



Avon and Somerset Police
NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

Taunton

Policing Newsletter

August 2025

NEWS FROM ACROSS TAUNTON

Hello and welcome to the Taunton Policing Newsletter for the month of August 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.

Week of Action for Op Harmony

Op Harmony is where the individual areas of Avon and Somerset Constabulary, partake in a week of action targeting the things that matter to the community the most. It was Taunton's turn during July and below you can see some of the activities that the Taunton Neighbourhood Policing Team got up to.

- Supporting our Community Speed Watch Volunteers



PCSO Tony Wearmouth supported the North Curry Community SpeedWatch group to ensure that the group of volunteers felt supported through their time. Unfortunately there has been occasions where our volunteers have been abused at the roadside, which is a shame as our volunteers give up their free time to support the community and the Police in helping to reduce the dangers of our roads.

- Joint patrol with Town Councillors and Mayor



Officers from the team met with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Cllrs, Street Wardens and other representatives from Taunton Town Council, in a joint patrol where we discussed Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) in the town. The conversations weren't just about how we react to ASB, but also what changes could be made across the town to prevent ASB or reduce the chances of it

MEET THE TEAM



OFFICER

PCSO Mike Bell

POLICING AREA

Taunton West

YEARS SERVICE

6

HOBBY

Searching for the best coffee

FAVOURITE FOOD

Indian

ABOUT ME

This month's 'Meet the Team' is PCSO Mike Bell.

I joined Avon & Somerset Police as a Police Community Support Officer just over 6 years ago. My original posting was at Somerton Police Station, covering predominantly rural locations.

Before joining I worked a variety of roles, including but not limited to;

- Roadie / band tour management
- Graphic designer
- Town centre, retail and nighttime economy based Security.

It was during this latter role when I was working in partnership with Yeovil Neighbourhood Policing Team for a number of years that I developed an interest in Neighbourhood Policing—eventually after some persuasion from the team, I submitted my application! During my time in Somerton, I was able to develop a variety of skills and become a tutor.

In Spring 2025 I then transferred to the Taunton Neighbourhood Policing Team to be closer to home.

My primary interests in Policing aren't so much about 'catching the bad guy' but instead working with youth to educate and hopefully have a positive impact on shaping their life paths and playing a part in supporting the most vulnerable within society.

happening, including the improvement of CCTV, introducing different youth facilities and better communications between businesses and local authorities and Police. As you can imagine, these are challenging conversations considering these matters are all affected by multiple factors including budget. If you have any ideas or feedback that you feel would benefit the town centre in the aim of reducing ASB, please submit a contact request here and the team will come back to you. - [Contact your Neighbourhood Policing Team form | Avon and Somerset Police](#)

- School Lessons.

Over the course of the week, PCSOs delivered multiple school lessons to both primary and secondary schools. The lessons were based around the theme of Anti-social behaviour, and what actions and behaviour would constitute as such. It's always difficult to try and educate as many children as possible due to the sheer amount of children in schools across Taunton. We worked with schools to try and pick the correct year groups, and in certain cases, select individuals to educate them on ASB and the consequences should they behave that way.

Man jailed for 9 years for fatal collision in Taunton

A speeding van driver has been jailed after being convicted of causing a fatal collision while over the limit for alcohol and drugs.

Michael Atkinson, who was already disqualified from driving at the time, was sentenced at Taunton Crown Court on Friday 11th July. He was driving a white Mercedes Sprinter Van and collided into Sally Blew, 77, who was wheeling her bike across Lisieux Way. The incident occurred shortly before 10.10am on Monday 10th March and sadly Mrs Blew died a short time later in hospital. Michael Atkinson, 38, provided a positive drugs and alcohol tests at the scene and in custody respectively. He pleaded guilty to the following offences;

- Causing death by driving while disqualified
- Causing death by careless driving
- Charges relating to driving while over the prescribed limit for alcohol, cannabis and cocaine.

Michael Atkinson from Taunton, was sentenced to 9 years and 3 months in prison, and handed a driving disqualification for 11 years and 11 months.

The full story can be found here—[Man jailed for nine years for fatal collision in Taunton | Avon and Somerset Police](#) .

HUMANS IN POLICING

In this new section, we wanted to share with the public the humans we have in policing and what their lives look like outside of work!

PC Isabella Fitzgerald recently took part in the 3 peaks challenge whilst raising money for charity!

