



Working in partnership  
to make our community safer



## Neighbourhood Policing Newsletter

Issue 3 - 2020

### Amersham, Chalfonts and Missendens Neighbourhood Policing Team

#### **Covid-19**

Policing during a pandemic has been a different experience, quickly getting to grips with new legislation whilst implementing social distancing in our police stations and continuing to respond to our 'business as usual' with the new addition of PPE.

Across the Thames Valley, we received hundreds of reports each day about breaches of COVID-19 restrictions. Our policing style was to engage with those who were breaching, explain the restrictions and encourage them to comply and then only enforce as a last resort. All reports of breaches helped to inform our patrol patterns and the majority of those that we spoke to complied. This is an ever changing environment that we are all having to adapt to with rapidly changing rules and regulations.

Buckingham Council have a complaint system for alleged cases where businesses may be breaching current legislation. The coronavirus business restrictions complaint form can be found at:

[https://account.buckscc.gov.uk/service/Report\\_breaking\\_COVID19\\_restrictions](https://account.buckscc.gov.uk/service/Report_breaking_COVID19_restrictions)

#### **Community Forum**

The priorities for your Neighbourhood Policing Team (NHPT) are decided by the Community Forum. This steering group is made up of local residents and representatives from organisations across the area. The forum is not run by the police, although we do attend as representatives. This allows us to speak to a wide cross-section of the community, find out what you most want improved in the area, and consider how we and others can accomplish these aims. The top three priorities are chosen by the forum every three months and are then assumed by your Neighbourhood Policing Team.

To assist in this process please complete the short crime survey outlining your main concerns at [www.chilterncommunityforum.org/forum-23rd-september-2020/](http://www.chilterncommunityforum.org/forum-23rd-september-2020/) or <https://forms.gle/RGvr9fTyEE1B9Scc9>

**You asked us to concentrate on:**

#### **Priority 1; Burglary**

#### **We did;**

Figures show that Chiltern & South Bucks is one of the most targeted areas in the force for burglaries. We use analysis to identify crime areas and times when burglars are likely to target addresses. Targeted houses will often be attacked by a gang of people rather than an individual.

From working with my community I was asked for more information about how breaks occurred and when. This information has been obtained and shared with the public. Statistics showed that over the last three months the two most common ways of entering houses were by the front and rear doors. Surprisingly the front door was the most used method of gaining entry and in the evening the most likely time of an attack. From CCTV I've seen this month one group of burglars are pulling up onto people driveways, testing the door before then calling to see if anyone is in. There were several reports of items being stolen with no forced entry. The most valuable bit of crime advice that we can give out is to keep your doors locked at all times not just at night.

Burglaries	June	July	August
Amersham	2	6	7
Missendens	3	2	4
Chalfonts	3	5	10

There has been a large increase in cars being stolen without the burglars even having to enter the house to steal the key. Investigations have shown that criminals are going up to front doors and scanning keys through the door. As people start to adapt to this new threat so do the criminals. A recent case showed a burglar going to the rear of the property and using garden furniture as a way to get higher to try and obtain a signal. Another incident occurred at around 5.30 a.m. where a male knocked claiming he was collecting someone for work. Whilst talking to the homeowner he has been fiddling with a device in his man bag which we suspect was a possible attempt to get a signal. Beware of men with man bags.

Please be careful with your car keys, at home and when out and about, and be aware of the risks when left next to the front door on the sideboard or a coat pocket. Metal tins can be used to block car keys signals or signal blocker pouches can be purchased for around £6.

Due to the success of previous operations Amersham Neighbourhood Policing have been leading the way in running and working with other forces in cross border operations. This resulted in June over a 7 day period, 5 people being arrested, 2 vehicles being seized and 22 people were reported or issued fixed penalty notices for various offences. A three day operation took place in July with 9 arrests, 4 vehicles being taken off of the road and 10 people were reported or issued fixed penalty notices for various offences. In August over 8 days there were 5 arrests and 12 people were reported or issued fixed penalty notices for various offences and 4 vehicles were seized and taken off of the road. The Op even resulted in some fly-tippers being caught red handed.

## **Priority 2; Drug Dealing**

### **We did;**

We are seeing County Drug Line Gang members starting to arrive in our area. This is a worrying trend and poses a risk to those who are most vulnerable. Amersham & Chesham Neighbourhood Teams will be dealing with this head on. Identified problem areas can expect to see an increased police presence and they will be informed of the concerns which we have and asked to report suspicious activity. We want to make life as uncomfortable as possible for any would be gangs so that we can protect our community.

