



Avon and Somerset Police
NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

Taunton

Policing Newsletter

April 2025

NEWS FROM ACROSS TAUNTON

Hello and welcome to the Taunton Policing Newsletter for the month of April 2025. As always, the newsletters contain a snapshot of some of the work the Taunton Policing Teams have been involved with in the previous month.

A year of Newsletters

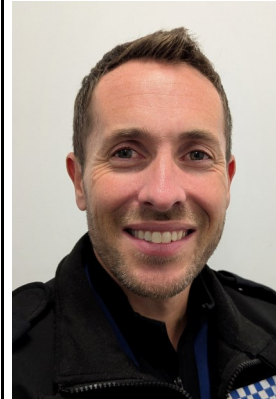
Back in April 2024, we launched the first of these newsletters. With our resourcing becoming more of a challenge year on year, as a team we had to come up with a solution to managing our engagement with our Parish councils. Taunton has 19 Parish councils (last time I checked) and traditionally, community policing has always been an important part of those Parish councils. The information we used to feed into those Parish's would assist them in making decisions on whether they could look into better youths provisions, or assisting with more bins being placed around a playpark, or even assisting with sharing and distributing with crime prevention advice. However, as stated above our resources have changed drastically over the years. Taunton currently has 10 PCSOs. In 2020, we had 22!

Last year, Avon and Somerset saw its first ever pause on PCSO recruitment since PCSOs were introduced in 2002. The reason for the pause on recruitment was for financial reasons and this brought us in line with the national average of PCSOs per capita. The Constabulary re-opened recruitment in January 2025, however this will take some before those numbers start to rise again. As you can imagine, any role within policing takes several months to recruit for.

To start, the recruitment phase, starting with the application, online assessments, interview, medical and drugs test and then the vetting. Then there's the training, which for PCSOs is 10 weeks, then the tutorship period which is again anytime between 6-10 weeks....it can be months. So....with less numbers, we've have to work smarter and not harder. We continue to hear from the public that they want to see officers out and about in the communities, so these newsletters have been a great tool in providing literally a tiny snippet into what the teams have been dealing with, as well as providing links to where people can find more information or support where necessary, whilst reducing officers administration time. We would really love to be able to share more with you all on just how hard the team is working, but as you can imagine, a lot of policing is a private manner for victims and offenders and so we have to be careful on what we share...hence why I say we are only sharing a tiny snippet!

It's not just Parish Councils that receive these newsletters. We send them to all Schools across Taunton, a growing list of elderly residential homes, Neighbourhood watch coordinators, Speedwatch coordinators, various community leaders and community groups and all Councillors for Taunton. We believe from feedback, that the newsletters reach just over 3000 people directly, but this number is only from what we've been told...but we suspect that this number is higher than that which is ultimately great for us, and hopefully you find them somewhat beneficial too!

MEET THE TEAM



OFFICER

Inspector Joe Piscina

POLICING AREA

West Somerset

YEARS SERVICE

15 years

HOBBY

Football

FAVOURITE FOOD

Anything Italian

ABOUT ME

This month's 'Meet the Team' is Inspector Joe Piscina.

My name is Joe Piscina and I am the Inspector for Somerset West covering Taunton, Wellington, Minehead and the surrounding areas. I am into my 15th year of working for Avon and Somerset Constabulary and I can't quite believe how fast the time has gone!!!!

I have spent most of my career working in Somerset West. I started as a PC in Bridgwater on the response teams and remained there for over 5 years until I moved into the Neighbourhood Policing team, where I was promoted to Sergeant. I really enjoyed my time on the NPT working with the community and focusing on problem solving.

I was promoted to Inspector in 2021 where I moved into custody covering the 3 units within the constabulary. I was pleased when I got my move back to Somerset West NPT in November. We have a great team that work hard to deliver on issues that matter to the local community.

Away from work I enjoy playing football (although I am a lot slower than I used to be!), spending time with the family and being half Italian, its all about the food!

Neighbourhood Guarantee: 70 additional officers to join Avon and Somerset neighbourhood policing teams

Avon and Somerset Police will be deploying experienced officers into these additional roles, leveraging their problem-solving, investigative skills, and strong community connections. They will recruit new officers to replace those who are moved into these roles.

The Neighbourhood Guarantee also brings clear expectations regarding what this means for both the police and the communities they serve. Under the Guarantee, all forces are expected to:

- Increase visible patrols – with more officers back on the beat
- Deliver community-led policing, with named, contactable officers
- Introduce a clear pathway for neighbourhood policing officers
- Crack down on antisocial behaviour
- Support safer town centres and public spaces

Water Delivery!

Whilst PCSO Brian Lee was out on patrol in the new Grove Gate estate, he came upon individuals trying to supply the community with water following a water supply issue. Brian being Brian...decided to get stuck in and help out as that's the kind of person Brian is. An all round top human being and PCSO!



ROADS POLICING



The above vehicle was seized on the Crown Industrial Estate from a disqualified driver. The driver who was caught drink driving last year, decided that being a disqualified driver shouldn't stop them from driving, until our Roads Policing team spotted the vehicle. Following the vehicle being stopped, the driver was reported for driving without a license and for driving without insurance. Vehicle was seized.

