



DORSET

Keep SAFE

www.nhwdorset.org.uk



Dorset Police “One Team” Strategy Latest

In accordance with usual practice in advance of the full meeting of the 23rd June a letter to the stakeholders was sent out on the 22nd June pointing out important achievements in 2010/2011 not previously reported for example:

The ‘One Team’ programme is ensuring that core functions including safer neighbourhood policing, general patrol and investigation remain a top priority and we will aim to minimize the impact of the cuts in those areas. It was further stated

- **Violent crime down 7.1% - a reduction of 768 offences**
- **Recorded Anti-Social Behaviour incidents down 8.1% - 3,872 fewer incidents**
- **Vehicle crime down 8.9% - a reduction of 388 crimes and now at a 16 year low**
- **A 12.7% reduction in the number of people killed or seriously injured on the roads in Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole**
- **96% of people in Dorset report they feel safe**

To receive a complete copy of this letter send an email request to nhwdorset@gmail.com

[New Deputy Chief Constable –see last page]

News in Brief

East Dorset Blue Light Day

On Saturday 4th June, the Emergency Services (Police, Fire & Ambulance) held an East Dorset “Blue Light Day” at the Police and Fire stations in Wimborne. The event lasted four hours on a fine, sunny day, and included Fire Service demonstrations, viewing of the Wimborne Town CCTV, visits to the Police cells plus information stands by other agencies and volunteer groups.

Amongst the volunteer groups, East Dorset Neighbourhood and Home Watch groups were well represented providing security advice and offering selected security products at heavily discounted rates. Popular amongst the younger visitors were the free Watch branded helium filled balloons. By mid-afternoon, the town centre was awash with yellow balloons, as indeed was the ceiling of the fire engine bay where the balloons were given out! The event was well attended – some 650 visitors – and deemed a great success by visitors and participants alike.

From the chair

Greetings to all Watch members,

As many of you know, ADW is a group of Watch representatives from across Dorset – some elected, some selected – formed with the aim of supporting you in your endeavours to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour in your area. Clearly we will perform this role most effectively if we know what you need, so please, help us to help you by telling us where you most need assistance – contact details are shown at the foot of the page.

Priorities currently being worked on are:

- Ringmaster/Community Messaging its consistency, timeliness and relevance
- Effectiveness of Police Watch Champions – with one or two SNT members per Police Section to promote Watch partnership across their section
- Revision of our Service Level Agreement with the Police
- Updating our ADW website with relevant, helpful information and maintaining its currency
- Exploring additional methods of communication with Watch members, both those with internet access and those without

Finally, can I suggest now may be a good time to review security measures for your home and possessions. If you need advice, contact either your Police Safer Neighbourhood team or your local Watch group contact. There are various inexpensive security products available from Streetwise (www.streetwise.org.uk,) in the “shop-crime prevention” section) or from the Barrington Centre Community Office, Ferndown (open 10.00 – 12.00 daily, except Sunday).

Be watchful, be safe.

John Shave

P.S. We now have a Twitter account @ADWChair. You can follow us

News from around the County

DISTRACTION BURGLARY - HELP YOUR COMMUNITY TO BE SAFE

Distraction burglaries appear to be increasing

The definition of distraction burglary is when one caller distracts the occupant of a house so that another can quickly gain access and steal items. What the definition does not do is describe the devastation this can leave behind for those who have become victims. However astute you are, it can happen to anyone of any age. It is the elderly and vulnerable who are particularly targeted and an incident of this kind can leave them with their confidence shattered and afraid to open the door.

As a family member, friend, carer or neighbour, you can really help the potentially vulnerable people you know from becoming a victim of this unpleasant crime.

Houses and gardens that are not cared for often indicate someone who is struggling to maintain their property and it is these places that are being sized up by distraction burglars.

If your friend or family member is in this position, you can help by offering to mow the lawn and tidy their garden or help get the house painted. You really can make a difference in preventing this crime.

Chains on the door are an essential and everyone should use a chain to answer the door if it is not someone they know. So often elderly people have come from a trusting generation where doors were left open and they are lonely and welcome a chat. These burglars are expert at offering a friendly word to distract your attention. Always make sure your back door and windows are shut and locked if you answer the front door.

Everyone should have a good quality chain and locks on their door and windows and not let anyone into the house unless you are sure they are genuine.

Always ask for identification and then check the telephone number from the phone book before allowing anyone in. A genuine official will not mind waiting while you phone to check they are in your area.

The Water Board does not exist any more, but the name is often used as a means of entry.

Tell your family and friends never to do business on the doorstep or agree to work being done for cash with no documents or time to consider. (You legally have 10 days to reconsider). Cash stored in the house is a bad idea - so encourage the people you know to put money in the bank or building society. If they are distance away - offer to drive them there when they need to withdraw money.

Elderly people are sometimes taken to their bank or building society by distraction burglars to withdraw large sums of money to repair a roof that does not need doing or tarmac a driveway. Most of the time they promise to return to do the work the next day and then take the money and run.

Other News

North Dorset farmer caused unnecessary suffering to cows—Dorset Trading Standards News Ref: TS 235

Weymouth company Digibuy selling unsafe iPod plug—Dorset Trading Standards News Ref: TS234

Sign up for a free fire safety check and fitting or replacing smoke alarms. <http://www.dorsetfire.gov.uk>

The AGM is scheduled for the 19th October at EDDC Furzehill at 1545—to book email ADW as front page or text 07802 201778

Please send any articles from your area which may be of interest to other watches in Dorset to spread initiatives.

