

Neighbourhood Update – Woodley December 2016

Introduce PCSOs

In this month's update we are taking the opportunity to properly welcome two new members of our team. PCSOs Danielle (Danni) FRY and David ALLEN have joined us in recent months and are settling in well to the team and getting to grips with the area. We welcome them both to the team and look forward to working with them in the coming months and years. These two have replaced PCSOs Chris FITZGERALD and Nicola SHEPHERD, who left earlier on in the year. Chris has left to pursue a different career and Nicola has successfully joined Thames Valley Police as a Police Constable in a neighbouring area. We of course wish both of them the best of luck with their careers.

Contact us

In recent weeks and months we have seen an increase in members of the public, quite rightfully, wanting issues to be solved within the area. Unfortunately, we have also noticed that a lot of the public are not actually contacting us to tell us about the issues. It may seem obvious to many, but we need to be made aware of issues in order to deal with them!

We want to reiterate that we need members of the public to contact us so we can help you.

If you have a non-urgent request then please contact 101. Alternatively you can email us directly by sending an email to WoodleyNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk.

Social media platforms should not be used to report issues, as they are not routinely monitored. If you do have a question you can tweet us at @TVP_Wokingham however we cannot guarantee you will receive an answer quickly. We are also aware of Facebook groups that fairly large numbers of our community use to discuss issues. Some of these groups are open to all and so we do look at posts on the pages to see what issues are being raised and whether we can assist. We cannot comment on these pages, so again we need people to contact us in the above ways with any and all information.

Found cycles

We have been receiving numerous calls regarding abandoned push bikes around the area. Regularly these calls are saying that it is suspected that the push cycles are stolen. When bikes are stolen, we will recover the bike and try to re-unite them with their owners. In order to check if the bikes are registered as stolen we need to check the serial number through our systems and if no serial number is known, we check the make/model/colour etc. to establish if it is stolen. If we cannot show that we suspect it is stolen, we will not be able to remove the bike as found property. This will be for the local council to remove. In order to speed up this process we ideally need to know the make/model/colour during the original report to us.

Crime prevention

As the Christmas period approaches and the nights get seemingly ever longer we are anticipating the seasonal rise in house burglaries. Because of this we have put together a few bullet points below of simple crime prevention advice which should reduce the risk of you or your families' properties being targeted.

- Do not leave empty packaging outside your address. (Burglars would love to know what presents you've been given)
- Double lock doors wherever possible to prevent easy access to your home.
- When away from home do not leave expensive items in view of ground floor windows.
- Do not advertise travel arrangements or gifts on social media.
- Do not leave expensive items in your vehicles. Vehicles are a much softer target than homes.

School Parking

Parking around schools continues to be a frequent issue across the Woodley area. We are continuing to target the roads around the schools around the drop-off/pick-up times and dealing appropriately with any parking offences. For minor first time infringements we will be issuing warning notices. For continual minor offences we will have to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for the offences. If we see infringements which we deem to be excessively dangerous we will not be issuing warning notices and will immediately issue Fixed Penalty Notices.

Precinct

In recent weeks we have seen a rise in shoplifting and theft from person offences from within the Woodley Precinct on Crockhamwell Road. Enquiries have been made which identified a large number of offences being committed by the same individual. A male from Woodley has since been arrested and charged in relation to this.

Work is continuing between ourselves and the local shops to improve our working relationship. This includes expanding our current Shop Watch radio system to hopefully soon include more local shops to allow for shop staff to have direct radio contact with the Woodley team to ensure the best possible response to incidents as they happen. In the coming months we hope to run training sessions with the local shops who are part of the Shop Watch system to allow new staff to learn the procedure and existing staff the opportunity to refresh their knowledge.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Woodley has seen a sharp increase in the levels of ASB related calls since the Summer period. This has been linked predominantly to young people from Woodley and the surrounding areas. These issues culminated in an incident on Halloween when a firework was thrown at a lady and her young child who were trick-or-treating in the ROSE CLOSE area of Woodley. Fortunately, neither person was injured at this incident. While we were not able to positively identify the person who threw the firework we were able to identify a number of people within the group we believed to be responsible through information received from members of the public. As we have

received numerous complaints concerning the same few individual we have targeted these individuals to establish a working strategy to solve the issues.

At the writing of this update we have worked with three young people to put in place an Acceptable Behaviour Contract for each of them. The ABC is a voluntary low-level tool used to establish a set of rules which the person agrees to abide by as a way to improve their overall behaviour. Whilst there is no legal penalty for the individuals should they breach the agreement, it does then allow us to deal more robustly through the courts, and ensure we are able to evidence continuous anti-social behaviour and a lack of willingness to change.