



## Putting brakes on illegal parking

From late October the District Council will take over responsibility for parking in West Oxfordshire. There will be a total of six community wardens to cover the District, meaning that one warden will spend about 50% of their time in the Woodstock area.

The wardens will regulate parking on and off-street to help maintain traffic flow and reduce congestion and be a uniformed presence to help deal with environmental crime, such as littering, dog fouling, fly-posting and fly-tipping. They will also act as extra eyes and ears for the police regarding anti-social behaviour.

Residents should see a reduction in the number of driveways obstructed and other illegal parking. Where appropriate, 'penalty charge notices' will be issued and the Government is introducing a new two-tier level of charges. Serious contraventions, such as parking on a pedestrian crossing or misuse of disabled parking bays, will mean a £70 penalty charge notice discounted to £35 if paid within 14 days. Less serious contraventions, such as overstaying the time limit in a parking bay, will attract a £50 penalty reduced to £25 if paid within 14 days.

A report form for parking issues will be available on the District Council website [www.westoxon.gov.uk](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk) and a telephone helpline will also be available.



## PC Gordon Richardson Neighbourhood Specialist Officer - Woodstock

"As the Woodstock Neighbourhood Specialist Officer I supervise two Police Community Support Officers, Phil Workman and Tina Townshend. Between us we cover Woodstock and the surrounding villages including the Hanboroughs, Combe, Freeland, Stonesfield, Bladon and Wootton. I have only been in the role since April but I am working my way round to meeting as many residents as possible.

"Prior to joining the police I was in the RAF for 18 years. I joined Thames Valley Police in 1996 starting as a shift officer in Abingdon before moving on to become an Area Beat Officer. In 2002 I moved to Witney and became Area Beat Officer for Eynsham. I then worked in Chipping Norton for a year until I became the NSO for Woodstock.

"I enjoy being part of neighbourhood policing and I actively encourage residents to come and chat with us. The PCSOs hold regular drop-in surgeries around our neighbourhood where you can discuss specific local issues and these dates are publicised on the Thames Valley Police website: [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk) or you can call the team via 08458 505 505 or email [woodstock@whosmybobby.co.uk](mailto:woodstock@whosmybobby.co.uk)"





## Could you volunteer?

The Police Volunteer Support Team was established in Thames Valley Police in 1997 to promote community involvement in policing through volunteering.

Individuals from the community are encouraged to use their skills, experience and knowledge to support the Force in the fight against crime, disorder and fear.

There are dedicated teams of volunteers across Thames Valley that support regular officers and police staff by undertaking specific tasks. Volunteering builds important links between the police and communities and provides opportunities for individuals to make a positive contribution to their local area. Volunteers come from a variety of backgrounds and cultures, with different experiences and skills which enhance the work of the police. Volunteers can claim out of pocket expenses.

### Entry Criteria

- A resident of the UK for a minimum of 3 years.
- Be aged 16+. There is no upper age limit for volunteers.
- Subject to a basic police check
- Have no conflict of interest

Applicants are invited to an informal interview with the local volunteer co-ordinator. If successful, security checks and references are sought. If successfully received, a suitable role will be found. All volunteers are required to attend induction training before starting.

For more information call Rosie White, volunteer co-ordinator on 01993 814065, or download an application form from [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)

## Your community, your call

Residents and visitors in Woodstock took the opportunity to get advice on staying safer at home and in their neighbourhood during a community safety day on 31 July.

The day was part of a week-long roadshow organised by the Safer Communities Partnership to promote the crime reduction work taking place across the district. A range of issues were covered from domestic violence and drugs and alcohol to burglary, criminal damage and environmental crime.

Supporters at the events included the Neighbourhood Police Team, Oxfordshire Trading Standards and Fire & Rescue.

Cllr Jill Dunsmore, Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Communities said: "Our district remains a safe place to live, work and visit but part of this is down to the great partnership working our public agencies have in reducing crime and disorder.

"During last year's community engagement surveys over half of West Oxfordshire's residents said they had seen improvements in community safety but didn't know exactly what is being done in their neighbourhood. Many residents popped along during the week to find out what is being done across the district and how people can help themselves and their local community. There were crime reduction packs to take away, prizes to be won and specific giveaways and activities for children."

The neighbourhood police team were also involved in the launch of Operation Jugular which was held in Woodstock on 9 July. The operation aims to crackdown on domestic burglary and thefts from vehicles by encouraging more people to report suspicious incidents in their neighbourhood to the police. A recent burglary victim in Stonesfield had her property returned to her following information reported by a neighbour to the police.

# It's all about perception

An extensive speeding survey undertaken in West Oxfordshire revealed that despite perception the majority of motorists stick to 30mph speed limits.

A Speed Detection Radar (SDR), purchased by the Safer Communities Partnership, was placed in neighbourhoods, including Woodstock, in 2008 to monitor the speed of vehicles. Sites were chosen by the Neighbourhood Action Groups (NAGs) in towns and villages where local people thought there was a problem with speeding.

The SDR is fixed to a post at the side of a road and records the speed of every vehicle that passes it for a week to cover all busy and quiet periods. Five locations were monitored in the Woodstock neighbourhood and 16,740 vehicles passed by. The average speed was 27mph.

In total more than 106,000 vehicles were monitored in the district in 39 surveys.

West Oxfordshire Police Commander Chief Inspector Jack Malhi said: "The survey has revealed that the average speed for West Oxfordshire is 30mph which tells us that the majority of speeding problems in neighbourhoods are down to perception.

"However, we have been able to identify those locations that do have an issue with excessive speed and these are being targeted with speeding operations and education by the neighbourhood police teams. This includes the use of the Speed Indicator Device by PCSOs which flashes when a driver goes over the limit. The vehicle's details are taken and the driver is sent a warning letter about their speed. Police officers are also able to deploy the laser gun which issues on-the-spot fines."

Cllr Jill Dunsmore, Cabinet Member for Communities at West Oxfordshire District Council said: "This survey is particularly important because the locations for the SDR were chosen by the residents that sit on the five Neighbourhood Actions Groups. Four of these groups have speeding as one of their top priorities and I am pleased to see that most drivers in our district are sticking to the speed limits and continuing education and enforcement is tackling the areas that do have a problem."

## Protecting your community

Neighbourhood Watch schemes help to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in your neighbourhood.

A scheme is run by members of the community in close liaison with Thames Valley Police. It acts as a two-way communication channel enabling schemes to report information direct to the police.

Members can choose to receive crime alerts via the telephone or by email and messages contain:

- Witness appeals and information on specific incidents
- Neighbourhood police team updates
- Crime prevention advice
- Police meetings
- Details of community events

You can sign up online at: [www.tvpcommunitymessaging.org](http://www.tvpcommunitymessaging.org) or contact the West Oxfordshire Administrator Danielle Hilton on 01993 861640 for an application form and information pack.

### Calling all teenagers

Are you aged 18 or under?  
Can you spare a couple of  
hours every six weeks?

The Woodstock Neighbourhood Action Group is looking for youth members to bring a different insight to the group. Working on tackling three priorities including a lack of youth facilities, this is your chance to make a

real difference to your local community. Other NAGs in the district have youth members and their input has proved invaluable.

If you are interested in joining or would like more information then please contact the Woodstock Neighbourhood Team on 08458 505 505 or email [woodstock@whosmybobby.co.uk](mailto:woodstock@whosmybobby.co.uk)

# Woodstock Neighbourhood Team



**Sgt David Yates**  
Neighbourhood Sergeant



**PC Gordon Richardson**  
Neighbourhood Specialist Officer



**PCSO Tina Townshend**



**PCSO Phil Workman**

They can be contacted on the non-emergency number:

**0845 8 505 505**

Email: [woodstock@whosmybobby.co.uk](mailto:woodstock@whosmybobby.co.uk)

***In an emergency call 999***

