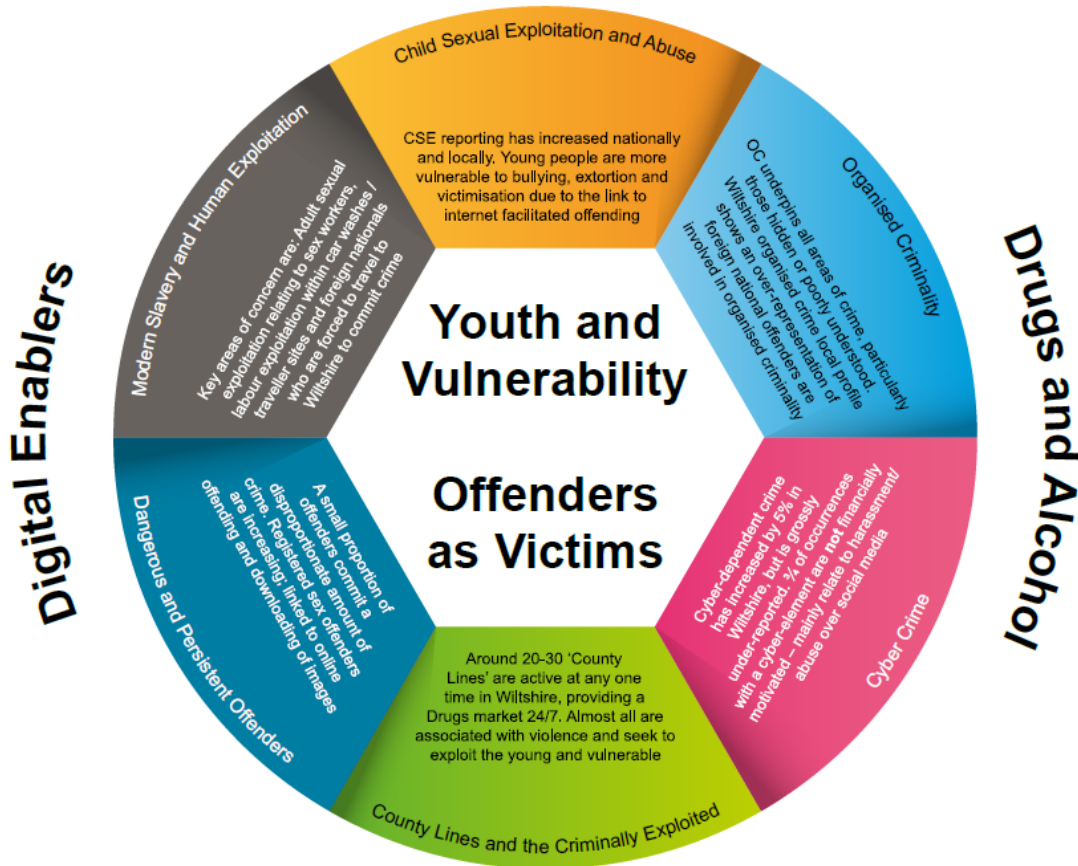




MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

December 2017



Hello and welcome to this Community Policing Team report.

Update regarding Operation Aztec.

More than 260 items have been collected by Wiltshire Police during a two week national firearms surrender, which finished on Sunday (26 November).

This is two and a half times the number handed in during the last surrender in 2015.

Items collected include 39 air rifles, 51 shotguns, 12 revolvers, one antique musket and a crossbow. Ammunition has also been collected with some of the firearms.

Inspector Barry Hickman said: "We're really pleased with the response we've had from the public and by the number of weapons we've had handed in - it means there are now 260 fewer firearms within the communities of Wiltshire.

"There were a mix of weapons handed in. However most of the items surrendered were shotguns and air rifles, which is what we expect in a rural county.

“Many of the firearms are old and cobweb-covered, which have been in people’s possession for some time. Those handing in firearms to us have been really pleased they could do so through this surrender, giving them the opportunity to dispose of the weapons safely.”

Firearms collected also include inherited service weapons from World War I and II, a deactivated AK-47, handguns, starting pistols, BB guns and an empty tear-gas grenade from WWI.

The majority of the firearms collected will be destroyed. Wiltshire Police has also established contacts with weapon museums and some of the antique items are likely to be passed to them for display.

The firearms surrender ran from Monday 13 November until Sunday 26 November. During this time Wiltshire Police appealed for people to hand over unlicensed or unwanted firearms and ammunition.

