



Avon and Somerset Police
NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

Taunton

Policing Newsletter

September 2025

NEWS FROM ACROSS TAUNTON

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

Community Engagement at Taunton Flower Show

The Taunton Flower Show, held annually on the first weekend of August, welcomed thousands of visitors this year—and with the warm weather, it was a busy and vibrant event.

We're often asked, "Why do the police attend events like these?" It's a fair question, especially as our resources are stretched more than ever. But the answer lies at the heart of British policing: being visible, approachable, and connected to the communities we serve, and during August we participate in as many of these events we can, whilst other pressures like our ongoing work with schools and colleges drops off due to the summer holidays.

Events like the Flower Show give us a unique opportunity to engage with people of all ages. Whether it's a child's first interaction with a police officer or a curious question from someone who's read a myth online—like the one about being arrested for not paying a TV licence—we're there to listen, inform, and build trust.

Policing isn't just about tackling crime; it's about reducing fear, busting myths, and showing the public the positive work we're doing every day.

At this year's show, our PCSOs and Special Constables (volunteer police officers) staffed a stand filled with crime prevention materials, fingerprinting kits for children, and plenty of friendly conversation. Over the weekend, we engaged with an estimated 10,000–15,000 people—a fantastic turnout and a successful example of community policing in action.



MEET THE TEAM



OFFICER

PCSO Imran King

POLICING AREA

Taunton North

YEARS SERVICE

2 and half years.

HOBBY

Gaming and

Travelling

FAVOURITE FOOD

Pineapple Pizza

ABOUT ME

This month's 'Meet the Team' is PCSO Imran King.

Hello again! I first featured in the April 2024 newsletter.

I'm now about two and a half years into my role as a PCSO, and I can genuinely say that I'm still thoroughly enjoying the journey.

Every day continues to offer new opportunities to engage with and support the community.

Whether it's through visible, reassuring policing or working behind the scenes to safeguard those who are most vulnerable, I feel incredibly proud to be contributing to something meaningful.

So, what's new with me?

Now that I've settled into life here in Taunton and have found a sense of stability in both my personal and professional life, I've finally taken the plunge and started learning to drive. It's a milestone I've been looking forward to for a while, and I know it'll open up even more possibilities for me within the role. Being able to travel more freely will allow me to respond more effectively and grow further in my capacity to serve the community.

Earlier this year, I had the incredible opportunity to visit Japan—a country that's been at the top of my travel wishlist for as long as I can remember. Experiencing its rich culture, stunning landscapes, and unique traditions firsthand was everything I'd hoped for and more. It was a truly eye-opening adventure, and now that I've ticked that dream destination off my list, I'm already thinking about where my next cultural exploration might take me!

As always, if you see me out and about, please don't hesitate to say hello. I'm always happy to chat and connect with members of the community—it's one of the best parts of the job.

Ambulance Station Open Day and County Cricket Fun

Continuing with the engagement events, the team supported the Ambulance Station Open day and one of the cricket matches at the Somerset County Cricket ground. PCSOs Jack and Tony looking happy and welcoming as always!



Proactive Patrol Leads to Vehicle Seizures on Bridgwater Road

During a recent patrol, one of our PCSOs observed two vehicles stopped in an unusual position on Bridgwater Road. Upon closer inspection, the officer identified several individuals gathered around the vehicles—many of whom are known to police for previous criminal activity.

Further checks revealed that neither vehicle had valid insurance. With support from our Police Constables, both vehicles were promptly seized under Section 165 of the Road Traffic Act.

This incident highlights the value of proactive patrolling and the continued efforts of our team to keep our roads and communities safe.



POLICE EARLY INTERVENTION TEAM

Lots of us, including children and young people have been worried or upset by recent events in the news. It can be difficult to answer children's questions but its important that children feel listened to and that they are able to talk about the things that they see and to process the feelings they are experiencing. The below links offer advice about how to have these conversations;

[Talking about distressing current events with kids \(savethechildren.org.uk\)](https://www.savethechildren.org.uk)

[How to speak to children about trauma and tragedy, Psychologists offer expert advice | BPS](#)

There is a lot of information out there but make sure that you use reliable sources. Recent events have demonstrated how misinformation and untrustworthy sources can cause harm. Encourage your children and young people to speak to you or other trusted adults about the things that they see and help them to understand that not everything they see is the truth. Think before you share online, do you know the information to be true and the source. Use the Share Checklist to help you understand if a story can be trusted.

