



FEBRUARY 2008 BULLETIN

EAST SECTOR

As ever the last month has been very busy on the East sector of Swindon – in recognition of a rise in petty Criminal Damage especially in the Parks & Walcot NPT a number of Patrol initiatives were put into place. These involved in excess of 40 duty changes by Sector staff and also their colleagues from Headquarters in Devizes.

As ever it appeared that the majority of offences were being committed by very few persons however damage to windows, bus-shelters, fences etc was causing a major concern to residents. As a result of our activities three persons were caught in the act and are currently within the Youth Justice System. As a result the damage problem has fallen dramatically, by as much as 30% since the latter part of 2007.

We cannot be complacent however and so I would urge any person with information on persons acting anti-socially to please let us know. We can therefore work together to make positive progress in this particular area.

The misuse of drugs is and will continue to be, a strong focus for our attention. A number of warrants were executed in the last month which resulted in the arrest and seizure of substances. Four persons have been charged and it is anticipated that lengthy custodial sentences will be imposed. In addition it is evident that a large network has been disrupted.

Vehicle crime still continues to be an issue and I would urge all to ensure that valuables, particularly 'Sat-Nav' systems are removed or at least hidden away when you leave your vehicles. Thieves are very aware of the 'mounts' for these devices and have been known to force entry 'just on the off-chance' that a device may be in a glove-box etc. Many of these incidents have occurred around the entertainment complex at Greenbridge so extra vigilance is requested in this area. Identification and recovery of property after the fact is greatly enhanced by the marking of your items with an Ultra-violet' pen – just your postcode and house name/number is sufficient but obviously we'd rather it wasn't taken in the first place. We will continue to take positive action to address this area of offending.

Violent crime on East has shown a steady decline since September 2007 and despite a peak in November, as at January 2008 there has been a decrease equating to approximately 36%. Reassurance is a major aspect of community policing and it is fair to say, despite what the media may offer Wiltshire is still one of the safest areas of the country to live in. Working together I'm sure we can keep it this way.

Mark Sellers
Inspector (East & Rural)
0845 408 7000