Annual Parish Report for the Bradford on Avon Rural Beat

Period 1st April 2014 – 31st March 2015

The Bradford rural beat covers 8 villages and many hamlets. The villages are: Holt, Limpley Stoke, Monkton Farleigh, South Wraxall, Staverton, Westwood, Wingfield and Winsley.

The rural beat is patrolled by PC Lee Pelling and PCSO Andrew MacLachlan who are based at Bradford on Avon police station, assisted by PC Martin Annetts and PCSO Joe Leeds from the town centre beat.

Crime figures for the rural beat show there have been 391 reported incidents occurring in the rural beat between the above dates. This compares to 507 in the previous year.

The main categories break down as follows (previous year in brackets):

ASB – 49 (62)

Burglary – 30 (65)

Criminal Damage – 31 (45)

Theft and handling – 58 (99)

Violence against the person – 44 (46)

Road Traffic Related – 62 (71)

The 31 burglaries are broken down as follows (previous year in brackets):

Holt – 5 (20)

Limpley Stoke – 8 (9)

Monkton Farleigh – 0 (2)

South Wraxall – 2 (4)

Staverton – 6 (6)

Westwood – 4 (8)

Wingfield – 3 (6)

Winsley – 2 (10)

The 65 burglaries occurred during the following months (previous year in brackets):

April 2013 – 1 (0)

May – 1 (6)

June – 2 (15)

July – 1 (6)

August – 3 (4)

September – 3 (8)

October – 2 (9)

November – 5 (1)

December – 5 (4)

January 2014 – 2 (4)

February – 3 (4)

March – 2 (4)

It is very encouraging to se that burglaries have decreased this year by over 50% and this trend has been repeated with the thefts reducing by around 40%. There is no specific peak in the months when they occurred, with the highest numbers recorded being in November (5) and December (5) which are two months with long dark hours.

Your two NPT officers, supported by the two town centre NPT officers, will continue to patrol the rural areas and will call upon other specialised police teams to help tackle and deter crime. Operation Harness (targeted action days involving hundreds of police officers and staff) continues on a regular basis).

We have been involved in a number of warrants which have resulted in occupiers being reported for possession and cultivation of illegal drugs and we have reported a number of uninsured vehicles seen visiting a known drug dealers' residence. A couriers van stolen was also recovered by us shortly after it was stolen.

With so few crimes being reported, there are less success stories of criminals being locked up than in the past years. However, I can report that Stephen James from Bradford Leigh was sentenced to 3 years imprisonment for cultivating a large quantity of cannabis.

Being able to access your NPT and receiving feedback from them has greatly improved this year. Apart from Lee and Andrew giving out their mobile numbers for direct contact, we have created a Facebook page called "Bradford on Avon NPT" which now has over 400 followers.

Community Messaging (with currently around 200 members) was also launched earlier in 2015 and provides a powerful tool for us to communicate incidents such as burglaries, thefts etc as well as safety information and tips. We strongly urge residents to sign up to the Facebook page (if they use Facebook) and Community Messaging which can be done by visiting www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk.

30 burglaries are 30 too many and we urge residents to regularly review their security measures and to at least remember to lock their houses, outbuildings and vehicles up at night or when left unattended.

Please urge residents to report anything suspicious to the police using 101 for non emergencies, 999 for emergencies.

PC Lee Pelling contact details are mobile 0752 897 2004 and email lee.pelling@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

PCSO Andrew MacLachlan contact details are mobile 0752 897 2236 and email andrew.maclachlan@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk