**South Northants Neighbourhood Teams**

**Annual Report March 2020**

Each quarter we seek public opinion in relation to what concerns you most within your Community. These opinions are gathered via surveys and we promote these using social media and Neighbourhood Alert. Over the last year the surveys have highlighted theft from vehicles and drugs use/supply as the most significant areas of concern. As such these are issues that you can expect the South Northants Neighbourhood Teams (NPTs) to be working on. Another topic that features frequently is ‘Police visibility’, especially for rural Communities, and there has been a renewed interest in parishes sponsoring their own Police Community Support Officer (PCSO).

A sponsored PCSO is paid for by the parish and their sole responsibility is for that parish area. This means that the officer will focus their daily activities on issues and concerns as identified by that Community. The officer works as part of the larger Neighbourhood Team and as such can rely on their team colleagues to also be involved in solving more significant issues that may arise within the area. If you would like more information regarding sponsoring a PCSO please contact the team. We already have a number of sponsored PCSO posts around the county for examples of the effectiveness of the scheme.

In January officers from NPT, Criminal Investigation, Crime Prevention and Rural Crime Team hosted an event in Brackley in order to offer the public an opportunity to view recovered tools that had been stolen from vehicles. This followed the convictions of a family of criminals who had been responsible for hundreds of offences within Daventry and South Northants. The event was well attended and a number of tools were able to be identified and will be reunited with their owners. The event also offered the opportunity to view and sign up to a number of crime prevention methods such as marking of property and registering with a new application called ‘Tool Watch’. Further information regarding Tool Watch can be found here: <https://www.toolwatchapp.com/>

South Northants NPT officers have been working closely with the County’s Rural Crime Team to tackle the recent rise in burglaries and thefts from isolated rural locations. The team also has two volunteers who focus on visiting vulnerable locations to increase awareness of crime trends, crime prevention measures and improve confidence in reporting suspicious behaviour. Your NPT officers spend a considerable amount of time looking into recent offences and reports of suspicious activity, reviewing CCTV, analysing trends and using local knowledge to build a picture of who may be committing these offences. Improved Community networking has led to an increase in reporting of behaviour that may be pre-cursory to committing an offence. This allows officers to focus patrols to disrupt, deter and detect criminal activity.

Over recent weeks there have been some significant spikes in thefts of trailers, quad bikes and other agricultural equipment and tools. The Rural Crime Team review all of these offences and, in conjunction with the Neighbourhood Teams are regularly in contact with neighbouring forces to share information and intelligence. NPT and Rural Crime Officers have recovered a number of high value stolen vehicles and items of machinery over the last 9 months following TRAKA activations or reports from members of the public. These have included caravans, horseboxes, quad bikes, diggers, cars etc. There have been a number of locations identified within South Northants where stolen property has been found to be stored. We continue to appeal for vigilance, especially in areas that are; isolated and where there is land showing activity but no one knows who owns it, or where occupants appear to have a constant flow of items that do not appear consistent with their usual business.

Two men from Towcester are currently under investigation following a series of thefts from vehicles within the town. These men are believed to have exploited the opportunities provided by vehicles being left unlocked or with valuable property on display. We cannot emphasize enough the importance of removing property and locking your vehicle. CCTV has shown us that offenders will try a car door and if found to be locked and empty vehicle will then move on. Unlocked vehicles are entered and searched and those with visible property are broken into. CCTV has proved to be an excellent tool in identifying the activity of these offenders and there are many affordable options. You can also assist in investigations by registering the fact that you have CCTV when signing up to Neighbourhood Alert. This allows the Police to quickly identify potential CCTV opportunities when investigating a crime.

We often see comments on social media regarding a lack of Police in an area or that a crime would have been prevented if there were more Police about. We also note comments such as ‘there’s no Police so why bother reporting it’. All communities have a Neighbourhood Policing Team. Some teams are bigger than others due to area trends and demographics but all are available to tackle issues identified as an area of concern by the community. Many issues go unreported and as such Police are not aware. You have an opportunity to shape Policing activity by reporting the issues that affect you; including those daily ongoing situations that are considered as anti-social behaviour. If you are not telling Police that there is a problem in your part of the community then we will be focusing our resources elsewhere where an issue has been identified.

Crime will always happen due to constantly changing social and economic factors but we can be better prepared to fight it as a cohesive community. Please support those people that work within your Community such as Emergency Services, Neighbourhood Watch, Street Watch, clubs and organisations and help us make the area less attractive to criminals.

