

Rural crime targeted with Country Watch scheme



Farmers are being invited to join a scheme to cut down rural crime in the Wheatley and Chalgrove area. Police have been visiting farms across the many parishes surrounding Wheatley and Chalgrove to encourage them to join Country Watch as they revitalise the scheme.

Regular updates on community safety issues

PC Abi Derbyshire, Neighbourhood Specialist Officer, said: "The scheme has 208 members at present and we are keen to get more. Country Watch is part of our commitment to improving communication with the communities we serve, and in this case, the rural community. People who sign up for the service will receive crime reduction advice, appeals for witnesses, and information about meetings - all specific to rural crime. We have received good feedback from those who are already members and receive frequent phone or email messages via our community messaging system. We will also put up signs to act as a deterrent to any would-be criminal, publicising that this farmer is a member of the scheme and working with the police."

For more information about the scheme contact PC Abi Derbyshire on 0845 8 505 505.

Stamping out hate crime

Have you been a victim of verbal or physical abuse or has your property been damaged because of your ethnicity, your sexuality or because you have a disability? The district council, police and partners are encouraging people to report these kinds of incidents so they can be stopped.

There are a number of ways you can do this:

- call  0845 8 505 505
 The single number for District, Valley, Police
- in an emergency always call 999 i.e. when a crime is being committed, there is a risk of injury, or a risk of serious damage to property
- you can report racist incidents yourself on line at www.reportracisimoxon.com
- homophobic incidents can also be reported to the Homophobic Awareness Liaison Team (HALT) on 01865 243389
- you can give information anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

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Schools help NAG to highlight dangers of speed



Speeding has been identified as the main concern for residents of the many rural parishes that make up the neighbourhood action group area. Particular hotspots are London Road in **Wheatley**, between **Little Milton and Chalgrove** and two roads in **Horspath**.

School pupils winning ideas

The pupils from schools in Wheatley and Chalgrove were asked by the NAG to design a poster warning people about the dangers of speeding. Jim Reilly the Vice Chair of the NAG went to Wheatley Primary School and presented the winners with a gift voucher and an enlarged copy of their poster design. Four winners were also chosen from Chalgrove

primary school and they spent the day with the police neighbourhood team as their prize. As part of this campaign the posters have been enlarged and will be displayed around the villages. There will also be further education and enforcement action at these and other locations identified by residents.

New powers for PCSOs to tackle litter

Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) in South Oxfordshire now have the power to hand out on the spot fines for anyone caught dropping rubbish.

In order to maintain our high standards of street cleanliness, PCSOs, acting on behalf of South Oxfordshire District Council, will be able to issue fixed penalty notices (FPNs) of up to £80 (reduced to £50 if paid within 10 days) to anyone over the age of 18. This covers a range of environmental crimes such as throwing cigarette butts and chewing gum in the street, allowing a dog to foul on a pavement but not picking it up, fly-posting leaflets and spraying graffiti on a wall. The aim is for PCSOs to advise and educate against the behaviour in the first instance. However, if people persist the PCSOs will issue a FPN.

Residents in the 26 rural parishes (see the website for the complete list of parishes) covered by the Wheatley and Chalgrove Area Neighbourhood Action Group have highlighted rubbish and litter as one of their top concerns.

Come and meet your local police team

The neighbourhood policing team are holding surgeries at the following times and locations:

Wednesday 7 October 2009 5pm-7pm
Wheatley police office (behind the Merry Bells)

Sunday 11 October
3pm – 4pm John Hampden Hall, **Chalgrove**
6pm — 7pm **Stadhampton** Church

Thursday 15 October 7.30pm - 8.30pm
doctors surgery, Oxford Road, **Horspath**

Thursday 12 November
6pm —7pm outside the village hall **Garsington**
7.30pm - 8.30pm village hall, Henley Road,
Sandford on Thames

These surgeries are an ideal opportunity for you to speak to your local police officers about any issues. No appointment is necessary just turn up.

See www.thamesvalley.police.uk for more dates and locations of surgeries.



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For more details and latest updates on the NAGs visit www.southoxon.gov.uk/nag

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