

DORCHESTER AND DISTRICT CRIME PREVENTION PANEL REPORT

to CROSSWAYS PARISH COUNCIL

A survey of the crimes for beats WGF and A of Dorchester Town Centre gives an indication of the rate of crime in the surrounding areas.

Analysis of the period 9/9/04 to 15/1/05 compared with the same period this year shows a 15% reduction in crime rates. There is also a drop in detection rates from 24% to 16% across the same period. If this seems unusual, it should be remembered that when the crime rate goes from low to lower, the detection rate will also drop as a percentage of all crimes committed.

Figures given by the Dorchester Police are:

Dates	09/09/2004	29/11/2004	09/09/2005	29/11/2005
	to	to	to	to
	14/11/2004	15/01/2005	14/11/2005	15/01/2006
Type of Crime				
Burglary - Dwelling	4	3	3	3
Burglary - Non-dwelling	23	8	16	14
Criminal Damage	19	10	11	10
Criminal Damage to Vehicles	13	8	11	5
Theft of Motor Vehicles	3	2	3	1
Theft from Motor Vehicles	8	12	9	6
Theft Other	27	20	14	18
Theft from Shops	31	11	20	15
Assaults	15	13	17	17
Public Order Offences	4	1	4	4
Total	147	88	108	93
Misc. Other Crimes	67	44	52	41
Total of all crimes recorded	214	132	160	134
		346		294
Total of all crimes detected	60	27	33	16
Detection Rates	24	percent	16	percent

Though the travellers have moved from being evicted from Maiden Newton, into Winterbourne Abbas, other homeless news is heartening with The Hub working very well and seen as a positive force within the community. Members expressed the hope that neighbouring areas will soon establish their own centres.

Town centre CCTV establishment is on-going with planning permission being sought from West Dorset District Council. There has been an appeal to all businesses in Dorchester for funds towards the £4,500 needed to complete the link-up with Weymouth Centre.

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PubWatch Dorchester has just started up and already has 16 member hosteleries signed up to the scheme with only 5 not yet joined. Each establishment will be asked to display a high-visibility sign of its membership and the scheme is working very well.

The new licensing laws have proved to be a great success with only a half-filled Custody Suite across the end-of-year holiday period (less than most Friday nights). West Dorset District Council have received no complaints from the trade and are conducting only one review – this is the best, so I am told, in England.

Theft crime from Dorset County Hospital is increasing with many items stolen from offices in a willy-nilly fashion due to there being a deplorable lack of security on the site – Police are working with the Hospital Management to rectify the situation. This is compared to excellent security at Forston Clinic and out-stations paying dividends across the period.

Looking at the out-of-town increase in commercial burglaries, a 15-year old has been caught for some of them.

Drugs continue at a slow and low level but there is a worrying level of use at The Dorchester Thomas Hardye School.

Anti-social behaviour seems to be predominantly that of minibike riding. The Police emphasise that they will be checking each vehicle for road-worthiness. Any owner who is 'not legal' will be issued a Section 59 letter with the next offence resulting in the vehicle being removed and destroyed. Inspector Fry asks that any and all incidents of unsocial behaviour are reported in as much detail as possible so that it can be dealt with in due course.

Inspector Fry was also proud to announce that the recruitment drive for Special Constables has resulted in 9 new members of staff arriving soon.

Contact the Police in the following ways for the best results:

Urgent Calls and Crimes being committed – 999 as usual
Non-urgent – dial 222222 – this will be routed through Bournemouth

Please remember that the direct Dorchesyer numbers will take time to answer due to staff being employed on other tasks.



Councillor Richard Peacocke MSc
18th January 2006