

## **Front Office Closures at Police Stations**

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2013

Symondsburry Parish Council wish to respond the proposed closure of the Police Stations front office services.

The station serving our parish is located at Bridport which we understand will be open for this service for 6 hours per week. The parish council objects to this proposal for the following reasons.

Whilst we appreciate the necessity for reducing costs we would point out that police services to our community have already been drastically reduced. Throughout our rural parish there is less evidence of a police presence in the face of rising instances of fuel theft. The parish has always received a monthly update of crime issues from a community officer at their meeting (also attended by members of the public) but this has now been discontinued. This, coupled with front office closures, results in a diminishing police presence within the parish and a greater potential for crime.

The parish, in common with other parishes enjoys the benefits of tourism, who rely on the front desk services if they need assistance. The wider community does expect a police station to be open, if not 24/7 then for a reasonable period each day, one is not always able to regulate emergencies to conform with opening hours.

David Wragg

Councillor, Symondsburry Parish Council.