

KEEPING COUNCILLORS INFORMED



Hello, I'd like to thank you for taking the time to open the latest edition of my councillor newsletter.

Currently, I am checking over the final draft of my Police and Crime plan, something I'd like you to become involved with.

This month, you'll read about an organisation which is doing some great work with young people in Swindon, the success we're having to reduce serious injury and death on our roads, and you'll read about a new police initiative designed to tackle violence against women and girls.

WAY Beacons

I'd like to share with you work being done with an organisation supported by my office and working at the Great Western Hospital in Swindon called WAY Beacons.

Twice a week, WAY Beacons base themselves at the GWH's Emergency Department, where they speak to patients aged from 11-25 years old who have been admitted with mental health concerns, substance misuse, or who show signs of being at risk of being exploited by criminal gangs.

From August 2023 to June 2024, sixty-six young people were supported by the WAY Beacons, with the support continuing long after their initial contact at the hospital.

The WAY Beacons meet up with the young person outside of hospital, their homes and schools, usually choosing to meet in places such as coffee shops, fast food outlets or bowling alleys, where the setting is more informal and relaxed.

I'm pleased to tell you that all of the young people who were surveyed after receiving support from the WAY Beacons said that speaking to them had been helpful. Fifty-five percent of the young people supported by the WAY Beacons were repeat attenders to the emergency department, with 79% of them not re-attending since receiving support.



ROAD SAFETY - SPEEDING

You may have seen a recent report in the Salisbury Journal saying that speeding fines had increased sevenfold over the last three years.

Whilst this statement is true, the statistic I think is more important to share with you is that road deaths and serious injuries on our roads have decreased by 25% over the last year.

Speeding fines are a small part of the overall package to improve road safety in Wiltshire and Swindon, and in addition to reorganising our Community Speedwatch teams to be more effective and employing three

Community Speed Enforcement Officers to support them, I have also authorised the funding for more Speed Indicator Devices on our roads and more recently, I have appointed a Road Safety Delivery Manager, to work with the Wiltshire and Swindon Road Safety Partnership and ensure clear communication between agencies working within road safety.

I know how important road safety is to our residents, so my goal will be to continue to make improvements and further reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries on our roads.

Wiltshire and Swindon

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VIGILANT COMMUNITIES

I'd like to lend my support to a new Wiltshire Police campaign called "Vigilant Communities".

The idea of this project, is to encourage local authorities, CCTV operators, businesses and community groups to work their Neighbourhood Policing Teams

(NPT) to spot the signs of predatory behaviour.

My office has already used Home Office money to fund night-time economy wardens in Trowbridge and Salisbury on Friday and Saturday nights as well as providing funding for four deployable CCTV cameras in Salisbury, additional CCTV in Chippenham town centre and improved lighting and CCTV in Swindon.

We are also providing free WAVE and Licensing SAVI training across Wiltshire and Swindon.

Please look at our Safer Streets page to see the work we are doing: **Safer Streets (wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk)**

Emergency Services Day

At the start of September, we paused to reflect upon the work of our emergency services and thank them for the sacrifices they make as part of Emergency Services Day.



Most people who work on the frontline will take it in their stride and tell you it's part of the job, which is a sentiment I broadly agree with.

That said, I have seen the dedication and determination of our officers to ensure Wiltshire and Swindon is a safer place to live and work, and this commitment is reflected across all of our frontline emergency services and I'd like to personally thank them for their efforts.

Your input into my work is vital to help me hold the Chief Constable to account and ensure residents have the police service they want and deserve.

FRESHER'S FAYRES

Over the past few weeks, members of my office have been meeting students in further education colleges across Wiltshire and Swindon to talk to them about Safer Nights and our Safety At Night Charter.

One of the concerning recurring conversations focussed on how many, mainly female, students had felt uncomfortable

or intimidated whilst out in public due to the behaviour of others.

Whilst we made them aware of schemes like "Ask for Angela" and "Angels Shots", it was important for us to tell them about the charter, and the venues which had signed up.

You can find out more by following this link: **Safer Nights Sign Up (wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk)**



A spotlight on... Annual Report 2023-2024

You will have recently seen my annual report for 2023-24 has been released.

This report sets out the performance of Wiltshire Police and my office against the priorities of my Police and Crime Plan. It also takes into account the recent PEEL report and summarises the financial performance of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Notable improvements in tackling crime

Whilst I invite you to read the report in full, I'm pleased to tell you that there has been a 16.6% drop in anti-social behaviour incidents in 2023/2024 compared to 2022/2023, as well as a 13.4% reduction in domestic abuse related crimes, observed across all Neighbourhood Policing Team areas in the same time frame.

I'm particularly pleased to see a drop in anti-social behaviour

rates as I know from speaking with you and with residents, that this crime type causes huge concern within communities.

The reduction in domestic abuse incidents and violent crime that we have seen is also good progress, as this has been an area of focus with the introduction of the Serious Violence Duty in January last year.

Engage

The Chief Constable and I have approached the milestones of being brought out of the HMICFRS Engage process - or special measures as it's known - with cautious optimism.

It has been a joint priority of Wiltshire Police -and my office - to ensure significant, and sustainable, reform across all areas of the organisation to provide a stable foundation for further necessary improvements.

It was also vital we ensured the Force functioned strategically but was also able to deliver the policing service it knows it should - and which our residents want and need. I join the Chief in her aspiration for Wiltshire Police to be an outstanding policing service in future years.

Police and Crime Plan

You will have seen my draft of a refreshed and streamlined Police and Crime Plan for 2025-29, centred on the priorities you have shared through our recent public survey, my community engagements, and general feedback.

Together, Wiltshire Police and my office are making significant strides in various areas of policing, commissioned services and victim support, and I am confident that, in collaboration with Chief Constable Roper and her team, we will not only continue to make Wiltshire safer but also help our residents, truly feel that safety within your communities.

There is still time to give me your feedback on the draft plan by registering for my councillor focus group. The first session was held via on October 7, and I'd like to thank the councillors who attended for their contributions.

The final session will be held on Monday 14 October at 6pm via Team

Email will.walder@wiltshire.police.uk to register your interest.