Many firearms are held in innocence of their illegality or may be overlooked or forgotten in people’s homes.

The laws around antique firearms were tightened in 2014 which mean that someone who has served or received a criminal sentence can no longer possess an antique firearm. The sentencing guidelines for possession for sale or transfer of an unauthorised firearm or ammunition were also raised and this offence now carries a maximum penalty of life.

Inspector Hickman added:

“The fight against gun crime is stronger than ever and we are working with partners and our local communities to safeguard, educate and intervene at the earliest opportunity.

“One weapon off the streets is one less that can be used to harm or threaten our communities.”

Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon, Angus Macpherson, said: “I would like to applaud Wiltshire Police for this welcome initiative, and the people who have come forward and surrendered unlicensed or unwanted firearms.

“Their responsible attitude has helped to make Wiltshire a safer place by removing the risk of the firearms getting into the wrong hands or being accidentally fired.

“Wiltshire is one of the safest counties in the country and this campaign will help to keep it that way.”

If you know of people involved in illegal firearms activity call the police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. In an emergency always call 999.

Every call to Crimestoppers is anonymous and potentially vital to preventing or solving serious crimes; removing an illegally held firearm may just save someone’s life.

Are you doing your Christmas shopping online?

November and December are the busiest online shopping months of the year. They’re also the busiest time for online fraudsters.

Wiltshire Police are working in collaboration with Get Safe Online and recently launched a public facing event to make Wiltshire communities aware of seasonal scams and provide tips on how to protect you whilst shopping online.

Cyber Crime Prevention Officer Lee Stripe says, “One of our core priorities is to reduce the number of victims of cybercrime by ensuring the public are aware of the risks, can take steps to protect themselves and know where they can get help if they fall victim to cybercrime.

If you find yourself trawling the net for inspirational presents please make sure you are using a real and trusted website, pay for items with a credit card where possible and never transfer money directly to people of companies you don’t know.

“Remember that if something seems too much of a bargain, it probably is. Further tips can be found on the Get Safe Online website: <https://www.getsafeonline.org/wiltshire/>.”

Current Priorities

Theft from Motor Vehicles

We have experienced twenty seven incidents of thefts from vehicles in the East CPT areas of Devizes, Marlborough and Pewsey during November.

Of the Pewsey villages locations a total of eight offences have occurred, three of which relates to incidents at Knapp Hill at Alton Barnes, a number plate has been removed from a vehicle in Pewsey, a fuel cap has been stolen in a separate incident and forced entry has occurred, involving theft of property to a vehicle on Brook street in Great Bedwyn.

Devizes reports total eight occurrences also and include theft from a works vehicle at Hopton Industrial Estate, Eastleigh road, Devizes, Rowde, , Market Lavington and Horton.

Eleven offences have occurred in Marlborough and surrounding villages. A total of four crimes occurred in Avebury, three hundred litres of diesel has been removed from a HGV in Broad Hinton.

Of note, we are also investigating five incidents of thefts from works vehicles in Marlborough Town; locations of Five Styles road, Laineys Close, Reeds Ground, Franklyn Acre and Cherry Orchard have been targeted. A further theft from a works vehicle has occurred at Ogbourne St Andrew. It would appear that a device is being used to access secure and locked transit vans, particularly Ford vans but also has involved a theft from a secure Peugeot partner van. These matters have been reported for press release, to allow those with business vehicles to revisit their security measures and storage of property. Similar thefts have occurred in other areas of the county, particularly Calne and Chippenham.

Dwelling and non-dwelling burglaries

A total of twenty two incidents of burglary were reported for the East Wiltshire area during November 2017.

Investigations for the Devizes area included forced entry to a canal boat, the use of a sledgehammer to gain entry to a business premises on Hopton Industrial Estate, two further incidents nearby resulted in the theft of power tools from a premises between 10-13/11/2017. Two males have been arrested in relation to a burglary, daytime to a shop in the town, from which they have previously been banned. A quantity of distinctive blue electric cable has been stolen during a burglary to a business premises, A361, near Devizes, between 28-30/11/2017.

Within the Marlborough area eight incidents have occurred during November. These include the theft of a JCB and a New Holland Tractor. Both machines were subsequently recovered in Belgium, enquiries are continuing. A Stihl chainsaw was stolen from a property in Froxfield and two sheds, business premises sustained damage following forced entry into the buildings. In Aldbourne village, overnight to 19/11/2017 two Stihl chainsaws were stolen from an attached garage to a dwelling following forced entry.

