



Avon and Somerset Police
NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

Taunton

Policing Newsletter

October 2024

NEWS FROM ACROSS TAUNTON

Hello and welcome to the Taunton Policing Newsletter for the month of October 2024. As always, the newsletters contain a snapshot of some of the work the Taunton Policing Teams have been involved with in the previous month.

Civil Injunction and Criminal Behaviour Order arrest

At the start of the month, the team arrested two males for breaches of their civil injunction and criminal behaviour order (CBO). The first male was arrested for 10 breaches of their civil injunction. This male had a civil injunction due to reports of repeated anti-social behaviour and aggressive begging. The second male was arrested for 3 breaches of their CBO. This male has had this CBO for several years now and was granted the CBO due to repeat criminal offences and anti-social behaviour.

So...what's the difference between a civil injunction and criminal behaviour order?

A court may grant a civil injunction if it gets reports of persistent antisocial behaviour from the police, a council or a landlord. To obtain an injunction the court must be satisfied that an individual has engaged in, or threatens to engage in, conduct capable of causing nuisance and annoyance.

Criminal behaviour orders replaced ASBOs on conviction and will be available in the Crown Court, magistrates' courts or the youth court.

The CBO will be available for use against serious antisocial individuals and can be applied for on conviction for any criminal offence in any criminal court. The orders can only be made through an application by the Crown Prosecution Service. However this can either be through their own initiative or at the request of the council or police.

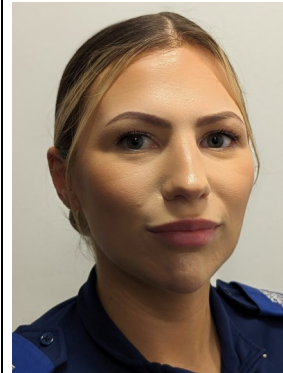
If the court is satisfied that the alleged offender has committed behaviour causing harassment, alarm and distress (the same test used for the ASBO) and future ASB can be prevented then the CBO will be granted. The court can also be presented with hearsay evidence, which is something not permitted in criminal proceedings.

PCC Public Forum

On Wednesday 11th September 2024, PCC Clare Moody held a public forum at Taunton Rugby Club. The event was held to give the public an opportunity to help shape how policing is delivered in their area, as well sharing what ideas on what would work in their community and to find out about the consultation on their council tax and police funding. For those that couldn't attend, you can have your say here—<https://orlo.uk/Qbj7i>



MEET THE TEAM



OFFICER

PCSO Amber Reed

POLICING AREA

Halcon

YEARS SERVICE

2 & half years

HOBBY

The Gym & Baking

FAVOURITE FOOD

Sweets

ABOUT ME

This month's 'Meet the Team' is PCSO Amber Reed.

Before joining Avon and Somerset Constabulary I worked as a support worker within a 90 day placement crisis home for children. Prior to that I worked as a support worker for adults and young people with mental health needs & learning difficulties. These roles helped me develop a strong level of knowledge around safeguarding as well as working with vulnerable people, which I utilise daily in my role.

A major part of my role as a PCSO is to identify and work with those children who are unfortunately involved in low level crimes and to try and work out a way to deter them from repeated incidents of crime or poor behaviour. A hugely challenging task as you can imagine, as there is never just an easy solution to the problem and those solutions differ from problem to problem.

I have recently completed a piece of work to tackle youth ASB within our town. This has lead me to completing civil injunction applications after those identified youths have continued to refuse all offered support and have chose to continue committing crime and ASB. This was successful in reducing those individual's behaviours, and I am now looking at the next upcoming cohort.

Bike Marking at Orchard Grove

PCSOs Imran and Brian attended a Bike orientated event at Orchard Grove. The event was all about bike maintenance and security, and Imran and Brian were happy to assist with security marking over a dozen bicycles that attended using Bike Register security marking system.



Two Charged with multiple theft offences

Neighbourhood Police Officers had been investigating multiple reports of shoplifting. Multiple businesses both in and out of the town centre had reported to the Police that a male and female had stolen items on multiple occasions. After officers identified them as well as ensuring all evidence was up together, the two individuals were arrested and charged with a total of 9 theft offences. The pair were charged, kept in overnight in our custody cells and sent to court the next day.

Day of Action targeting prolific offenders

On Wednesday the 25th September 2024, the Neighbourhood Policing Team had a day of action targeting those prolific offenders who harm our businesses and deter those members of the public who like to visit our town. Through a combination of high visibility patrols, as well as plain clothes officers, we targeted the locations and businesses that have been repeat victims of crime to identify and deal with those seeking to commit offences. 1 male was arrested early in the morning, for a total of 21 shoplifting offences across both the Taunton and Bridgwater area. Another male was arrested for 5 breaches of their Criminal Behaviour Order.

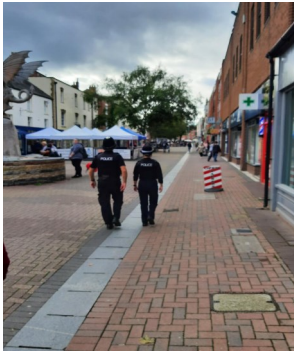


PHOTO OF THE MONTH



PCSO Supervisor Sam Bushen made a new friend whilst on foot patrol through Vivary Park. Pigeon wasn't happy that Sam had no food to offer.

