



Chair's update

I have recently taken on the role of chairman for the Witney Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) and I'm genuinely excited about the opportunity the NAG provides to help ensure Witney and its neighbouring villages continue to be the safe and confident communities that they are.

So, what is the Witney NAG, what does it do and how can we all help?

The Witney NAG is a multi-agency problem solving group made up of members from local residents, various volunteer groups, businesses, local council representatives and the neighbourhood policing team.

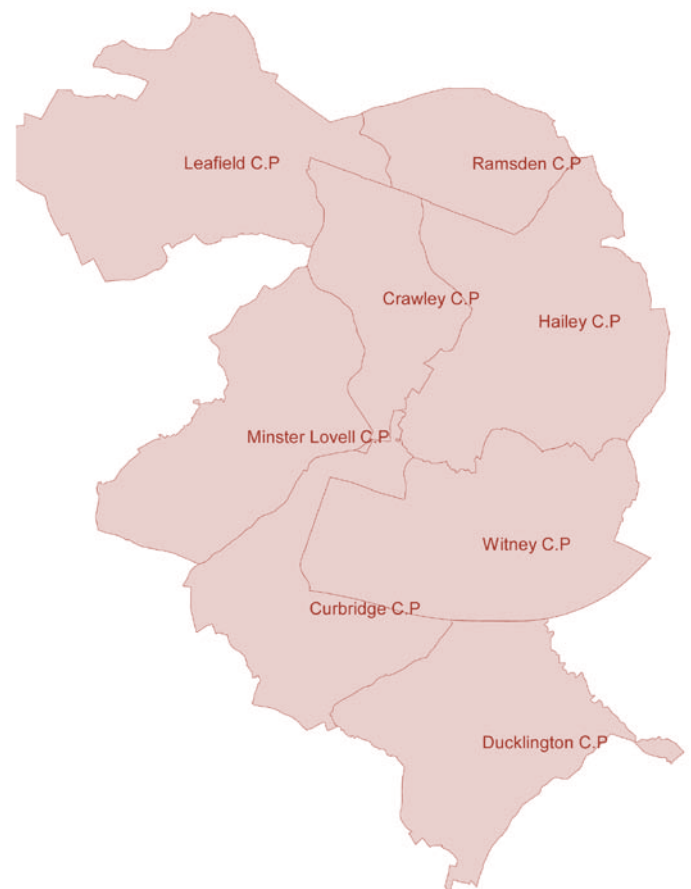
The area covered by the NAG is shown in the map including Witney town and the parishes of Leaffield, Ramsden, Crawley, Minster Lovell, Hailey, Curbridge and Lew and Ducklington. We are one of five NAGs that exist across West Oxfordshire, with a total of 36 NAGs across Oxfordshire.

The role of the NAG is to work together in solving priority issues at regular meetings, drawing upon the knowledge, experience and resources of its partner organisations. Its main focus is to identify the local community's top issues through public consultation and take action.

The top three priorities identified by the Witney NAG for 2009/2010 were:

- 1 Anti-social behaviour.** Underage drinking and disorderly conduct on the Leys, Burwell Estate, Leaffield, Ducklington sports ground, Madley Park and Woodgreen play park.
- 2 Speeding.** Motorists exceeding speed limit in residential areas including Corn Street, the High Street, Hailey, New Yatt Road, Woodstock Road, Curbridge Road, Burwell Drive, Deer Park Road, Oxford Hill and Jubilee Way.
- 3 Littering.** Town centre rubbish from the night time economy including Market Place and Church Green. Fly tipping in lay bys and young people congregating in sports grounds and village halls.

Witney Neighbourhood Area:



Anti-social Behaviour

The team has been working hard to help the police deal with reported incidents on the Burwell, Smiths and Thorney Leys estates, Marriotts Walk play area and the Woodford Way car park. A number of initiatives are underway including high-visibility patrols, residents meetings and asking those responsible to apologise to the victims of such behaviour. These initiatives are ongoing but have already resulted in significantly fewer complaints.

Continued overleaf...



Chair's update cont...

Speeding

The police have been taking positive action against speeding across the region. Complaints received through the NAG have resulted in speeding operations being held in Curbridge, Hailey, New Yatt, Ducklington, Witney and many other areas. A number of 'problem' roads have been identified for speed data analysis. Interestingly, some of the completed analysis has shown that the perception of speeding is not always borne out in reality.

'Have Your Say' events

The police regularly visit all Witney NAG areas to discuss issues with residents. If you see the mobile police station in your neighbourhood, please pop in to say hello and talk about any problems you might be having. The NAG has also supported an event held in Witney where 70 local secondary school children gathered to learn more about local crime and disorder.

Litter

Many litter picks have been organised including in Witney town (by Rotary International), Hailey (by the local Parish Action Plan Team) and Madley Park (by the Residents Association).

In addition to the work on the above priority areas, the Witney NAG has helped deliver a number of other initiatives.

Test Purchasing

The council licensing team have visited a number of premises to conduct test purchasing, targeting establishments that serve alcohol to underage people. This has resulted in at least one establishment having its license removed.