The use of stop and search powers are being used as a tool to target this by my team and we have

the highest percentage of interventions by using this power. The Neighbourhood Teams are constantly developing intelligence from reviewing cases to being out on patrol.

We've found that the joint operations have also been great as disrupting drug dealers and users. There has been a large number of arrests for drug driving.

Nitrous Oxide - Commonly known as 'legal highs' this term is misleading and from now on the official term for drugs which are still legal or yet to become illegal is new psychoactive substances, often shortened to NPS. I am currently working on a project around Nitrous Oxide and this will include working with schools to educate children of the risks and how it can ruin lives. Working with the Town and Parish Councils we are in the process of creating signage for the parks to get the message out. Areas where NOS canisters are being found are having increased patrols. Where people are found with the canisters they are being confiscated and letters being sent to them and parents informing them of the risks. There has been positive feedback from this approach.

### **Priority 3; ASB**

#### **We did;**

COVID-19 has introduced a new problem for the police to manage and this has been a particularly big area for us in day to day policing. We also found there was an increase in people not getting on with their neighbours whilst large numbers of people were staying at home. This has led to a number of interventions from my team to try and resolve issues or point people in the right direction as to how to bring their issues to a conclusion. With the ending of lockdown, hot weather and school holidays this lead to there being lots of activity at large green spaces and public parks.

Amersham particular suffered from problems with youths in Hervines Park and Chesham Bois Cricket Club. Increased patrols are taking place and a number of people have been stopped and alcohol and drugs confiscated. I've also been able to use our mounted section in assisting with patrols in these areas.

Chalfont started to experience issues in Roberts Road and around by the St Peter Community Centre. Using a problem solving approach we seem to have sorted out the issues in Roberts Road. As it is moving into Autumn there will be an increase in night time patrols and the team will be dealing with all ASB robustly.

In the Missendens it was again the same type of problems with people loitering on commons. We worked closely with local pubs, who were trying to survive in the lockdown, to come up with a system that was compliant with the fast changing laws and limited the perceived linked ASB.

### **October to Dec Priorities**

**Date of next meeting** – To be decided at 6pm on Wednesday 23rd September 2020, venue: Library, Amersham School, Stanley Hill, Amersham, HP7 9HH – subject to restrictions.

## **Offenders Brought to Justice**

Offences from the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020. This does not include persons who are currently under investigation or have been released on bail.

### **Amersham**

Persons issued  
Community Resolution for a making off without payment  
Community Resolution for cannabis possession  
Community Resolution for shoplifting  
Community Resolution for shoplifting  
Community Resolution for cannabis possession  
Community Resolution for assault  
Community Resolution for cannabis possession  
Community Resolution for cannabis possession  
Community Resolution for cannabis possession  
Caution Resolution for cannabis possession  
Caution for cannabis possession  
Conditional caution for theft  
Charge for GBH  
Charge for breach of restraining order  
Charge for assault

### **Chalfonts**

Community Resolution for criminal damage  
Community Resolution for possession of cannabis  
Community Resolution for possession of cannabis  
Community Resolution for criminal damage  
Caution for malicious communication  
Caution for assault  
Penalty notice for disorderly behaviour  
Caution for drug possession  
Charge for assault police  
Charge for assault police

### **Missendens**

Community Resolution for shoplifting  
Community Resolution for drug possession  
Caution for possession of cannabis  
Caution for assault  
Charge for handling stolen goods  
Charge for assault  
Charge for threats to cause criminal damage  
Charge for ABH  
Penalty notice for disorderly behaviour

### **Have Your Say meetings**

I have scheduled 3 meetings for October. Come and have a chat to your local Neighbourhood Team  
05/10/2020 – Hervines Park at 12:00 hrs  
08/10/2020 – Chalfont St Peter Church Lane Car Park at 15:00 hrs  
12/10/2020 – Turners Place, Holmer Green at 13:00 hrs

Stay safe and keep your eyes peeled.

Sergeant Darren Walsh

Contact Us:



[AmershamNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:AmershamNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)



[@TVPChiltSBucks](https://twitter.com/TVPChiltSBucks)

Sign up to Thames Valley Alerts to receive crime and policing updates directly from your local Neighbourhood Team as well as more crime and policing issues. Sign up to the service online at: [www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk](http://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk) or speak with one of your Neighbourhood Policing Team.

[www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)