Send to editor at
cdbbase@gmail.com

by 15/10/11

E mail your questions for Dorset Police's Chief Constable, Martin Baker, to the KeepSAFE editor at cdbbase@gmail.com by 15th October 2011. Answers will appear in the Winter issue.

Take part and don't be late

Keep in touch by referring on line to:

The latest scams

<http://www.dorset.police.uk/default.aspx?page=4821>

The latest police news

<http://www.dorset.police.uk/default.aspx?page=0>

Your Questions—Chief Constable's Answers

Police are still committed to County Watch Schemes

Q. Whilst I understand that local support to Watch groups is from local Police teams, in the restructuring what support will be provided from other sections of the Force?

A. Although the structure of the Force has changed the Safer Neighbourhood Teams at a local level supported by Neighbourhood Inspectors are very largely unchanged. These teams will continue to provide local support to Watch groups as before. Consequently, there are no plans to change the support offered by Safer Neighbourhood Teams or involve other sections of the Force.

Q. Last year we benefited from funds from the proceeds of crime. Do similar opportunities for project funding exist this year?

A. The Force must reduce its operating budget by a substantial £18m (15%) per annum over the next four years, from a base of £120m. In addition, due to a significant fall in income received through the Proceeds of Crime Act over the past year, we unfortunately do not have the resources available this year to provide any external funding.

Q. Are the Police still committed to sending out timely crime alerts on Ringmaster to help us to prevent further crimes e.g. bogus callers? I have the impression that there is a reluctance to do this in case it raises the fear of crime.

A. Firstly, can I reassure you that the Dorset Police remains committed to sending out timely, accurate and relevant crime and intelligence alerts to our residents via the Ringmaster community messaging system. The systems and processes for managing the Ringmaster system are intelligence led, and therefore it is not practicable or appropriate to send out notification about every crime or incident that occurs in a particular neighbourhood.

Ringmaster is embedded into the processes and systems of Dorset Police. Decisions to circulate messages are made in two ways; your local Neighbourhood Teams may decide to send relevant messages, but also there are processes in place where the Force Intelligence Bureau Manager, - a Detective Inspector, can and does task the relevant Ringmaster messages as part of a Daily Intelligence Meeting.
(cont'd next column)

In addition, there are several other ways for the communities to obtain crime information. For example, the website: www.police.uk includes high quality local crime maps; in addition to this, we provide details on the Force website www.dorset.police.uk.

Our priority is that communities should be kept informed via Home Watch and Ringmaster where it adds value and the information is likely to result in the following positive outcomes:

- Heightened awareness of a particular crime series, or modus operandi, and so can lead to increased vigilance and security, thus decreasing the opportunity for such crimes, to assist in the prevention or detection of these crimes.
- Identification of previously unknown witnesses, or additional information about a particular offence to assist an investigation.
- Prompt calls from residents, should further offences of that type occur, or known suspects be seen to prevent and detect further offences.

The purpose of providing local crime information is to keep our communities updated with current criminal activity and trends, and so enable them to identify risk and influence action to reduce opportunities for crime in their area and particularly to look out for neighbours that may be vulnerable. We are lucky enough to live in one of the safest areas of the UK; crime in Dorset is now at a 12 year low, the past year has seen yet further reduction in violent crime, we still have one of the lowest burglary rates in the country and vehicle crime in Dorset is at a 16 year low.

There is therefore, a balance to be struck between keeping communities informed, providing an overwhelming amount of information that would not add value and the financial cost of doing so. We certainly do not seek to 'suppress' information in what would inevitably be a fruitless attempt to avoid a heightened fear of crime. If you have this impression, it would be most helpful for us to know what gives rise to this perception.

Dorset Police's new Deputy Chief Constable

A police officer who helped manage the UK response to the Boxing Day Tsunami in 2004 has been appointed as Dorset's Deputy Chief Constable.

Debbie Simpson will replace Chris Lee, who is retiring after a 30 year police career, in September .

Debbie said she is committed to delivering to the residents of Dorset the best policing possible.

She transfers from Devon and Cornwall Police where she was made an Assistant Chief Constable in 2008.

She joined the Bedfordshire Police in 1984 where she served in a range of ranks and roles and eventually became head of the CID. She also co-ordinated the work of the force's hostage negotiations and a number of murder investigations.

Martin Baker said "Debbie is a highly skilled and experienced police officer and I very much look forward to her becoming a member of the team in Dorset Police.

POLICE ISSUE THEFT FROM VEHICLE WARNING

Police in Dorset are warning motorists not to leave any valuable possessions in their vehicles and to check the fixing of parts and accessories following an increase in thefts from vehicles across the county.

Valuable possessions such as handbags and satellite navigation systems as well as parts and accessories such as catalytic converters and number plates are being targeted on unattended vehicles across the county.

To lower your chances of becoming a victim of these crimes remember the following security advice:

- Remember lock the doors, windows, boot and sun-roof every time you leave your vehicle
- Remove all valuables such as handbags, wallets, mobile phones, tools and laptops or other possessions from your vehicle.
- Remove satellite navigation equipment and GPS from your vehicle, including the cradle, it is a favourite among thieves.
- To stop number plates from being stolen, fit theft-resistant number plates to your car ensuring that they conform to DVLA standard or replace existing screws with ones that can not be unscrewed (these are called clutch screws).
- Consider using a steering wheel or handbrake lock and fit locking wheel nuts as wheels can also be a target for car thieves.
- Fit an alarm or immobiliser to your vehicle.
- If you have one, use a garage.
- If you park your car on a driveway, ensure that you have good security lighting as this will make your car visible to the street and can deter would-be-thieves.