



Avon and Somerset Police
NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

Taunton

Policing Newsletter

June 2024

NEWS FROM ACROSS TAUNTON

Week of Action

During the first week of May, the Taunton Neighbourhood Policing Team carried out a targeted week of action at a variety of problems. Thankfully, during this week we were able to call upon other specialist departments to assist us with the individual days of action.

Tuesday 7th May-Drug Warrants

With the aid of our Op Remedy Officers, who are dedicated officers whose sole purpose is to crack down on the crimes that matter most to local people, including residential burglary, knife crime and the illegal supply of controlled drugs, we executed 3 misuse of drug warrants on 3 different properties across the Taunton area, resulting in 2 arrests.

Callum Small aged 19, was charged with possession with intent to supply class A crack cocaine and two counts of being concerned in the supply of class A drugs (crack cocaine and heroin). A 16-year-old-boy, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was charged with possession of criminal property, possession of class B cannabis, and two counts of being concerned in the supply of class A drugs (crack cocaine and heroin). Both defendants appeared at Taunton Magistrates' Court on Wednesday 8th May and were bailed by the court. They will next appear in court on Monday 10th June.



Wednesday 8th May-Targeting Prolific Offenders

On Wednesday, our Neighbourhood Police Officers donned their plain clothes and set out to find the most problematic and wanted offenders that were blighting our town centre businesses. The task was to patrol the town and in particular those businesses that are repeat victims of crime. Whilst our Police Officers were in plain clothes and trying their best to blend in, our PCSOs were tasked with engaging with the businesses across the whole town, to educate and advise on the best and easiest way to report crime to us, including how to send us evidence using our online form. The day resulted in 6 offenders being arrested. These individuals were arrested for a total of; 4 x breaches of a Criminal Behaviour Order,

MEET THE TEAM



OFFICER

PCSO Brian Lee

POLICING AREA

Holway and Killams

YEARS SERVICE

Under 1 year

HOBBY

Football Referee

FAVOURITE FOOD

Roast Dinner

ABOUT ME

This month's 'Meet the Team' is PCSO Brian Lee.

Born & bred in Taunton, I am very much a local lad having lived in Taunton all of my long years, having grown up in the North Taunton area and attending both Lyngford Park Primary and the now demolished Priorswood/St Augustines Secondary School. I then joined the Merchant Navy for 6 months before working in the County Hotel in Taunton (now known as Waterstones). I then worked for many years at Somerset County Cricket Ground as a Commercial Sales Executive.

As a late joiner to Avon and Somerset Constabulary, I've brought a wealth of customer service and local knowledge to my role and to the community of Taunton. I have a passion for good service and getting out to speak to people face to face and supporting the public during their moments of crisis. In my spare time, I am a qualified Football referee, where I have refereed Taunton Town Football matches and more.

When not trying to keep the peace at work and on a football pitch, I do very much enjoy a hot holiday here and there! Having recently just come back India and experiencing the delights of their culture I have also explored other parts of the world including Mauritius, the Caribbean and the Canary islands and more. If you see me out and about please do say hello and give me a wave!

1 x Robbery, 12 x shoplifting offences, 5 x failing to appear warrants, 1 x Drug driving and 1 x breach of bail. One of our plain clothes officers also recovered a large quantity of non-duty paid tobacco from a visit to a shop.



Friday 10th May-E-Scooters/E-Bikes & Moped related ASB & Crime

With the help of our Roads Policing Officers, we targeted those individuals who continue to cause ASB amongst on our communities using their E-Scooters/E-Bikes or Mopeds. Having our Roads Policing Officers deployed on their motorbikes allowed us to deal with anyone who may have refused to stop for officers, for which there was 1 individual on their Moped who failed to stop before then discarding suspected Class B drugs...right in front of the pursuing vehicle which is equipped with high resolution dash cameras. As well as having our Roads Policing Team out on the roads targeting those committing road traffic offences, we set up a pop up stand and took the opportunity to engage and educate members of the public in the town centre on the legalities of E-Scooters, but also other information on how to stay safe on our roads. The day resulted in lots of members of the public, hopefully now knowing more about how to stay safe, but also where and when E-Scooters can be used. 1 x vehicle caught without tax, 2 x vehicles caught without insurance, 6 x E-Scooter riders issued with a warning, 1 x arrest for drug driving and possession of Class B cannabis and 1 x PG9 prohibition notice for tyre tread being below the limit.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



PC's Lydia Shipton & Daryl Screech before they returned a stolen bike to a victim after we recovered it. Clearly, Lydia was far happier to smile for the photo than Daryl was!

