

# Poulshot – Annual Report

May 2022 – April 2023

WILTSHIRE POLICE

Proud to serve and protect our communities



# The Team

## **Inspector**

Andy Lemon

## **Sergeant**

James Twyford

## **Constables**

Ben Coombs

Jennifer Miller

## **Community Support Officers**

Vic Rolph

Mel Culliford

Luke Hosken

From 8<sup>th</sup> May 2023 onwards, the Sergeant's position is being taken over by Sergeant Gemma Rutter.

She brings with her a wealth of experience, coming into the role having previously worked in Response, Neighbourhoods and CID as both a Constable and a Sergeant.

# The Last 12 Months

Poulshot is generally one of the more affluent and tranquil Parishes within the Melksham Rural South Beat Area. Traditionally, the expectation would be to see between 10-20 Crimes and Incidents per year. During 2020, we recorded 10; during 2021 we recorded 19 incidents.

The 12 months to April 2022 however have been a break with this tradition; as we've recorded a total of 56 Crimes and Incidents across the year.

This might seem alarming at first glance, with what seems to be a 195% increase over the space of 12 months. However, once this is broken down, it begins to look much less concerning.

23 of the Crimes / Incidents relate to one single neighbour dispute, which has been a collection of allegations and counter-allegations, accounting for 41% of the Demand for the Parish. Individually, these are a collection of relatively minor incidents, which we're addressing holistically.

A further 6 Crimes are Burglaries, which are traditionally very unusual for the Village. As a result of some considerable time investment; we have Charged and Remanded Daniel STACEY, of Bradford on Avon, for some of these offences. He is currently on Remand in Prison and we have seen a cessation of this offending.

# Crime and Incident Types

As stated on the previous slide; 41% of the reports for Poulshot over the last year, relate to one neighbour dispute which carries no discernible risk to the wider community. This is still a work-in-progress for the Team.

6 offences (10%) were Burglaries, which have been successfully addressed. Alongside and related to this, we also addressed 3 Thefts and 7 Vehicle Offences, accounting for and clearing up a further 18% of the crimes.

There was no recorded Anti-Social Behaviour outside of the context of the neighbour dispute.

There were no instances of Public Space Violence against the Person.

There were only two instance of Criminal Damage.

The remaining occurrences were either Administrative, Concerns for Welfare, or Domestic Disputes.

The successful response to the Burglaries was as a direct result of prompt reporting from Residents, who were able to quickly list the property they'd had stolen. Much of this was able to be recovered and returned to the rightful owners.

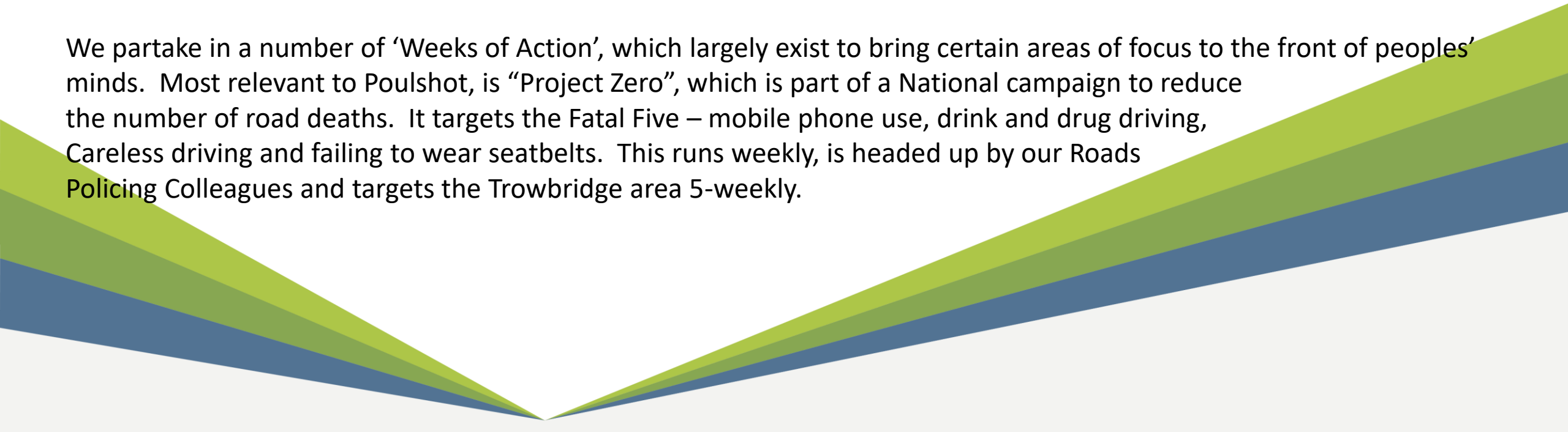
# Community Engagement

Community Engagement is a staple of the Neighbourhood Team. Our three PCSO's split their time across the Melksham Town and Rural areas, conducting drop-in sessions at numerous places throughout the month.

