

PC Julie Susel Retires from Thames Valley Police

For many Earley residents PC Julie Susel will be a familiar face. As the town's Neighbourhood Officer she has worked with numerous residents' groups, community organisations, local councils and individuals but sadly she will be serving her last shift at the end of April, as retirement from TVP beckons.

All at Earley Town Council are sure that others would wish to join them in thanking Julie for her years of service to the community, her years of service to Earley, and wish her a happy, peaceful retirement.

Here is a summary of PC Julie Susel's career with Thames Valley Police, as provided by her colleagues:

Julie joined TVP in August 1994, following three years in the Special Constabulary, working out of Reading and progressing to the role of Section Officer.

In 1994, Julie was employed as Police Constable and following 15 weeks training at Ashford Police Training Centre in Kent, was posted to Bracknell Police Station. Julie worked in Bracknell, Wokingham and Crowthorne Stations from 1994 – 1999, before successfully applying for a Trainers position. Julie did her 12 week Trainers course at Bramshill and Sulhamstead, delivering training and working as an Area Training Officer out of the newly launched Probationer Training Unit, which was the first unit in the Force to be set up in Reading in 2000.

In 2004, Julie decided to apply for a position in Wokingham Town Centre as Neighbourhood Specialist Officer, supervising a team of newly recruited PCSO's. Julie immersed herself into her work, developing a good strong working relationship with the vast Gypsy, Romany and Traveller (GRT) community within the LPA. In 2008, Julie worked on a GRT shooting with Major Crime, allowing MC to engage with the community, gathering vital evidence and successfully convicting a male of attempted murder. Due to Julie's relationship with the GRT community, she was then asked to do a family liaison role for members of the GRT community in various situations, which she has continued to do throughout her career, including:

- 2 x shootings (2008 and 2009) of very prominent GRT families
- Double fatality of 2 young traveller boys – being requested to be the FLO from Suffolk Constabulary. Supporting the family at the trial and sentencing in Ipswich
- Fatal caravan fire of 28 year old male – supporting the family throughout the investigation to the Coroner's Court and helping to arrange the large GRT funeral.
- Numerous GRT feud's

Julie became an unofficial FLO, often working with the offending families, supporting the families and opening lines of communication for the investigating team.

In 2008, Julie became the GRT liaison officer for the Force, delivering GRT training throughout TVP and the neighbourhood teams within the Metropolitan Police.

In 2010, Julie decided to return to Neighbourhood Policing and became the Neighbourhood Specialist Officer for the Earley Neighbourhood. Julie excelled in the role and was awarded the TVP Berkshire Neighbourhood Officer of the year in 2012.

Julie continued to combine both roles, GRT liaison and Neighbourhood Officer, for the following years. Julie embraced the role of Neighbourhood Officer, setting up training for the Pubwatch scheme and working closely with her partner agencies. Julie has been heavily involved with Children's Services, supporting families at Child Protection Conferences. She has taken responsibility for the University of Reading, dealing with many of the day to day issues of a busy University and offering support and training to the staff on many issues. Julie has supported her Neighbourhood Action Group for many years, working with the NAG to listen to the community and understand their fears and concerns.

Julie was again awarded Neighbourhood Officer of the Year for Berkshire in 2019, the first person in the Force to win this award on two occasions.

She has been awarded 10 commendations throughout her service, for saving a life, to the investigation of a child sex offender who was convicted and given a custodial sentence.

Julie finishes her career working within the Bracknell and Wokingham LPA in the role of Neighbourhood Officer.

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