**WILTSHIRE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION**

**A summary statement to influence and support the principle of partnership between police and public – March 2023.**

**Background:** ‘Only a fundamental reform can reverse the crisis of confidence in policing.’ Sir Michael Barber, Chair Strategic Review of Policing February 2022.

Following the HMICFRS inspection of Wiltshire Police (published report July 2022), the PEEL assessments – police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy – judged Wiltshire Police to ‘not have adequate strategic plans in place…including neighbourhood policing and investigations. The failure to plan effectively is failing to deliver the standard service that the county, including its most vulnerable people, expect and deserve. The force has invested in neighbourhood policing resources, but local policing teams do not consistently involve local communities in their work or carry out structured problem-solving alongside organisations to prevent crime and ASB.’

Statements of partnership intent are contained within the Partnership Agreement agreed by Wiltshire Police, the PCC and Wiltshire NHW Association signed off in July 2018. These include:

* **Wiltshire NHW** – work in partnership with the police and other local agencies across the locality.
* **Wiltshire Police** – ensure that Neighbourhood Police Teams forge and maintain links with NHW scheme co-ordinators.
* **PCC** – to encourage partnership working between NHW, other community safety partners and Wiltshire Police

**A summary ACTION statement to support and secure improved levels of neighbourhood policing**.

Notwithstanding the complexity of modern-day policing and the limited strategic influence of a volunteer-led stakeholder partner, Wiltshire NHW would endorse the following ‘keep it simple’ criteria, which if undertaken would provide evidence of effective neighbourhood policing and partnership working involving police and public. These include:

* Regular formal and informal contact between police and local communities.
* Making available information about local crime and policing issues to communities.
* Using engagement to identify local priorities and inform problem-solving.
* Collate evidence to support ‘good practice’ above.

Wiltshire NHW recognise the great potential for ‘micro-communication across Wiltshire and Swindon involving the near 300 Parish Councils that exist across the county, most of which serve small communities. Our Association recommend that in any endeavour to revitalise neighbourhood policing, Wiltshire Police should prioritise developing a communication network that actively promotes collaboration involving police and local community stakeholders including Wiltshire Area Boards.