The Pewsey area has experienced five incidents of burglary last month including the theft of three power tools from a shed in Oare, cash from a porch to a dwelling in Burbage, an attempt dwelling burglary in Ham via the forcing of a front door, no entry gained and two males from the Swindon area are under investigation following a burglary to a business premises in Pewsey at 0016/20/11/2017 – one was arrested at scene and the second identified during the investigation.

We are eager to identify any witnesses to what we believe to be a related incident involving the theft of a vehicle from Pewsey village overnight to 20/11/2017 in which a Citroen Berlingo, colour white, was taken from outside a dwelling in Avonleaze, Pewsey. Please do call 101 if you have any information regarding activity in the central area of Pewsey – early hours of 20/11/17. Thank you.

Crime prevention advice

- **Lock your doors and windows every time you leave the house, even if you're in the garden, and make sure you have approved locks or bolts on all doors and windows**
- **Consider installing CCTV**
- **Never leave a spare key in a hiding place like in a plant pot or letterbox - a thief knows all the hiding places**
- **Keep all keys, purses and wallets out of sight and away from the letterbox**
- **Consider installing a burglar alarm, and only use a company that is registered or certified with the NSI or the SSIAB**
- **Do not open the door to anyone you don't know or are not expecting. Always check by using a spy-hole or look through a window**
- **Make sure that you have up to date contents insurance**
- **Register all serial numbers from electrical items, tools and garden equipment with Immobilise.com the free national property register. Mark items without serial numbers with an artificial DNA property marker such as Smartwater or SelectaDNA**
- **Do not keep large amounts of cash at home - it is much safer in a bank or building society**
- **Trim back any plants and hedges at the front of your property to no higher than 1 metre to remove hiding places**
- **Always report any suspicious activity, note any vehicle registrations, descriptions of persons involved and direction of travel**
- **Use a timer to set lights to mimic your usual activity when you are not at home**
- **Take photographs of all jewellery including hallmarks and keep them safe. Also consider using an artificial DNA property marker on jewellery or other valuable items**
- **Make sure any bolts are low enough so they cannot be opened by reaching over the top of the gate**

Hare Coursing and Poaching.

This policing priority which currently details sixty two targeted patrols by members of the East Wilts Policing Team, covering areas affected by this criminality.

A number of arrests have occurred during November which include the following;

11/11/17; 3 x males arrested North Newnton area on suspicion of daytime trespass in pursuit of game.
14/11/17; 2 x arrests Avebury Trusloe on suspicion of criminal damage and hare coursing
19/11/17; 4 x suspects to hare coursing, criminal damage and driving other than on a road, arrested at Avebury.

Thank you for your partnership working in relation to sightings of activity, persons and vehicles. The Whatsapp groups for the Marlborough Downs and The Pewsey Vale are assisting in effective information sharing. Please continue to report via 999 if coursing in progress or 101, to allow for our tasking to these incidents.

Thank you also to those members of our community who have been busy with the tasks of ditching field perimeters, to prevent access by those nominals who engage in this activity. Ditching has previously been completed in other areas of East Wiltshire and has resulted in a substantial decrease in incidents of hare coursing and criminal damage to farmland.

Devizes Town priority

Targeted patrols are underway by member of the team in order to identify, disrupt and deal with criminality within the town centre. The recent imprisonment of a known nominal following a series of thefts from stores has assisted in reducing the incidents of shoplifting.

Two policing operations are due to commence this week regarding anti-social behaviour, shoplifting, purse dips and night-time economy policing including licensed premises visits.

A partnership meeting was held this week involving WCC Public Protection Team, Drug and Alcohol referral workers, local officers and colleagues involved with the management of our most prolific offenders. Please continue to report sightings of anti- social behaviour and offending, to assist with our policing of the town and safeguarding of the community.

Any Relevant Series for November 2017

Caravans are being stolen from around the area.

Local Crimes

There have been 12 thefts around the area over the past month.

<https://www.police.uk/>

This link will allow you to check stats in more detail for your area, and all surrounding areas.

If you wish further detail please contact PCSO **Mark Braithwaite**.

Please dial 101 to report a crime and 999 in an emergency.

Please follow us on:

Twitter <https://twitter.com/wiltshirepolice>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/wiltshirepolice/>

Or sign up to Community Messaging <https://www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk/>



Thank you, kindest regards,

Pc 2460 Teresa HERBERT

CPT East Community Co-ordinator,
Devizes, Marlborough and Pewsey.