

Introduction to the Banbury Rural Neighbourhood Team

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Introduction to Neighbourhood Policing

Neighbourhood policing is about putting the 'local' back into local policing. It's about making sure that the police, working with other agencies, provide the service that people want by tackling those issues that are important to local residents.

Each neighbourhood, or group of neighbourhoods, has its own team made up of police officers, police community support officers or wardens whose entire focus will be on that area.

Thames Valley Police has led the way to the introduction of neighbourhood policing. It was one of a small number of forces which took part in the Government's national reassurance policing programme which was the precursor to neighbourhood policing. This was successfully piloted in Burghfield in West Berkshire.

Your village is covered by a dedicated team of five officers – Sergeant Scott Evans, Neighbourhood Specialist Officer Phil Morris, Neighbourhood Officer Gerry Doyle and Police Community Support Officers Nikki Dale and Lana Smith.

There are over 30 villages in the Banbury rural area, and each has issues that need dealing with by the police and our partner agencies, from dog fouling to inappropriate parking, and speeding to anti-social behaviour. In order to better police the villages, the team works together to provide a service that is prompt, efficient and complete.

Each member of the team specialises in a certain area, and also takes part in routine patrolling, special operations and other police related business.

Neighbourhood Specialist Officer (NSO) Phil Morris and Neighbourhood Officer (NO) Gerry Doyle investigate crimes that occur throughout the area. They respond to 999 calls, perform arrests and searches, and also provide help and advice at schools and local community meetings.

Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's) Nikki Dale and Lana Smith are the modern-day 'Bobbies on the Beat', providing visible patrols around the villages, both using a marked police vehicle and on foot. They also attend schools, liaise with Parish Councils, reassure victims of crime, and respond to non-emergency calls.

Fact File: Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's).

Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) are uniformed support staff whose role is to support the work of police officers working within a community.

They use their limited powers to tackle lower level crime, disorder, nuisance and anti-social behaviour which helps free up time for regular officers to concentrate on more serious crimes and incidents.

They carry out high visibility patrols which help dramatically increase the police service presence throughout Thames Valley.

The role of PCSOs is to:

- Provide a uniformed, official presence in a specified area with the aim of improving the quality of life in the community, making people feel confident and reassured
- Working with partners and community organisations to address anti-social behaviour, the fear of crime, environmental issues and other issues which affect the quality of people's lives

As well as providing high-visibility patrols, they can also fulfil a range of other functions, such as to:

- Disrupt criminal activity by patrolling known crime hot-spot areas
- Deter anti-social behaviour by patrolling known hot-spot areas
- Help monitor Acceptable Behaviour Contracts and Anti-social Behaviour Orders
- Help with community engagement
- Enforce designated no-drinking areas

Powers

PCSOs in Thames Valley have the power to:

- stop cyclists who are cycling on the pavement and issue fixed penalty notices for cycling on the pavement
- issue local authority fixed penalty notices for dog fouling and litter dropping
- seize alcohol from people in designated no drinking areas
- seize alcohol and tobacco from people under age
- demand the name and address of people acting in an anti-social manner
- seize vehicles used to cause alarm, or remove abandoned vehicles
- carry out road checks and stop vehicles for testing
- enforce cordoned areas
- disperse groups and remove young persons to their place of residence
- enter property to save life or limb or prevent serious damage

PCSOs have a varied work pattern, and the manner in which they patrol is largely governed by the area in which they work. For rural areas, geography is

a factor, which is circumvented through the use of police vehicles, both marked and unmarked.

Your PCSOs, Nikki and Lana, are often to be seen in the villages doing both foot patrol and driving through. They attend low level crimes, give reassurance to victims, visit schools, churches and Brownies, whilst also being available for deployment to urgent incidents.

Nikki and Lana have been working with young people in several villages to help tackle anti-social behaviour by providing them with guidance on their behaviour and attitude, and working to create youth groups and also improve the public perception of young people. They have also helped get a shelter in one village, to provide young people with somewhere they can hang around, without causing a nuisance.

PCSOs are the bridge between the public and the police, providing a friendly face and a listening ear for the residents. They do the jobs that Police Officers wish they had time for.

So, next time you see Nikki and Lana on patrol in your village, stop and say hello.

Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG)

A Neighbourhood Action Group, or NAG, is set up to deal with key issues identified by the community. This may happen in the form of a public meeting, through surveys done face-to-face or by mail, or a combination of methods.

NAGs are volunteer working groups made up of representatives from the community. They will include residents, the police, local authority and other organisations, such as local businesses and schools.

They are key to the success of neighbourhood policing as it is this group who will plan on behalf of the community and organise for tasks to be completed. In effect, they are the 'doers' accountable locally for responding to problems a community wants to tackle.

A NAG should be representative of the different communities living in the neighbourhood. In particular those groups who are often under-represented, such as young people and people who are disabled, are encouraged to join.

The group will meet no more than once every month and the volunteers are expected to take on responsibility for achieving certain tasks. As well as wide representation of the community, a NAG will benefit from a broad range of skills and experience on the team. Administrative, organisational, practical and communications ability will all be valued highly.

People who represent others are also very welcome and can bring a lot to a NAG. For example, a member of a residents association or church can put across the views of this organisation and will bring the added benefit of a group of people able to help with doing some of the work.

As a member of a NAG you will be able to influence decisions about your neighbourhood and public services. Ultimately you will have a real ability to change things for the better in your local community and gain a sense of satisfaction from doing so. Voluntary work of this nature also looks excellent on your CV and can demonstrate all kinds of skills to a prospective employer.

If you are attending as a representative of the community, for example, as a local Councillor, it is a great opportunity to engage with your community and take action on their behalf.

To find out more about neighbourhood policing and the work of the many NAGs already in existence, please visit www.thamesvalley.police.uk and visit the neighbourhood policing pages. For information about getting involved please call 0845 8 505 505 and ask to speak to a representative from your neighbourhood policing team or visit your local police station.

The three priorities for the Banbury Rural Neighbourhood are:

- 1: Excess Speed
- 2: Burglaries
- 3: Groups of Youths Loitering

Working with the representatives from the villages in this way ensures that Neighbourhood Policing remains a joint enterprise, and means that the work we do for the villages is influenced by what each village needs.

Neighbourhood Watch.

Neighbourhood Watch (in some areas known as Home Watch), is one of the biggest and most successful crime prevention schemes ever. It is based on simple ideas and values that are shared by many people around the country:

'Getting together with your neighbours to reduce local crime and disorder in the bid to make your neighbourhood a safe and better place to live, work and play'.

Neighbourhood Watch is not just about reducing crime – it is about building community spirit and good relations. It brings local people closer together with common goals; to tackle crime and disorder and to keep an eye on each other's property.

There are also other benefits of joining a Neighbourhood Watch scheme. For example, you can learn more about crime prevention and home security which will help keep your home and belongings safe. You might also get a discount on your home insurance.

The aims of Neighbourhood Watch schemes are:

- To reduce the opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour to occur in your neighbourhood by deterring would-be burglars and vandals.
- To build a community spirit so that all residents can contribute towards the protection of their property through co-operation and communication.

Members of Watch schemes are not vigilantes. Patrolling the streets is a job for the police; they will act upon the information supplied by residents. Watch schemes are not police-run groups. However, in order to be effective in tackling crime, Watch schemes have to work in partnership with the police (and other agencies).

By letting the police know of anything suspicious that you see or hear, you are helping to reduce the opportunities for crime to occur. The more difficult it can be made for the criminal, the more likely it is that crime can be reduced.

Other Watch schemes are available to those living and working in the rural area. These include Farm Watch, Business Watch, Horse Watch and Country Watch.

For more information or if you are interested in joining a Watch scheme (or setting one up) please contact the Neighbourhood Watch Manager, Deborah Tonks on 0845 8 505 505.

Crime Prevention & Reduction

The Banbury Rural Neighbourhood team work closely with the crime reduction team within Banbury Police Station. We can provide basic information on crime prevention in the home, out on the streets, for your car and other possessions.

We have leaflets available on all aspects of crime reduction.

Jayne Taylor is our Crime Prevention and Reduction specialist for the Cherwell area, and if you have suffered a crime such as burglary she will contact you to arrange a visit. She can carry out a survey on your property, the results of which will enable her to suggest improvements to security.

As a team, we are all available to attend all kinds of groups, from Parish Councils, to playgroups, Brownies, Scouts, and schools, to give advice and demonstrations on reducing the risk of becoming a victim.

If you would like to receive some of this advice, please contact the Neighbourhood Team on 0845 8 505 505, or, for specific crime prevention advice ask for Jayne Taylor at Banbury.

Contact Details

Sergeant Scott Evans PS1817

Neighbourhood Specialist Officer Phil Morris P1698

Neighbourhood Officer Gerry Doyle P2066

Police Community Support Officer Nikki Dale C9327

Police Community Support Officer Lana Smith C9930

banburyruralneighbourhood@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

banburyruralnorthnhpt@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

banburyruralsouthnhpt@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Police Enquiries Centre (PEC)

This number is a streamlined service that enables you to be put through to a member of the Neighbourhood Team or anyone else within the force, and also to report crimes and non-emergency incidents.

0845 8 505 505

IN AN EMERGENCY DIAL 999

**Banbury Rural Team
Deddington Police Office
Market Square
Deddington**

How Parish Councils Can Help

There are many ways for villagers to get involved in helping us deliver local policing in a way that is relevant for the rural area. Parish Councils in particular can provide us with information and ideas that really make a difference in our day-to-day patrol planning, as well as longer term solutions for ongoing issues.

We like to attend at least one meeting a year, to keep Councils up to date on what is happening in the area, and so that if any questions are raised we can be on hand to answer them.

The Council can, in turn, inform us of any upcoming decisions that may affect us, and also anything that is occurring that perhaps has not been reported.

This year, we are seeking to engage the local community in helping us identify the most effective way of patrolling and policing to ensure that we deliver the best service possible. To this end, we are attending all Parish Council meetings across the area to ask for ideas.

So, if you, or another member of your Council, have a bright idea about policing, please feel free to contact us on: 0845 8 505 505.

Alternatively, if you are near a computer, please email us on banburyruralneighbourhood@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

All ideas are welcomed, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Get Involved!

Every resident in your village has the right to be involved with the way the village is policed. No matter what your age, we are here to support you. We need your help to make certain that the village you live in is a happy and safe place for everyone.

So, if you are a young person living in a village, we would love to hear from you. Anything you want to tell us, from suggestions about Youth Groups, to complaints about boredom, we will do what we can to help. We can offer advice on all sorts of issues facing young people. In fact, we have already set up youth groups and shelters in some of the villages, so imagine what we can do for yours!

Lana and Nikki are always available for a chat about anything.

In the same vein, we welcome ideas and inspiration from the older members of the community. Perhaps you run a coffee morning for seniors, or something similar, which you feel would benefit from meeting your local policing team. Is there a way in which we could make you feel safer? Please, get in contact.

We are looking for all sorts of groups and committees to get involved in, from Neighbourhood Watch, to Village Hall Committees, and everything in between. We can do talks on crime prevention, drugs, anti-social behaviour and other issues that may come up during meetings, to provide you with an insight into how we can work together to make your village safer.

So, whoever you are, wherever you live, and whatever your age, please get in touch with your team.

Contact us:

banburyruralneighbourhood@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

0845 8 505 505

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