POLICE EARLY INTERVENTION TEAM

Taunton and the wider Somerset area is a safe place and violent incidents involving children and young people remain low but like many town centres it experiences higher levels of concerns around violence. The Early Intervention Team is working with the Violence Reduction Partnership and other partners to address these concerns.

In a recent survey we conducted with children in Taunton, 9% said they had experienced violence in our town centre and less than 1 in 5 said they would report an incident to police. The children told us they want more information about how to stay safe in the town centre. They also told us that they want to hear this advice from parents, schools, police and peers. We would encourage you to talk to your children about how to stay safe, including how to spot the signs, distancing themselves and tell someone.

Leaflets have been designed to give parents, guardians and carers advice on how to support their children and shared with schools and services and a webpage has been established to provide advice.

For more information visit;
www.somerset.gov.uk/town-centre-safety-and-young-people
www.youngminds.org.uk

In addition to this, we are working with Collaborate Digital, local schools and children to develop education packages to help them to stay safe and navigate these challenging situations.

The Highlight Youth Hub is run by Young Somerset every Saturday from 3pm until 5pm in McDonalds in East Street. This busy area is full of children and young people at this time and this provides a weekly opportunity for children and young people to find out about activities, services and support available in the local area.



MORE NEWS FROM THE AREA

Burglar swiftly caught and re-called to Prison!

A 39-year-old man has appeared in court and admitted breaking into the same Taunton café twice in the same day. Edward Hayes, of no fixed address, admitted two counts of burglary when he appeared at Taunton Magistrates' Court on Wednesday 22 May. Hayes forced entry into Block café, on Magdalene Street, at about 1.20am on Tuesday 14th May and stole a number of items before leaving. He then returned about an hour and a half later and stole more items. In a statement to the court, the owners of the café described how the burglary was a "violation of our space and a disruption to our service" and told how they had to throw large amounts of stock away as they could not be sure whether any of it had been tampered with. Following his guilty pleas, magistrates ordered Hayes to pay £220 compensation to the owners of the café and he was recalled to prison for breach of a pre-existing licence conditions.

PC Naomi Baker said:

"We take reports of burglary extremely seriously and recognise the profound impact offences can have on victims. Neighbourhood officers responded promptly to this incident and quickly identified Hayes as the offender before gathering the evidence needed to put him before the courts. Hayes' actions not only left the owners of the café having to spend time and money to fix the front door he damaged and to clean up the mess he made but they also disrupted the service they provide to the community."



Roads Policing



On 15th May, Roads Policing Officers seized two vehicles for no insurance at the same time on Silk Mills Road (A3065). The first vehicle had previously failed to stop for the Police on a previous date, but on this occasion the first vehicle was towing a second vehicle which also had no insurance and a provisional licence holder at the wheel. Drivers then tried to produce a fraudulent insurance certificate. Both vehicles were seized and both drivers were reported for various driving offences.

Driving under the influence of drugs means you are just as likely to cause an accident as much as drinking driving. The driver of this VW Polo had a crash after driving under the influence of Cannabis. Thankfully everyone walked away with no major injuries. Driver was arrested.



This black Kia Niro was stopped on the Bathpool ring road having been witnessed by Roads Policing Officers undertaking, driving erratically and speeding on the Toneway in Taunton. The Driver was reported for driving without due care and attention. Driver was also breathalysed but blew just under the maximum legal requirement. A huge thanks to our Roads Policing Officers for their ongoing hard work.



COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

For those that don't know what 'Community Speedwatch' is, it is where volunteers from the local community carry out speed monitoring checks on specific roads across the community.

The aim of Community SpeedWatch is to make motorists who speed through residential neighbourhoods aware of the impact their actions have on local residents, or the danger they pose to other road users and pedestrians. This is something we are working with communities to address.