We will conduct ad-hoc drop-in's, to listen to local worries and provide a visible presence. We will also continue to visit the local Community Speedwatch Schemes, who maintain a regular presence.

This is however at an inevitably reduced level compared to years gone by. Posts have been lost; demand has increased and the amount of administrative work behind every case has increased by around 20% over the last year, as the necessity for accountability increases.

We partake in a number of 'Weeks of Action', which largely exist to bring certain areas of focus to the front of peoples' minds. Most relevant to Poulshot, is "Project Zero", which is part of a National campaign to reduce the number of road deaths. It targets the Fatal Five – mobile phone use, drink and drug driving, Careless driving and failing to wear seatbelts. This runs weekly, is headed up by our Roads Policing Colleagues and targets the Trowbridge area 5-weekly.

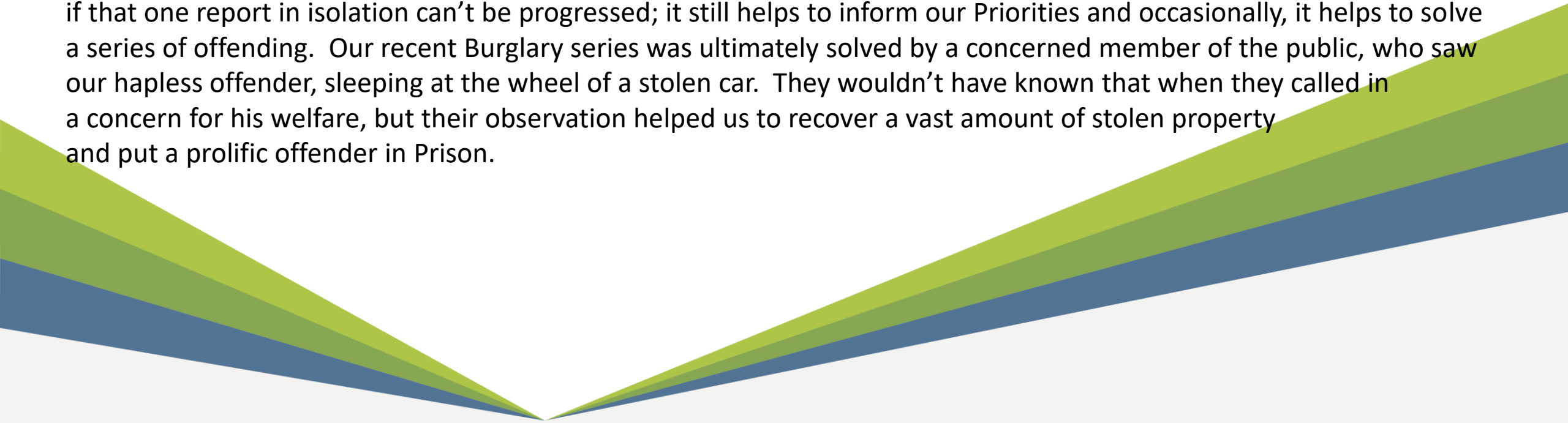


# Reporting

If there's one thing anyone learns from working in Neighbourhood Policing, is that underreporting of incidents is a fairly consistent theme. People will say "*What's the point?*" or "*It didn't seem worth reporting*", but every report we get helps to paint a picture.

Underreporting also creates a bit of a disconnect between perception and reality (*the same could also be said of those who take to Social Media and write exaggerated accounts, but that's a different issue*). This in turn, makes it harder to prioritise work, identify suspects and conduct quality investigations.

If I were to make one plea, it would be to please report incidents and do it directly to us, as factually as possible. Even if that one report in isolation can't be progressed; it still helps to inform our Priorities and occasionally, it helps to solve a series of offending. Our recent Burglary series was ultimately solved by a concerned member of the public, who saw our hapless offender, sleeping at the wheel of a stolen car. They wouldn't have known that when they called in a concern for his welfare, but their observation helped us to recover a vast amount of stolen property and put a prolific offender in Prison.



# Further Information

You can find out more about Policing in your area by following any of the links below:

Local Crime Data: <https://www.police.uk/your-area/wiltshire-police/>

Police and Crime Commissioner's Website: <https://www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk/>

HMICFRS Website: <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/police-forces/wiltshire/>

You can also follow the Local Team on Facebook, either by searching for “Melksham Police”, or visiting [www.facebook.com/MelkshamPolice](http://www.facebook.com/MelkshamPolice)

Additionally, we offer more bespoke updates, filterable by personal interests, using our “Community Messaging” this can be found at [www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk](http://www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk)

