

Dorchester and District Crime Prevention Panel Report

Wednesday, 16 November 2005

The Chairman hoped that the local Home Watch schemes can work more closely in the future.

There are only two ASBOs in the Dorchester area as the Police are keen to save them for use as a 'big stick' rather than have them become a badge of passage. Local trouble is coming from ASBO recipients from Bridport and the Purbecks.

Licensing

West Dorset is top in the country in granting 24-hour licences, which is seen as an excellent indication of the lack of trouble experienced in our locality. There have been 700 across the country, with 82 in West Dorset. The next highest granting has been in Bournemouth, with 50 licences.

Temporary Event Notices – these are granted for events such as Summer Fetes and village halls. They must be applied for within 10 days of its use, but 28 days are requested in practice. A new Safety and Enforcement Advisory Group is being formed from the various emergency services and agencies to monitor event applications.

Dorchester Pub Watch – the members of the new team are being elected on Monday to get people on board and get the scheme off the ground. This is aimed at pubs and other licensed premises regulating themselves to enhance town safety.

Car crime warnings are reinforced for all rural areas. All members of the community are asked to report any suspicious activity to the Police.

Drugs – the use of illegal substances stays at a low and steady level with no sudden increases in the area.

Police strength – seven officers below strength at present.

SPECIAL CONSTABULARY RECRUITMENT DRIVE

All physically able persons of good character above the age of 18 ½ years may be sworn in as members of the Special Constabulary. Quoting the Inspector of Police: "We could not offer the level of service we have without the invaluable aid of our Special Constabulary."

So, if you want to do something well worth while for your community, pop down to the Police Station and find out more about becoming a Special.

Next meeting 18th January 2006