Your Neighbourhood Teams are based within the Community at Brackley and Towcester and are often the first port of call for an emergency as the closest Police resource. The teams also have a wealth of other responsibilities in respect of safeguarding vulnerable people, working with educational establishments, crime investigation and intelligence gathering. PCSO Kev Thompson joined the team during 2019 and became a dedicated Schools Officer in order to efficiently capture the ear of 1000’s of primary age children within South Northants. Kev has over 72 schools within his remit and delivers a huge range of key messages and safety presentations to 100’s of children each week. These include drugs & county lines, knife crime, road safety, online safety, Crime Stoppers and Fearless. Many children have dubbed him ‘PC Kev’ and feedback has hugely positive in terms of the effectiveness of the messages he delivers. Kev has school appointments booked in throughout 2020.

We use social media (Twitter: **@SthNorthantsNPT** and Facebook: ‘**Daventry and South Northants Neighbourhood Policing Team**’) and Neighbourhood Alert in order to inform you about crime and incidents relevant to your area and some of the work that the team undertake – ***Please see recent updates on catalytic convertor thefts and recovery of stolen property***. Unfortunately there are a lot of aspects of our work that we cannot report on due to the vulnerabilities of the persons involved. You can also follow the work of our Rural Crime Team via Twitter: **@hutch472** & **@NorPolRural**

**Neighbourhood Alert** is an email messaging system that all Schools, Parish Councils, Neighbourhood Watch and community members can sign up to. Register your email address to receive up to date information. Sign up to Neighbourhood Alert Messaging System at:

[www.northamptonshireneighbourhoodalert.co.uk](http://www.northamptonshireneighbourhoodalert.co.uk)

Towcester & Brackley currently have Street Watch schemes. Street Watch is the equivalent of a mobile Neighbourhood Watch. It can cover the entire Community and members help tackle issues such as; vandalism, anti-social behaviour, drug abuse and dog fouling. If you are interested in helping your community and joining your local Street Watch Scheme please contact a member of the Neighbourhood team.

If you wish to have up-to-date crime statistics for your area then we recommend that you visit [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk).

Should you wish to discuss a particular issue or meet a member of the NPT then please contact either team via:

[NT-SouthNorthantsBrackley@pnn.police.uk](mailto:NT-SouthNorthantsBrackley@pnn.police.uk) or [NT-SouthNorthantsTowcester@pnn.police.uk](mailto:NT-SouthNorthantsTowcester@pnn.police.uk)

Reporting an issue or crime to the Police can be made in a number of ways. This includes ringing 101 or online. Northants Police’s new website also offers a reporting system for

* A road traffic incident
* Missing person – no immediate harm
* Terrorist activity
* Fingerprints appointments – this could be asked for when travelling abroad
* Hate Crime/ Incident

So that your report can be managed as quickly as possible, it's important to consider the following information and have it ready to provide:

* the date and time the crime happened
* the location, such as address or road name along with the town or village
* a description of any people involved
* the details of any witnesses or suspects
* if you think there's any other evidence such as forensic evidence or mobile phone footage
* if there is clear CCTV footage of the offence being committed

**Useful Links**

Northamptonshire Police Website: <http://www.northants.police.uk/>

Check if a vehicle is taxed or untaxed and report if necessary: [vehicleenquiry.service.gov.uk](https://t.co/agakonTrdA)

Useful link for all matters related to driving: <http://think.direct.gov.uk/>

Please use this link to support your children’s safety: <http://talesoftheroad.direct.gov.uk/>

This link will provide you with useful information to help protect yourself from scams: <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/scams/spotting-a-scam/>

Trading Standards – Advice and help for consumers – Don’t get caught out, find an approved trader:

<http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/Community/trading/Pages/default.aspx>

Contact Crime Stoppers anonymously about crime:

<https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>

Fearless - a site where young people can access non-judgmental information and advice about crime:

<https://www.fearless.org/>

Report to South Northants Council - Fly tipping, dog fouling, street lights, Litter, noise pollution and other issues:

[www.southnorthants.gov.uk](http://www.southnorthants.gov.uk)

Advice on boundary disputes with neighbours:

<http://www.rics.org/uk/knowledge/consumer-guides/boundary-disputes-guide/>

Street Doctor:

<http://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/northamptonshire-highways/roads-and-streets/Pages/report-highway-problem.aspx>

**Thank you from South Northants Neighbourhood Policing Teams**