The 14 CSW groups in the Taunton area operate in a variety of environments with different speed limits and traffic flows. The urban sites that they operate at have far higher traffic flows with typically 500 to 1400 vehicles per hour whereas the rural sites have approximately 50 to 200 vehicles an hour. However the rural sites have a higher proportion of speeders. Unfortunately the 20mph limits have a higher proportion of speeders whether they are an urban site or rural.

Activity during May

Over the month of May, 7 out of the 14 Community Speedwatch schemes in Taunton have been visibly active across the different communities. From the 27 sessions that have taken place, 8,471 vehicles have been monitored by our Speedwatch volunteers. From those, a total of 177 letters have been sent out to drivers that have not adhered to the speed limit.

The Community Speedwatch is a great service that greatly assists the Constabulary in reducing speed across the communities. Should you wish to join an existing Speedwatch, or would like to set one up for your area, you can find more information here:

[Community SpeedWatch | Avon and Somerset Police](#)



CRIME STATISTICS - April 2024

(Latest information available to the public online)

Category	Crimes Recorded
Anti-social behaviour	117
Bicycle Theft	11
Burglary (Including Commercial Burglary)	27
Criminal Damage & Arson	74
Drugs	3
Other theft	40
Possession of weapons	4
Public Order	81
Robbery	9
Shoplifting	90
Theft from the person	2
Vehicle Crime	22
Violent Crime	332
Other Crime	12

You can access and find out more about crime statistics for a specific area by clicking either of these two links:

[Your area | Avon and Somerset Police](#)

[Avon and Somerset Constabulary | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](#)

What I would like to reassure you all with regards to these statistics is that certain crime types are grouped together in one category. On our systems we can see far more detailed information, but for what we are allowed to share with the public, crime types are grouped together.

For example one of the categories above is '**Violent Crime**'. Domestic incidents fall within that category and Domestic incidents are one of the most common type of incidents we as the Police attend. If you would like to know the definition of what a Domestic relationship is, you can find it here:

[Domestic Abuse Act 2021 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

Hopefully this somewhat reassures you of why the number of crimes within that category are high.

DID YOU KNOW...?

New Police and Crime Commissioner elected...



During the month of May, residents of Avon and Somerset elected Clare Moody as their Police and Crime Commissioner for a four-year term, beginning on the 9th May 2024.

Clare Moody said, "It's a privilege to have the opportunity to serve the people of Avon and Somerset in this role.

"Now that I am sworn into office, I will be visible, accountable and PCC for all residents of Avon and Somerset.

"The people of Avon and Somerset have communicated their priorities to me. On my time on the doorstep people expressed that they want to see a greater connection to their local neighbourhood police and for their service to address and reduce violent crime, particularly knife crime and MVAWG, and to do all we can to prevent crime."

"To recognise always that the test of police efficiency is the absence of crime and disorder, and not the visible evidence of police action in dealing with them."

TAUNTON POLICE STATION

Opening Times

Monday: 08:30—16:30

Tuesday: 08:30—16:30

Wednesday: 08:30—16:30

Thursday: 08:30—16:30

Friday: 08:30—16:30

Saturday: CLOSED

Sunday: CLOSED



USEFUL LINKS

STREET SAFE

StreetSafe is an online tool that can be used by anyone to anonymously tell us about public places where they have felt or feel unsafe.

You might have felt unsafe in your local area due to anti-social behaviour or environmental factors, such as a lack of street lighting. We encourage you to share your experience using the StreetSafe tool.

The information you provide will be considered alongside evidence already gathered by police forces and will be used to inform policing and local authority safety activities within your community.

Link to Website to report:

[StreetSafe | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](#)

KEEP UP TO DATE



Facebook is a great way to keep up to date with your local Neighbourhood Policing team. Follow us on:

Facebook: [West Somerset and Taunton Neighbourhood Policing](#)

GET IN TOUCH

In an emergency always call 999

For non-emergency matters call us on 101 or report online via

[www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report](#)

Contact the Neighbourhood Team directly:

[SomWestNPTTaunton@avonandsomerset.police.uk](#)

To report a crime anonymously, contact Crimestoppers on

0800 555 111 or visit

[www.crimestoppers-uk.org](#)

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