



## Old Charley System to End

The "Old Charley" system of protection under which the good folks of Devizes have so many years enjoyed their slumbers, is, it seems, at last about to be extinguished. For some time past the desirableness of introducing the County Police into the borough, and dispensing with the services of our old municipal officials have been talked off; and from a report presented by a Committee of the Town Council at a meeting of that body on Friday last, it appears that an arrangement has been (or will, beyond doubt, be) made with the County, by which, on the annual payment of £150, Devizes will, from 1st August next, be placed under the surveillance of the County Constabulary force. This arrangement, however, will not extend to that part of St. John's parish called "Old Park", not now assessed to the borough watch rates; so that this extensive property, paying no county rates, will remain untraversed by the policeman, though it will have the advantage of being watched on all sides.

The small room adjoining the County Court is to be appropriated as a station room, and a house will be provided by the borough for the accommodation of the head of the police.

That almost indispensable borough functionary "The Town Crier", is, however, to be retained; and two mace-bearers will still continue to herald the approach of His Worship on State occasions!

**Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette, 10 June 1847**

### **OPC Note:-**

The 'Old Charley' was in some ways like a night watchman and town crier. His job was to literally keep an eye on his designated section of roadway, as a defence against the common perils of crime and fire. In addition, they had the job of calling out the time and describing the weather.