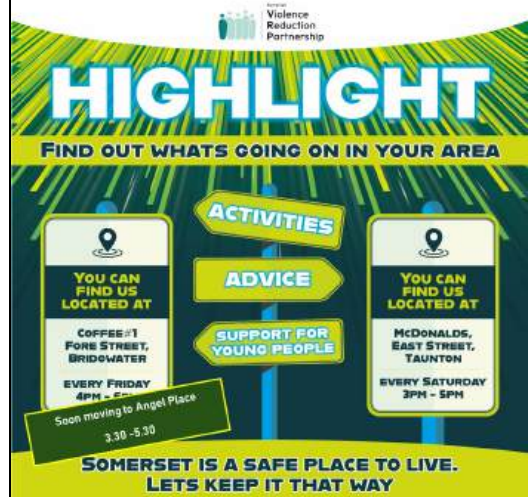
"On Saturday 18th July at 0548hrs, I set off with my team to complete the National 3 Peaks challenge in 24hrs. This is by far the biggest challenge I have put myself forward to do! Despite the gruelling nature of this challenge, I am immensely proud to have completed it within 25hrs. Although I fell short of the 24hr goal, the determination and perseverance displayed, especially on Snowdon was remarkable. I was on the brink of giving up on Snowdon but sheer willpower, and a phone call crying to my mum at 3am in the morning, (sorry mum) drove me up to the summit and back down. This endeavour was in support of the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance and in memory of one of the group members friend, who tragically passed away. In my role I know how important this service is and have on numerous occasions worked with them at incidents. I am honoured to have raised £740 for this charity."



POLICE EARLY INTERVENTION TEAM



The Early Intervention Team have been out and about with the Neighbourhood Team at the ever popular Pride In Priorswood, talking to people about their concerns and enjoying the great community atmosphere.



Our Highlight Youth Hubs continue to run throughout the holidays, where children and young people can access support. The Taunton Hub is run from 3pm to 5pm on Saturdays in McDonalds, East Street. Our partners Young Somerset who deliver this, have lots of great events and activities on to support children, young people and their families. Follow them on Facebook at Young Somerset or visit their café in Taunton Library or their shop 'Bold and Brave' in Riverside Place, Taunton.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

In September Unique Voice will be running sessions for front line professionals and parents and carers in honour of Max and Mason, two young lives that were lost in South Bristol to knife crime. They will be introducing their film and resources they have developed to help tackle knife violence. Professionals sessions will be on Thursday 18th September from 1530-1700 and for parents and carers on Tuesday 30th September from 1230-1315. The sessions will be online. We will share booking details when they become available.

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.

Investment Fraud

If someone contacts you with an investment opportunity that seems too good to be true... it is. Although investing can be a successful way of making money, it has resulted in many people losing their entire life savings. Fraudsters will persuade you to invest in all kinds of products, offering high rates of return, which often do not exist. It can be extremely difficult to tell a genuine investment opportunity apart from a fraudulent one – even for experienced investors.

Fraudsters are organised and convincing, and you may even see some initial small returns on an investment as an incentive to put a much larger amount of your money in. Requests to cash out will be met with excuses and demands for various fees to be paid. There will always be “just one more payment” needed to receive your money.

They often have professional looking websites, glossy marketing materials and prestigious addresses in London to make you feel assured that they are legitimate.

Criminals can even be aware of the investments you hold, or have previously held, and they may make reference to these or target you with similar schemes. They may offer to “recover” funds you have lost in a previous investment. The same criminals may target you again, hiding behind a new identity.

Remember:

- Genuine investment companies will not cold call you – always be wary of any unexpected calls.
- Research the company and the offer that they have made to you – contact Trading Standards if you have concerns and seek independent financial advice before committing to any investment.
- Before you invest anywhere, check with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) register to see if the firm or individual you are dealing with are authorised (<https://register.fca.org.uk/>)
- Check the FCA Warning List of firms to avoid.
- The FCA also provide a ScamSmart test which can help you check if an investment is potentially a scam.

Whilst the above measures are useful, please also be aware of ‘clone firm’ investment scams, where fraudsters imitate real-life companies. ‘Clone firms’ are set up by fraudsters using the same details as real companies authorised by the FCA, making it even more difficult to establish whether or not a firm is genuine.

If you use the internet, it is also worth being aware of fraudulent cryptocurrency investments which often present themselves on social platforms. Never assume anything you are offered online is real. Criminals can even use technology to make it look legitimate, showing trusted personalities/celebrities supposedly endorsing their investment opportunities.

- Don't be pressured into making any quick decisions.

- Always seek independent financial advice.

- Question whether an investment company would call you out of the blue.



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 July

Over the month of July, 6 out of the 14 Community Speedwatch schemes in Taunton have been visibly active across the different communities. From the 19 sessions that took place, 6,599 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 - June 2025

(Latest information available to the public online)

Category	Crimes Recorded
Anti-social behaviour	106
Bicycle Theft	10
Burglary (Including Commercial Burglary)	23
Criminal Damage & Arson	45
Drugs	7
Other theft	62
Possession of weapons	4
Public Order	71
Robbery	9
Shoplifting	68
Theft from the person	1
Vehicle Crime	6
Violent Crime	344
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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming events where you can speak with a member of the Taunton Neighbourhood Policing Team.

- **Road Safety Event and Bike Marking—Taunton Town centre 0900hrs 20/08/2025**

Joining Somerset Road Safety and On Your Bike, we will be on hand to answer any queries around staying safe on the road, as well as security marking bikes.

- **Taunton Ambulance Station Open Day—Lisieux Way, Taunton 24/08/2025**

The team will be there with a variety of equipment and crime prevention leaflets.

“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:

[SomersetWest-](#)

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

To report a crime anonymously, contact Crimestoppers on

0800 555 111 or visit

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