[Share Checklist | Take care with what you share - Home](#)

When anything is reported to Police, we always encourage people to use the crime reference number. If you aren't sure, don't share it.

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

A hate crime is when someone commits a crime against you or someone else based on disability, gender identity, race, sexual orientation, religion, sex or other perceived differences. Help your children understand racism by talking about it with them.

[Talking to children about racism | NSPCC](#)

If you or anyone your know is the victim of Hate Crime, please report it:

[Report hate crime | Avon and Somerset Police](#)

SARI can provide support [SARI - Stand Against Racism & Inequality \(saricharity.org.uk\)](https://www.saricharity.org.uk)

Don't forget the Highlight Youth Hub run by Young Somerset, every Saturday between 3pm and 5pm at McDonalds, East Street, Taunton, offering support and advice.

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.

Parking Penalty Charge Notice Scam

Avon and Somerset Police are warning the public of a phishing text circulating recently which encourages recipients to click on a link to pay a fictitious parking fine. The link leads to a convincing looking fraudulent website which looks like the official government website. You will then be asked to enter your email address, vehicle registration number, and your card details to make a payment, usually of £20.

If you receive a text message like this, do not click on the link, as fraudsters can steal your personal and financial data to commit identity fraud and take your money. Even by clicking the link and not entering any information could result in malware being downloaded onto your device.

Phishing messages can be reported by forwarding to 7726, which spells 'SPAM' on your keypad. If you have become a victim of a phishing text scam, report this to your bank immediately, which can be done by calling 159, and report to Action Fraud.

Text Message
Today 10:53 AM

Parking Penalty Charge Notice:
Please Pay a parking penalty charge notice (PCN) issued by a local council.
If you do not pay a PCN within 28 days, you'll get a 'charge certificate' and you'll have 14 days to pay the original fine plus 50% more.
If you do not pay you'll be prosecuted - you may have to pay a bigger fine as well as court costs.
Please pay your fine at the link after reading the information.

Thank you again for your cooperation.

+ Text Message

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

At the tail end of August, with the sun still setting after 8pm, **PCSO Supervisor Sharon Baker** was out on patrol making the most of our electric bicycles. These bikes have proven to be a valuable asset, helping officers respond swiftly to incidents such as missing person searches and reports of anti-social behaviour. Electric assistance makes a real difference when officers are fully kitted out — including body armour, radios, body-worn cameras, and for our Police Constables, additional equipment like handcuffs, batons, and tasers. The extra weight can make cycling a challenge, but the e-bikes help ensure officers can cover ground quickly and efficiently.

This photo captures **Sharon** in action, showcasing how technology continues to support frontline policing in practical and impactful ways.



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 August

Over the month of August, 4 out of the 14 Community Speedwatch schemes in Taunton have been visibly active across the different communities. From the 15 sessions that took place, 6,641 vehicles have been monitored by our Speedwatch volunteers. From those, a total of 116 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 - July 2025

(Latest information available to the public online)

Category	Crimes Recorded
Anti-social behaviour	130
Bicycle Theft	2
Burglary (Including Commercial Burglary)	10
Criminal Damage & Arson	59
Drugs	14
Other theft	53
Possession of weapons	1
Public Order	90
Robbery	7
Shoplifting	41
Theft from the person	0
Vehicle Crime	11
Violent Crime	379
Other Crime	13

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.

- **Rural Crime Prevention — First Saturday of the Month 12pm-2pm Unicorn Saddlery in Hatch Beauchamp**
- **Freshers Fair—17/09/2025 10am-2pm. University Centre Somerset.**
- **Independent Market—12/10/2025 11am-1pm. On the parade in the town centre.**

“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](#)

