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Report: Neighbourhood Policing Team Tasking Group

The Neighbourhood Policing Team Tasking Group was set up in 2007, with the objective of promoting discussion between local policing teams and communities, and agreeing priorities for action. It comprises members of the local police force, parish councillors and representatives of the communities, although in fact anyone with an interest in local issues may attend. Atworth is served by the Melksham West group, along with Shaw, Whitley and Broughton Gifford.

Mavis King and myself have attended these meetings since the start, although there is no reason why anyone else from Atworth shouldn't also attend.

The meetings take the form of an opening plenary session in association with the Melksham Community Safety Group, often featuring a guest speaker on a subject of topical interest. Following that session, the Police Tasking Groups split up to deal with their own priorities.

During the two years, the Melksham West Group has discussed and set as priorities, the following areas:

- anti-social behaviour and criminal damage;
- traffic hazards around both Atworth and Shaw Schools during dropping off and collecting, but particularly relating to Shaw school where potentially serious hazards have been identified for action;
- cycling on pavements and cycling without lights in the evening;
- traffic hazards caused by speed and heavy goods vehicles through villages;
- fly tipping.

More recently, the Melksham West team has been exercised by the increasing hazards identified outside Shaw school, and by the concerns of residents regarding the speed and volume of both motor traffic and goods vehicles through all of the villages.

To assist with alleviating the second mentioned issue the group has suggested that the three parish councils might agree to purchase a mobile speed indication device for shared use in all three parishes, to a programme agreed with the police. This type of action has been most usefully carried out in other parts of the country. Our Melksham West Group police member, PC Rebecca Nixon was in agreement with the suggestion, but we have yet to persuade all the parish councils of the benefits of such a scheme.

Kenneth Spencer, 18th March 2009

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