POLICE EARLY INTERVENTION TEAM

Although much of the work that the team carries out is focused on working with and supporting those children that we have identified as being at greater risk of being involved in violent crime or exploitation as either victims or offenders, we feel it is important to have an understanding of how these areas of concern affect children and adults across the whole community.

In September we arranged an afternoon with our neighbourhood policing colleagues and partners including Children's Social Care Preventing Exploitation Team and Somerset Drug and Alcohol Services. In the hours following schools finishing for the day, we pooled our resources and visited some of the key areas where children mix with their friends in the community. This gives us a chance to meet with children, young people and adults in their spaces to explain some of the services that are in the community for them and to find out from them, what concerns them.

The main concerns that children and young people in Taunton expressed to us, related to Anti-social behaviour, Alcohol, Drugs and Vaping and Online Safety.

Children and young people told us that they use tactics such as being with a friend or in groups when they go out, keeping in contact with parents and friends and using tracking apps such as Snap Maps and Life360 to help them keep safe.

Approximately a third of the people we spoke to said that there aren't any areas that they don't feel safe, others expressed that they feel less safe in some of the parks or in areas where they see street drinking.

The people we spoke with were asked if there was anything else they felt would help keep them safe. Some people told us they would feel safe as they are, others said they would like to see more lighting, CCTV, improved crossings and more police.

If you are worried or want to report any concerns you can this online at [Report | Avon and Somerset Police](#)

[Your Police](#) on Instagram can be a good source of information for teenagers on policing related matters.

Don't forget the Highlight Youth Hub run by Young Somerset, takes place every Saturday between 3pm and 5pm at McDonalds, East Street, Taunton. They are on hand to offer support and advice.

MORE NEWS FROM THE AREA

Two arrested following drugs warrant

A 24-year-old man and a 20-year-old woman were arrested on Wednesday 2 October after Neighbourhood Police Officers in Taunton carried out a Misuse of Drugs Act warrant in the Corporation Street area of the town.

During a search of the property, suspected cocaine, ketamine, cannabis, and drugs supply equipment were located, along with a number of weapons including knuckledusters and a Zombie-style knife. Mobile phones and cash were seized, and a dog suspected to be a banned breed (XL bully) was taken into kennels.

Both occupants were arrested on suspicion of being concerned in the supply of a class A drug, possession with intent to supply a class B drug, possession of an offensive weapon in a private place and possession/having custody of a banned breed.

They were questioned and have been released under investigation whilst our enquiries continue.

We're thankful to the public for continuing to provide us with information that helps us plan and carry out proactive operations. If you have concerns about potential drug activity happening in your area, please report to us by calling 101, submit a report via our website or contact the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555111. Even the smallest amount of information can help us build a fuller picture of what's going on in the area.



Roads Policing

Roads Policing Officers stopped this tractor driving along Chestnut Drive in Taunton. Officers found a young driver on his first day on the job and his first time on the road. The young driver explained that he was told to drive the tractor and trailer to the next farm. Whilst following the vehicle, rocks and debris were falling off the back of the trailer going over the road and almost hitting pedestrians and other road users.

The young driver was educated at the road side and appreciated the information and asked further questions so that he can keep himself and others safe while working on the road as this is the first time he had driven.

The employer was also spoken to as under law they have liability to ensure that their vehicles are used legally and loads are secure. They were advised a tarpaulin should have been used and they should not be filling the trailer above the edges. Agricultural vehicle are exempt on certain road traffic offences including construction and use.



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 September

Over the month of September, 4 out of the 14 Community Speedwatch schemes in Taunton have been visibly active across the different communities. From the 13 sessions that have taken place, 5,875 vehicles have been monitored by our Speedwatch volunteers. From those, a total of 33 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 - August 2024

(Latest information available to the public online)

Category	Crimes Recorded
Anti-social behaviour	138
Bicycle Theft	10
Burglary (Including Commercial Burglary)	29
Criminal Damage & Arson	63
Drugs	5
Other theft	40
Possession of weapons	4
Public Order	124
Robbery	22
Shoplifting	176
Theft from the person	0
Vehicle Crime	21
Violent Crime	352
Other Crime	14

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...?

Have you ever thought of a role within the Police?

Avon and Somerset Constabulary employ over 2000 different roles across the organisation. Not only is the organisation made up of Police Officers, but we also have a huge variety of roles across the area, including PCSOs, Crime Scene Investigators, Call handlers, Dispatch officers, Victim Care officers, Store Management Clerks and also a huge variety of volunteer roles that are critical to the day to day operations of the constabulary. There really is something for everyone. Unfortunately, PCSO recruitment is closed until at least April 2025, however there are other vacancies available.

You can find more information and Police Staff vacancies at the following link; [Jobs and volunteering | Avon and Somerset Police](#)

“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](#)

WRITTEN & EDITED BY
PCSO SUPERVISOR
SAM BUSHEN

