

WHADDON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH—AUGUST 2007

This month sees a change in the organisation of your Neighbourhood Watch. Louise Shaw is retiring as Cluster Coordinator after two years, and is "passing on the reins" to Mike Monks at 58 Bridge Street who will doubtless be a very able successor. All other coordinator positions remain unchanged.

Towards the end of the year the Crime Audit will take place. This involves all households receiving a form to fill in which will give the Police and Neighbourhood Watch an overall view of the local public perception of, and attitude to, crime in the area. It is an invaluable exercise and one in which your cooperation will be very much appreciated.

Thankfully, crime in the area remains very low. There is some concern though that some people have witnessed suspicious behaviour but dismissed what they saw as not being worth reporting to their Neighbourhood Watch coordinator. If this is you, please think again in future because if the same miscreants are seen by several people on different occasions and only reported by a few, then of course a false picture is built up and what might have been valuable information is lost.

Lee Nutbeam, one of Whaddon's two Police Community Support Officers (PCSO), attended the Church Fete on 15th July at our invitation and thereby became recognisable to everyone, as well as having an enjoyable day chatting to many of you. By the way, the other PCSO is Emma Garwood and our neighbourhood PC remains Dave Martin.

On 24 July, Mike attended the first Bassingbourn and Melbourne Neighbourhood Panel at Melbourne Village College. This is intended to provide a forum for members of the local community, the police and associated agencies to meet on a quarterly basis to promote and improve community safety. Some 70 members of the public attended from local villages along with South Cambs Sector police and representatives from SCDC. While local problems mainly involve anti-social behaviour and focus on Bassingbourn and Melbourne, all villages including Whaddon were given the opportunity to outline their own issues. It was a very lively evening. At the end of the meeting the police invited the audience to identify what they saw as the main local problems. By a large majority, anti-social behaviour and vehicle speeding were the major concerns with some concern also expressed about burglaries.

The meeting was given a very comprehensive neighbourhood policing profile for this area which can be seen at:

www.cambs.police.uk/images/profiles/190707_214.pdf. The document outlines in considerable detail the police organisation and local demographics as well as crime and disorder issues for the Melbourne neighbourhood. If you have access to the web, it is well worth reading.