Community Payback

The Community Payback scheme allows for offenders to be given 'community sentences' (unpaid work) to improve local neighbourhoods. The NAG has suggested a number of projects in the area including graffiti removal and general repairs to public amenities.

Bike Stamping

The police have attended a number of primary schools across the area, stamped children's bike frames with their home postcodes and issued owners with 'bike passports'. This means that if a lost or stolen bike is recovered, it can easily be identified and returned to the owner.



You can sign up for monthly updates from your neighbourhood police team at www.whosmybobby.co.uk or sign up to the Thames Valley Police Community Messaging Service at www.tvpcommunitymessaging.org.

If you would like to help keep the Witney area among the safest places to live and you want to find out more about joining the NAG, please feel free to email me directly at witneynag@live.co.uk.

Andy Smith

Chair, Witney NAG



Tune into...

Community messaging

Do you want to receive crime alerts and information from the police regarding incidents in your area?

The Thames Valley Community Messaging Service helps to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in your neighbourhood!

Thames Valley Police launched the Community Messaging Service as part of its ongoing commitment to improving communication with the local communities it serves.

For a number of years the Police operated a messaging service which supported Neighbourhood Watch, Pub Watch, Country Watch and Business Watch schemes. This service has now been extended to enable anyone that lives or works in Thames Valley to sign up online to receive messages without needing to be part of a wider scheme.

The messages, which are specific to the registrant's area, include information about incidents and crime reduction advice, witness appeals and regular news from the neighbourhood police teams. It also provides a channel for members to report information. The messages can be sent via email, fax or as a recorded voice message to a telephone.

You can sign up online at: www.tvpcommunitymessaging.org or contact the West Oxfordshire Administrator on 01993 861640 for an application form.



When you have finished with this magazine please recycle it.

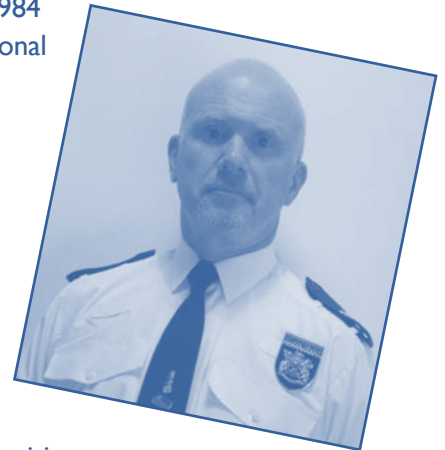
Neighbourhood Sergeant Tony Leach, Witney

I joined the Metropolitan Police in 1984 which involved working in the Divisional Crime Squad before transferring in 1987 to Thames Valley Police in Oxford, which is where I grew up.

In 1989 I joined the Support Group which was the tactical firearms team, as well as executing drug warrants, major crime enquiries, specialist searching and supporting area patrols. In 1993

I returned to response shift whilst waiting for a post to one of the surveillance teams working from Burnham, near Slough. In 1999 I came back to Cowley before going onto the newly formed proactive team for South Oxfordshire.

I had my first taste of neighbourhood policing in 2000 when I became the neighbourhood officer for Wantage town centre. In 2001 I moved into Roads Policing and during this time I received a Commendation for the initial investigation of a multi-fatal collision. In 2008 I was promoted to Sergeant and posted to Witney. I began my role as Neighbourhood Team Sergeant in May 2010 and very much look forward to working with the team of NSOs and PCSOs.



Public disorder down

Proactive partnership working contributed towards a 42% fall in public disorder incidents in licensed premises in West Oxfordshire.

Between March 2009 and March 2010 the number of crime incidents associated with licensed premises fell from 36 to 15.

Tony Cope, Thames Valley Police Licensing Co-ordinator said: "Great partnership working between the police and West Oxfordshire District Council coupled with robust enforcement has had a positive impact on the decrease we've seen." In the last year we have carried out five test purchasing operations in the district and tested 23 licensed premises, 18 of which passed.

The five that failed were issued fixed penalty notices and advised about how to improve their procedures for checking age identification.

"We also carry out drug swabbing and have used the knife arch during the weekends to raise awareness of safety within premises. Officers also issue banning orders to anyone drunk and disorderly which excludes them from an area like a town centre within a set time frame."

The majority of licensees are signed up to the Nightsafe scheme which tackles alcohol-related crime and disorder, promoting responsible drinking, premises safety and managing alcohol and drug misuse.

Witney Neighbourhood Team



Sgt Tony Leach
Neighbourhood Sergeant



PC Reg Nicolson
Neighbourhood Specialist Officer



PC Sam Moore
Neighbourhood Specialist Officer



PC Duncan Johnson
Neighbourhood Specialist Officer



PCSO Lucy James



PCSO MC Tutty



PCSO Emma Haines



PCSO Hilary Rabson



PCSO Heather Jones



PCSO Tracy Waller



PCSO Lori Hale



PCSO Lizzie Swinney

They can be contacted on the non-emergency number:

0845 8 505 505

Email: witney@whosmybobby.co.uk

In an emergency call 999

