

## **Southern Links Committee Report Tavistock**

**November 2014**

### **TAVISTOCK TOWN, BERE PENINSULA, RURAL EAST AND RURAL WEST BEAT AREAS**

#### **Unusual Crimes**

- Dog attacks on hand reared sheep whereby two sheep were killed.
- A male has been arrested for 'indecent exposure' after allegedly attempting to have sexual intercourse with a horse.
- Further damages to tyres have occurred to three vehicles parked in the area of Tavistock possibly caused by a narrow pointed implement. A series of damages of a similar type occurred earlier in the year.
- An unsuccessful attempt was made to torch a car parked in Horrbridge it is believed the flame retardant materials of the modern vehicle prevented the flames from spreading.

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#### **(Anti Social Behaviour) ASB Issues**

- ASB at the rear of Tavistock College with a group who have been identified. The same group were responsible for ASB at Tavistock Library, names were taken and parents have been spoken with. Community Orders and Civil injunctions are being considered at this time to protect the community from these youths. Pro-active patrols and reassurance visits continue in the area.
- ASB has been identified in the area of Bere Alston Parish Hall Car Park. Local officers are patrolling the area and enquiries have led to one young person being issued with an ASB letter as part of the initial escalation process.
- Sporadic reports of ASD (Anti-Social Driving) have been received in the areas of Bere Alston, Crapstone, Roborough Down, Tavistock Town, Yelverton and Cadover Bridge. Police are actively patrolling the areas and undertaking Speed Watch duties in order to establish a clearer picture of the issues noted. Based on the findings officers will undertake dedicated Traffic initiatives in the areas of concern.
- There has been a noticeable drop in ASB in both Horrbridge and Princetown.
- Local neighbourhood issues in Horrbridge have been dealt with by way of positive intervention by the neighbourhood team and community officers by giving strong words of advice to both parties.
- A male with M/H problems living in the area of Lifton had been receiving phone calls in the early hours and hoax calls made to ambulance service. Local officers are working with the male, his support team and housing provider offering support. The male is now seeking a move out of the immediate area.

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#### **Partnership Working**

- In partnership with the CSP (Community Safety Partnership) we are supporting a teenage anti-drink initiative at Tavistock College with local officers reinforcing the subject through inputs to Year 10 students after the 'Last Orders' Production facilitated by the Soloman Theatre Company. The police are using the opportunity to educate teenagers with regards to

drink drive related issues and also raise awareness around sexual offences being committed when under the influence of alcohol. This is covered by a local police campaign named 'no blurred lines'.

- Local Police are working with local businesses in support of a new Shop Watch Scheme offering crime prevention advice and continuity of information.
- Positive Action was taken by local police and West Devon Housing by the facilitation of a joint Restorative Justice Conference between two neighbours who made many reports to agencies about each other causing ASB / harassment. A positive outcome was reached with apologies made by both parties and no further reports received.
- The Princetown, Horrabridge and Yelverton area has seen a lot of effort in good partnership working with families in difficult circumstances This appears to not only offered the right level of support for the families but appears to have also had a significant impact on low level crime whereby offences of damage have reduced from 22 to 12 over the same period last year. One neighbourhood issue was resolved with reassurance patrols and a management move of one resident resulting in no further issues being reported.
- A local person received a custodial sentence recently for the children's non attendance at school. This was part of a large piece of multi-agency work within a family with a wide range of issues. This multi-agency work is also ongoing.
- Local police work closely with the Street Pastors particularly covering the evening and night time economy on a Friday and a Saturday night offering support and assistance to young people and people frequenting the licensed premises.
- In the church at Bere Alston they do a fantastic job of identifying vulnerable individuals and informing the local PCSO to whom they have built a good relationship.
- Good partnership working was achieved throughout the planning and facilitation of the 'Safety on Dartmoor Day' whereby the local PCSO worked alongside the National Trust at Lydford Gorge, Devon and Somerset Fire Service and Dartmoor National Park and local officers offered support on the day of the event.
- Officers are working closely with the Dartmoor National Park and Livestock Protection Officer with regards to the Anti-social Driving and words of advice have been offered to dog walkers who have not had their dogs under control.

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### **Positive Policing Activity**

- Police have dealt with illegal drug activity on several occasions whilst visiting premises for other reasons.
  - Officers are actively patrolling the town centre and giving reassurance to local businesses and members of the public and the reduction of incidents of retail theft has seen a healthy decrease and a large number of offenders being dealt with. Shop Op Patrols will be specifically undertaken on the lead up to Christmas with plain clothes officers working in and around the shops.
  - Community Speed Watch is being set up in the area of Mary Tavy where there are currently six volunteers, four of whom are fully trained and two who are awaiting training. Interest has been received from other areas at this time including Chillaton and Lamerton.
  - Speed checks have been undertaken in areas where concerns were raised of speeding vehicles.
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## **Protecting Vulnerable People**

- Local officers have undertaken Dementia Awareness Training and they are all actively updating a register of personal details including a photograph, provided voluntarily by people with symptoms or memory loss and their carer's. This enables officers to best assist the person and return them to their homes quickly and safely when necessary and signpost any other relevant support. Tavistock Police Office now has Dementia Friendly Status. Due to the concerted efforts of local officers to build this register it was successfully used to locate a vulnerable, lost and confused local resident who was identified from the register. Also a vulnerable elderly person suffering from Dementia has successfully been helped with his long term problems with co-ordinated support across safeguarding agencies and caring members of his local community.
  - We are working with other agencies such as Trading Standards and the Fire Service to deliver 'Stay Safe' workshops to a large group of Learning Disabled Adults. Subjects such as Financial Exploitation, Crime Prevention and Fire Safety in the Home have been delivered to date. The Safer Places Scheme is currently being updated with full support of the local police.
  - Police now create specific action plans called 'non-crime vulnerable adult enquiries' for those who appear in need of professional help and assist in the co-ordination of support services and information to be updated and monitored by other officers.
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## **Crime Prevention**

- Key safes are being actively promoted and we are working with local housing providers to compiling a list of key Safe Codes.
  - Crime prevention advice is given to the community at every opportunity.
  - Dog walker's and cyclists are being actively encouraged to wear high-Viz jackets to assist in their safety and allow car drivers to see them more easily when in or near a road.
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## **Matters of Interest**

- The local police are embracing the use of Social Media and are now actively using Face Book and tweeting messages on Twitter. Please see [Twitter@TavistockPolice](#)
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## **Thank You's**

- A big thank you to all those involved in the second Safety on Dartmoor Day at Lydford. The event was a huge team effort. The Community Day held at Bedford Square was also a success once again with over 30 agencies making themselves available to the public to provide services and advice.
- Local Social Services have done an excellent job with a vulnerable but potentially violent man. His complex personal needs were examined in detail and he is now leading a relatively normal life.
- Thank you to all involved in the planning and facilitation of Tavistock Goose Fair and Dickensian Evening as both are large scale events with a great deal of planning involved.
- Thank you to all councils and community members for their continued support and constant observations and co-operation which makes our job a great deal easier.
- Thank you to all our Partner Agencies including the street Pastors.