe it is not in good taste and has left many people worried.

As the nights are now drawing in, it is time to think about making our homes safe and secure. Think about using a timer used with a lamp, radio or TV to give the impression that someone is at home. Keep valuables out of sight and make sure all windows and doors are locked. You can receive free local crime alerts by signing up to Thames Valley Alerts at www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk or follow us on Twitter @ThamesVP. We also have our own Wantage West NAG (Neighbourhood Action Group) on Facebook too, so do check us out here and on our website at: http://www.uknags.org.uk/view_group.php?nag=29. We also need to make sure we look out for our elderly residents as the weather starts getting colder and it may become more difficult to get out and about to get provisions.

Rural crime continues to be a problem in this area as several thefts of farm vehicles and equipment have taken place. Police have also been active in preventing hare coursing which sadly still continues from time to time. Residents are asked to be vigilant and report any suspicious behaviour through Thames Valley Police number 101. You can also report information anonymously through Crimestoppers at 0800 555 111.

On Monday 13th January 2014, you will have the opportunity of questioning your Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley Police, Anthony Stansfeld. He

was elected last November to replace the Police Authority. His role is to allocate the budget, set the council tax precept and be responsible for how the budget is spent. He sets the strategic direction and aims for the police force through the Police and Crime Plan. The meeting will take place at Wantage Civic Hall from 7pm until 9pm. Mark this date in your diary as it would be good for residents to have their say about policing in the area.

Zoé Patrick