POLICE EARLY INTERVENTION TEAM

For children there isn't a difference between online and offline life, it is all very real.

Understanding technology and its changes can be really hard and it can be difficult to know how to start talking to your child about what they're doing online, who they are talking to and discussing the risks and the information they may access.

Talking with your child can help keep them safe online and it can be treated like any other area of their life such as school and friends. If it's part of your everyday conversation, they are more likely to speak to you if they are worried or have concerns.

There is a lot of advice and guidance out there that can be trusted.

Some messages and posts on social media may be upsetting, distasteful or express an unpopular view but are not necessarily criminal. You should report abuse to the social media site administrators or if they relate to;

- A threat to a person's life, safety or property.
- Targeting specific individuals, including persistent harassment and ongoing abuse.
- A breach of court orders, including identifying people protected by law.
- Grossly offensive, indecent, obscene or false and of a malicious nature.

You can report direct to us:

[Report online bullying and threatening messages | Avon and Somerset Police](#)

If you are concerned that your child is being groomed or exploited you can report direct to us

[Report child sexual exploitation | Avon and Somerset Police.](#)

Here are some other sources of advice and support;

[Barnardo's](#)

Children's charity Barnardo's, supports children and families affected by issues such as sexual exploitation and domestic abuse.

[NSPCC](#)

The NSPCC provide a wide range of services for both children and adults, including national helplines for 24/7 help and advice.

[CEOP safety centre](#)

If someone has acted inappropriately online towards you, a child or young person, or someone you know, find out what to do and how to report it to police, by visiting the CEOP safety centre.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



PC Lydia and PCSOs Brian, Imran & Amber utilising the mobile police station out in the community. A great way to grab a refreshment and a bite to eat without having to return to the station! The mobile police station is kitted out with a kettle, WIFI and a fridge to store officers lunch.

FRAUD AWARENESS

This section on the newsletter will include information on scams that we as the Police are currently aware of and how to hopefully avoid falling victim to these types of crimes.

Recruitment Fraud

With the cost-of-living crisis, more people are being tempted by “get rich quick” schemes and we have seen a growing number of reports of recruitment fraud.

The more typical type of recruitment fraud usually involves a job being advertised which doesn't exist. The victim will then be asked to pay various fees, such as purchasing a DBS check, training, or a work permit.

We are also seeing victims being contacted through messaging platforms such as WhatsApp by fraudsters claiming they can help them make some “extra income”. Fraudsters will encourage victims to download a cryptocurrency app and convince them to pay some money into cryptocurrency. Fraudsters will tell various lies for why payment is needed but it is normally disguised as some sort of “set up fee”.

Please see real-life examples of the messages fraudsters send. You will see how the fraudsters use technical jargon and phrases in the hope that the victim lets the fraudsters guide them through the process. This is so that they can exploit you for your hard earned cash.

We are providing a freelance/part-time job which is remote and flexible working time . Are you free to know more about it?

12:49

Our job is easy and flexible, as long you have spare time and free time you can do this work, we will be helping merchants to boost their products when any merchants have any problem with their products rating, review, exposure

12:58

We increasing their exposure become a good products we boosting their rating,review and anything that can make the products exposure

12:59

There are 3 types of earnings on this platform

1. The commission you get from boosting data 0.5% commission for each item data(VIP1)
2. The extra pay if you do 3 sets a day completed in 5 days continuously
- 3.The merge data /extra bonus, in one set of tasks you have the opportunity to get 0-3 Merge data, every time Merge data will get 6X times commission!

13:01

You can register a working account first, and I will teach you how to get started, so you will have a better understanding of the whole process, OK?

13:02

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 March

Over the month of March, 5 out of the 14 Community Speedwatch schemes in Taunton have been visibly active across the different communities. From the 22 sessions that took place, 4,637 vehicles have been monitored by our Speedwatch volunteers. From those, a total of 140 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 - February 2025

(Latest information available to the public online)

Category	Crimes Recorded
Anti-social behaviour	105
Bicycle Theft	9
Burglary (Including Commercial Burglary)	22
Criminal Damage & Arson	32
Drugs	6
Other theft	32
Possession of weapons	5
Public Order	66
Robbery	8
Shoplifting	71
Theft from the person	1
Vehicle Crime	14
Violent Crime	315
Other Crime	11

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...?

Help us Promote Safer Roads: Submit Your JourneyCam Footage

Dangerous and careless driving puts lives at risk every day on our roads. To tackle this issue, Avon and Somerset Police encourage the public to play an active role in promoting road safety by submitting JourneyCam footage of potential traffic offences. Known nationally as Operation Snap, this initiative allows members of the public to report incidents they've captured on their dashcams, helmet cameras, or other recording devices. Whether it's dangerous overtaking, failure to wear a seatbelt, or a driver using their phone, the footage you share can make a real difference in holding offenders accountable and preventing future harm on our roads.

Submitting your footage is straightforward:

- Visit: Go to www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/roads.
- Answer questions: Complete a short series of questions to determine whether the footage is eligible.
- Follow instructions: Upload your footage and any required information as directed.

More information can be found here - [Help us Promote Safer Roads: Submit Your JourneyCam Footage | Avon and Somerset Police](#)

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

