

## Wiltshire and Swindon Community Messaging Comes to Chippenham

Wiltshire and Swindon Community Messaging has been launched in Chippenham. Residents will be able to sign up for free messages about policing and crime matters in their local community.

In this latest roll out of Community Messaging across Wiltshire, the Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) from Chippenham along with Royal Wootton Bassett, Swindon Town Centre, Marlborough, Corsham and Salisbury NPTs hosted launch events starting on 5 December to talk to residents about how to sign up to receive messages - by text, email or voicemail.

Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Wiltshire and Swindon Angus Macpherson, who is commissioning this new initiative, said: "Community Messaging is now live in sixteen areas across Wiltshire and Swindon. I am pleased with the level of interest in Community Messaging since its initial launch in August.

"It has huge potential to further improve the flow of information between the police and other public services and the communities they serve. I look forward to it being rolled out across the whole of the county and bringing on board other partner organisations."

Wiltshire Police, PCC Angus Macpherson and Wiltshire & Swindon Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Association are working together on launching this new two way communication tool.

People who live or work outside the sixteen 'live' areas can still sign up and they will receive messages as and when their area Neighbourhood Policing Team starts to use Community Messaging.

People signed up will be able to receive messages about policing and crime matters in their area, such as community policing news and events, appeals for information and crime prevention advice.

They will also be able to reply to messages, feeding back information to their neighbourhood officers to help them in policing their local area.

Wiltshire Police Chief Constable Pat Geenty said: "I have now attended several of the launch events held for the roll out of Community Messaging. I am really pleased that we are introducing another tool to allow Neighbourhood Policing Teams to update local communities about policing and crime matters in their area. Community Messaging is another way for Wiltshire Police to further increase the quality of service they provide to the county."

Wiltshire and Swindon Community Messaging is being commissioned by the PCC in line with his priorities in the Police and Crime Plan and his commitment to involving partners, communities and volunteers in the reduction and prevention of crime and anti-social behaviour. It is part of a national system called [Neighbourhood Alert](#), which is used by national Neighbourhood Watch and 12 other police forces.

Joining Wiltshire and Swindon Community Messaging is quick, simple and free. There are no contracts, costs or obligations of any kind for anyone who signs up. To join Wiltshire and Swindon Community Messaging or to find out more visit [www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk](http://www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk)

Wiltshire and Swindon Community Messaging will NOT be monitored 24 hours a day. People should always call 999 in an emergency or 101 in a non-emergency.

END

## **Katrina Fleet | Communications Officer | Wiltshire Police**

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