



Keeping Swindon **Safe**

Wiltshire Police January Bulletin

Message from the new Divisional Commander, Chief Superintendent Paul Howlett

In assuming responsibility for policing in Swindon I am very mindful of the successes that have been achieved in reducing crime and in particular household burglaries where we have achieved significant reductions. But whilst acknowledging these successes we need to duplicate these achievements in respect of other crimes such as criminal damage and assault.

Our intention is very much to reduce and detect crime with the emphasis being on reducing crime. In order to achieve this it is critical that we work together with our Partners, including Neighbourhood Watch, because together we present a considerable resource to be used for the greater good. The dissemination of good crime reduction advice is a start but the real benefits are obtained through us collectively exercising sound judgement in order to safeguard our families, our property and ourselves. A significant benefit of Neighbourhood Watch is that through the habit of being good neighbours we can support each other and particularly the more vulnerable such as the elderly.

It is equally important that this is a two-way dialogue in order that we can understand your concerns and where we are able to respond in a positive manner. Since April 2007 we have rolled out 23 Neighbourhood Policing Teams in Swindon with the firm intention of working with communities to meet their needs. We are now looking to consolidate on the progress to date and as part of this we want to ensure effective working relationships with Neighbourhood Watch and other Partners such as Swindon Borough Council. It is therefore important that you provide us with feedback through engaging with your local Neighbourhood Policing Teams so that we can focus our efforts to meet your needs.

In conclusion, we should not forget that Swindon in national terms is a relatively low crime area and we must avoid unnecessarily inflating the fear of crime. Whilst recognising that there is still work to be done, I am confident that through working together we can achieve our shared objective of making Swindon an even safer place to live and work.