Melksham Rural Police Report – February 2018

Hello and welcome to this month's Community policing report.

This month's report will focus on Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV's).

Wiltshire Police uses Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV), more commonly known as drones, to provide air support to officers on the ground.

What kind of drones do Wiltshire Police use?

We currently have two DJI Inspire 1 drones that can be equipped with a HD camera or a thermal imaging camera. Each drone has approximately 18 minutes flight time per battery, and is able to reach a top speed of 49 mph.

The total initial set up cost was £30,000 for aircraft, two nonstandard high definition optical zoom cameras, two thermal imaging cameras and six pilots, including all administrative costs.

What do we typically use drones for?

- Searching large open areas for missing people or offenders hiding from us
- Aerial photography of crime scenes and road traffic collisions
- Intelligence gathering for warrants
- Over-watch for high risk policing operations on the ground.

What are the benefits of using a drone?

- It's much cheaper to charge a drone than to fuel a helicopter
- As its much cheaper we can use air support more often meaning officers on the ground can have an eye in the sky for more incidents, rather than just the really serious ones
- As it's electric the drone's carbon footprint is smaller than a helicopter
- It's much safer, with no crew or fuel and weighing a mere 2.8kg, if anything goes wrong its much less likely to cause damage or injury to anyone
- It's less affected by the weather, helicopters have to consider weather systems at their base and in transit to the scene, drones are drive to the scene by car and so only have to consider the weather at scene.

How many pilots are there and how are they trained?

We currently have five pilots across the force area, all of whom are volunteers in the Special Constabulary. We also have one Police Constable within the People Development (training) Department.

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The team were trained by a commercial National Qualified Entity (NQE) and awarded their Permission for Commercial Operations (PfCO) by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

How are drones deployed?

Our drones are driven to the scene from Police Headquarters in Devizes in a police vehicle and deployed from there.

Who do we film with the drone?

We will only ever use our drone to support a lawful policing purpose, or for commercial purposes relating to Wiltshire Police.

The vast majority of recording will take pace overtly with an obvious police presence on the ground. In some cases we will use the drone covertly, with appropriate authorities complying with all relevant legislation.

We're not always recording, most of the time we are merely using the camera to assist us from the sky, and we make every effort to remove or reduce the chances of recording you. Recordings are stores and deleted in line with requirements of the Data Protection Act.

Information relating to the laws on drones (Air Navigation Order 2016) can be found at
http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2016/765/contents/made

What does this mean for West Wiltshire Community Policing Team?

West Wiltshire Community Policing Team will be the first hub within Wiltshire to be allocated a drone.

Six officers will be trained to pilot the drones, which will ensure more coverage.

CRIME EXCEPTIONS

These figures are based on an evaluation of data, over a two year rolling period. Using this data we can predict what figure is the average that should be reported in a specific month, and what are the higher and lower parameters that we may expect. Figures outside of these parameters are classed as 'Crime Exceptions'.

ED12 (Shaw, Whitley, Atworth, Broughton Gifford, Beanacre, Bowerhill, Berryfields)

January 2018 showed 34 crimes for this Beat Area against the average of 30.6 for this same month over the last 2 years. There are no exceptions within the data.
The three largest crime groups accounted for 88% of ED12 crime as follows;

Violence Against the person showed 13 crimes compared to the average of 11.5
Theft showed 10 crimes compared to the average of 7.8
Criminal Damage showed 9 crimes compared to the average of 6.8

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ED13 (Seend, Bulkington, Poulshot, Keevil, Semington, Great Hinton, Steeple Ashton)

January 2018 showed 9 reported crimes across this Beat area against the average of 9.3 for this same month over the last 2 years. There are no exceptions within this data.
The two largest crime groups accounted for 100% of ED13 crime as follows;

Violence Against the person showed 5 crimes compared to the average of 3.6
Theft showed 4 crimes compared to the average of 3.5

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH CHECKS WITHIN YOUR AREA

Poulton has been subject of Speed checks to support the local CSW. This was done twice in the month of January, on the 19th and the 23rd. On both occasions, no persons were caught exceeding the speed limit.

OTHER INFORMATION

Poulshot
Crimes for January 2018
None reported

Bulkington
Crimes for January 2018
None reported

Keevil
Crimes for January 2018
Non reported

Steeple Ashton
Crimes for January 2018
6th   ASB reported both present day and historical. Surveys have been delivered to the estate.

Great Hinton
Crimes for January 2018
22nd   Electric Fence battery stolen from Stoggy Lane

Semington
Crimes for January 2018
15th   Vehicle Seizes S165 on the A361
25th   2 Vehicle RTC Non Inj A350 Semington

Seend
Crimes for January 2018
9th   A wheelbarrow and vehicle parts stolen in Seend.
13th   An attempted burglary in Dial Close.
17th   FTS RTC at Sells Green
23rd   One vehicle RTC on Seend Hill. Male arrested DUI.
23rd   Vehicle stopped in the High Street Seend. Male arrested DUI.

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24th   Car v Lampost Baldham Seend
27th   Vehicle into tree Non-inj Seend

<u>COMMUNITY MESSAGING</u>

PLEASE SIGN UP! Community messaging to receive regular emails regarding crime updates, crime prevention advice and public appeals specific for your area. - https://www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk/

For a detailed breakdown of the crime in your area visit…
https://www.police.uk/wiltshire/

<u>CONTACT US</u>

THE CPT TEAM EMAIL - CPTWestWiltshire@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

Local Contact - PCSO Maggie Ledbury – maggie.ledbury@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

Sector Inspector – Inspector Andy Fee – andy.fee@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

Sector Deputy – Sergeant Gill Hughes – gill.hughes@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

Community Coordinator – Pc Lee Pelling – lee.pelling@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

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