

# Neighbourhood Policing

## September 2014 newsletter

### Wantage/Grove Neighbourhood Team Newsletter

Here is the latest Wantage/Grove neighbourhood update from PCSO Tom Walcott-Smith and PCSO Howard Pack. This newsletter also covers the Greendown area including Childrey, Letcombe Bassett, Letcombe Regis and the Challows.

#### Local priorities

- Rural Crime - As the harvest is coming to an end and large tracts of land are left without standing crops we expect an increase in hare coursing. We are continually patrolling the area to prevent or catch anyone hare coursing.
- Crime – There has been an increase in criminal damage to vehicles in the area, this is something that can be very costly to the vehicles owner so please be vigilant and if you see anything suspicious then please call 101.

#### Anti-social behaviour (ASB)

We have been receiving a few reports of groups gathering in car parks and causing a nuisance by beeping horns and revving their engines etc, some Section 59 warnings have been issued in the past, this means if they get another warning we can seize their vehicle. If you see anything where a vehicle is used in a manner where it is causing alarm, distress or annoyance to members of the public it can be classed as vehicle-related ASB please take down details such as vehicle make, model, colour, clothing and description of the driver and call 101. PCSO Tom Walcott-Smith has been patrolling all the car parks in the area and caught up with a few of the groups, no offences were taking place so words of advice were given.

#### Good news

Following on from last month's newsletter, PCSO Chris Ratcliff mentioned we had been receiving a few reports of people riding around Grove and Mably Way on mini-motorbikes. We managed to catch a few people in the act, following the offenders being indentified by members of the public. Official warnings have been given and if they are caught again we can seize the bike. If you see bikes being ridden around the area unlicensed on roads, footpaths or private land please phone the police on 101.

#### Parking

We have had a few reports of people parking on single yellow lines around Mill Street and The Wharf. This is something we are tackling daily with warnings or tickets being issued. If a warning is given we are taking down the vehicle details and repeat offenders will be issued with a ticket. Just for information a single yellow line indicates that parking or waiting at that roadside is prohibited at certain times of day. The exact times vary by area and are indicated by signs at the roadside. Stopping to load and to pick up or set down passengers is generally allowed unless additional restrictions apply.

#### Hare coursing

There have been several recent incidents of hare coursing in the Wantage area and with Autumn upon us it is the main time when Thames Valley Police need your help in dealing with this Criminal activity.

#### Information on hare coursing

- The Hunting Act 2004 made hare coursing illegal.
- Hare coursing tends to start after harvest, around the end of August or start of September when large tracts of land are left without standing crops.
- Coursing is more likely to take place at dawn or dusk.
- The most obvious sign is a group of vehicles parked in a rural area, perhaps by a gateway to farmland, on a grass verge, on a farm track or bridle path.
- There will usually be estate cars, four wheel drives or vans. They may contain evidence of dogs inside – such as muddy paw prints and dog hair.

If you see something suspicious when you are out and about in the rural areas can I please ask you to think about the following when reporting an incident to the Police; Are the suspects alone or

in a group? Are they trespassing? Do they have dogs with them? Where are they going? Where have they been? What is their description? Do they have vehicles? What are the number plates and vehicle models? Please call the police non-emergency number 101 to report any suspicious activity or 999 in emergencies.

#### Have Your Say meetings

Have Your Say Meetings are an ideal opportunity for local residents to speak to their local police officers and PCSOs about any local issues, no appointment is necessary just turn up and speak to your local officers.

Upcoming Have Your Say meetings are:-

- Saturday 18 October 2014, 11am – midday at Grove library, School Lane, Grove.
- Saturday 20 September 2014, 11am – midday at Grove library, School Lane, Grove.
- Saturday 27 September 2014, 10am – midday at East Challow Village Hall.

Further meetings will be publicised locally and on the force website at [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk).

#### Crime mapping

The Home Office national crime mapping website gives the public access to street-level crime information as well as information on their Neighbourhood Policing Teams, Neighbourhood Priorities and Events - details of Have Your Say and other neighbourhood activities. Log on to [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk), type in your local postcode or neighbourhood name and then click on 'Find out more'.

#### Thames Valley Alert

Receive free local crime alerts and crime prevention advice by registering at [www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk](http://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk) today. This allows anyone who signs up to choose what updates they receive and how they would like to receive it. A new option includes receiving information via text but more traditional landline and email messages are still available. You can also filter the updates you receive by specifying the priority level of the messages you receive.

#### Contact us

If you want any advice or would like to contact the neighbourhood team you can call us on the police non-emergency number 101 or if it is an emergency then dial 999. You can also contact us via email: [WantageandGroveNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:WantageandGroveNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk). Please note this email address cannot be used to contact Thames Valley Police to report crimes or for any urgent matters. If you have information about crime or anti-social behaviour in your area but you do not want to speak to the police, please call the Crimestoppers charity on 0800 555111. To view information on your neighbourhood team visit the Thames Valley Police website at: [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk).