

Dorchester and District Crime Prevention Panel

Wednesday 20th September 2006-09-29

The panel convened at Dorchester Police Station at 7pm. Normal business was carried out with the Chair reporting on various initiatives in and around Dorchester, including stronger links with the Community Protection Division of West Dorset District Council.

Inspector Fry gave the area comparative crime figures.

Comparing the July-September 2006 period to the same last year:

1. All Burglary is down; two more shop windows were broken; criminal damage to vehicles is down; theft of motor vehicles is down; theft from motor vehicles, theft from shops, and other thefts are all up; assaults are down; public order offences are up; and miscellaneous other crimes are down by half, from 71 to 36.
2. The percentage of total of all crimes recorded against total of all crimes detected has fallen from 29% to 26%

Of those main areas of concern highlighted by Crossways residents:

1. Parking on pavements and grassy areas, and double parking at Tree Stores etc. – Inspector Fry explained that parking, unless it is causing an obstruction, is no longer dealt with by his Officers but by Council employees. Although parking on pavements is an offence, it is not one the Police will be prosecuting, as they do not have the time or resources to do so. Inspector Fry suggests that we produce a leaflet – which can incorporate the Dorset Police logo – that explains the upset such actions cause, to be put on cars parked in this way.
2. More contact needed with the allocated Police staff so that Crossways feels it has regained contact – Inspector Fry explained that he has not had the staff over the Summer to carry out effective community work in outlying areas, not just in Crossways, but that several more staff have been taken on and will start patrolling from October onwards.

Inspector Fry reported that the theft from vehicles figure was swollen by a rash of thefts of satellite navigation equipment from cars parked in residential areas, though there were very few from cars in public car parks. The Panel recommends that all equipment with the associated mountings be removed when a vehicle is left parked for any length of time. The reason for removing the mounting brackets is that these have attracted an attack on the car by thieves looking to see if the SatNav is hidden in the glove box or under the seats – apparently a common occurrence. Informational posters and leaflets along with methods of distribution were discussed.

Councillor Richard Peacocke