**POLICING SURVEY 2017/2018**

**At the end of last year we asked you to help us set our Policing Priorities for the first six months of 2018 by completing a short survey. The results of that survey show that the crimes that concern you the most are residential and non-residential burglaries and vehicle crime, especially thefts from vehicles parked in and around the New Forest. In 2018 PC NORRIS and I will continue to target the criminals committing these crimes and we would ask that you continue to help us by reporting any suspicious activity and by making your property as safe as possible. That means possibly putting CCTV up at the front of your house. The systems that are available these days are much more reasonably priced and are a great deterrent. I have recently seen footage where two burglars have gone into one house, then stood outside a neighbouring property, seen that they have CCTV and have burgled next door instead. Other steps to take include blocking off the sides of your house and making it as difficult as possible to get around the back. I have a check list of ways to make both your home and your outbuildings safer and if you would like a copy then please email me and I will send it to you. My email address is** **richard.williams@hampshire.pnn.police.uk** **As for stopping yourself from becoming a victim of vehicle crime, please make sure that you take everything with you when you leave your vehicle parked anywhere, even on your driveway or on the street outside your house. Again I have some excellent crime prevention advice that I can send you.**

**The survey highlighted that parking and speeding are the two other areas that concern you the most.**

**Speeding is one of our top priorities her in the New Forest Heart area. As often as we can our Roads Policing Team carryout speed checks on the major roads and hundreds of people are fined for speeding through the Forest every year. But more still needs to be done. In 2018 we will continue to work closely with New Forest District Council and Hampshire County Council to reduce the speeds of drivers across the Forest. We are going to set up more Community Speed Watch schemes but again we need your help. If you are concerned about speeding in your area and can give up some of your time then let me know and I will come and explain to you how Speed Watch works. With the data gathered by our volunteers we can send our mobile speed camera van to the roads that need it the most, and in the worst areas we can pass the data to the Highways Department so that they can look at other traffic control measures. Many of you expressed real concerns about the speed of traffic through Ashurst and Woodlands and I’m delighted to say that we now have a group of volunteers who will be surveying those roads very soon. There have also been requests for Speed Watch to be set up in Emery Down and Netley Marsh so if you live in those areas please contact me and we can start the ball rolling.**

**Parking problems are dealt with mostly by the parking enforcement officers (traffic wardens) who operate in the Forest. The Police concentrate on obstructions caused by vehicles that stop you from accessing your property or if a vehicle is blocking the road so that no one can get passed. For all other parking matters please contact the parking enforcement officers at New Forest District Council. I know that when I have asked for their help they have been very supportive and if they can help they will. Often the problem is one of road design though and for that you would need to contact the Highways Department at Hampshire County Council.**

**Setting up more Neighbourhood Watch Schemes was also suggested in the survey and again this is a great idea. Neighbours looking after each other can have a real impact on crime so if you’d like to set one up in your area let me know and I’ll show you how, and it’s very easy.**

**Many of you mentioned CCTV and the possibility of having more of it in and around the Forest. PC NORRIS and I are great fans of CCTV because we have seen it prevent crime. Recently two properties were burgled on a Road in Bartley. As I mentioned earlier the thieves broke into one house and then moved along the road and stood outside what would probably have become their second target of the night. However as soon as they saw the CCTV camera they got back into their car and drove 200 yards up the road and burgled a house that didn’t have CCTV. It can be that effective.**

**I’m also putting together a data base that shows who has CCTV on our Beat. This would be a great help to us when investigating incidents so if you have CCTV can you please let me know. We might never need to view it but to know where cameras are would be very beneficial.**

**Lastly a large number of you wanted to see a more visible Police presence. In 2017, PC NORRIS and I spent as much time as we could on foot or on our bicycles in and around our Beat and in 2018 we are hoping to increase that so hopefully you will see more of us.**

**Thank you taking part in the survey, if you have any more questions about it then please just ask, and we will be looking for your help again with the next survey in June.**