

## **Police Engagement meeting Downham Market Town Hall 17/9/19**

This meeting was to introduce the new Inspector for the area following the retirement of Inspector Mark Cant. Inspector Vicky Hebborn introduced herself to us. Also present were a number of Beat Managers with their new Sergeant as well as PC Lee Anderton the Engagement Officer.

There are a team of 'Response Officers' who attend emergency calls and the local teams of Beat Managers - the equivalent of the old 'beat bobby' - who each have responsibility for their own area. Our Beat Manager is still PC Ryan Williams and his beat includes: Watlington; Magdalene; Wimbotsham; Stowbridge; Runcton Home; Barton Bendish; West Dereham; Boughton; Wiston; Stoke Ferry; Crimplesham; Fincham; Shouldham; Marham; North Runcton; Wormegay; West Winch; Setch & Middleton and any other villages within that area.

Inspector Hebborn emphasised that all crimes need to be reported, either via 999 if it is serious or a crime is in progress, or by either 101 or on line to report a non serious crime, to make the crime auditable. Comments were made about the long delays in answering 101, which the Inspector explained was due to the fact that call handlers also have to answer the 999 calls and obviously prioritise them. She will look into fact that there appear to be problems with the on line reporting system.

We were then split into our Beat Manager's areas and asked to discuss any problems that we have within our Parish. The representative from Shouldham said that there had recently been some problems with the breaking of windows in buildings around the playing field. PC Williams explained that this had been investigated and appears to have originated from Watlington and those involved had been spoken to about it. West Winch has a problems with drug use in their car park by people in cars, probably coming from Kings Lynn. As they appear randomly, it is difficult for the police to catch them. Most villages, like us, have problems with speeding.

Because the area to be covered by any Beat Manager is so large (Ryan said he once tried to cover his area in one go and it took him 2.5 hours and covered 62 miles) the teams will get together, including teams from Kings Lynn, and 'swamp' a particular area with their presence for a while. In answer to a question from one Councillor, PC Williams said that it is legal to photograph any person or vehicle in a public place, including children's play areas, and email it to him to help with a problem.

Finally, we were asked to write on a post it note what we expect from the police and put it on a board for the Inspector to take away and analyse. The result will be sent out in the next newsletter.