



Working in partnership  
to make our community safer



## Neighbourhood Policing Newsletter

Issue 3 - 2021

### Amersham, Chalfonts and Missendens Neighbourhood Policing Team

The Amersham, Chalfonts and Missendens Neighbourhood Team consists of:  
INS Richard Vine, PS 3675 Darren Walsh, PC 6633 Matthew Carson, PC7844 Matthew Cumming.  
Along with:  
PCSO 4233 Lucy Sandford and PCSO 8632 Jen Shraga covering the Chalfonts.  
PCSO 7495 Lucy Groves and PCSO 9783 Chris Hinkley–Ging covering the Missendens.  
PCSO 8882 Jacqueline Day, PCSO 9601 Charlotte Marsh and PCSO 9631 Kerry Clarke, covering Amersham.

The priorities for your Neighbourhood Policing Team (NHPT) are decided by from the Policing Issues Panel. This steering group is made up of local residents and representatives from organisations across the area. The police do not run the forum although we 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 others and we 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. <https://www.csb-forum.org/about>

#### **Priorities from the PIP meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021:**

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

##### **We did;**

One of our Forces priorities is to have a 15% reduction in residential burglary. Year to date I can report a 51% fall in this crime overall in Chiltern and South Bucks. Area figures for this year:

Amersham; 17 burglaries equals a 47% reduction. In the last 3 months, there has been 5 domestic burglaries and a theft to a garage and a shed.

Chalfonts; 12 burglaries equals a 68% reduction. In the last 3 months, there has been 5 burglaries and 1 theft from shed.

Missendens; 5 burglaries equals a 50% reduction. In the last 3 months, there has been 2 burglaries and 2 shed breaks.

There are several reasons I suspect for this. Which includes;

1; People working from home reducing opportunities available to the burglar. This goes to show the importance of giving the appearance that someone is in at home.

2; The increase in video security devices including HD Doorbells and CCTV systems. There have

been a number of reports calling in burglaries as they happen.

3: Criminals changing how they work. With changes in technology, keyless car crime is taking place; offenders no longer have to enter your house to steal a car. Many of the public are still unaware of this risk and the use of Faraday boxes will be promoted by the police to try to design this modus operandi out.

4: The work being carried out by; the local Priority Crime team in investigating the crimes, the Response Teams attending reports and completing patrols based on data and your Neighbourhood Team carrying out crime reduction work.

Proactively we have carried on working with other departments and police forces in targeting travelling criminals and trying to deny them the use of the road. Weeks of action results:

Jul; 9 arrests, 3 people being reported and 4 vehicles seized.

Aug; 4 arrests, 7 reported and 4 vehicles being seized.

Sept: 6 arrests, 8 people being reported and 3 vehicles being seized

## **Priority 2: ASB**

### **We did;**

In summer, it is common to see an increase in ASB especially in park areas. I am pleased to report that there was a huge reduction of problems in Amersham and Chesham Bois at the parks following on from last year. Amersham has had the highest figures of ASB out of the 3 areas. Repeat issues included youths hanging around in private locations frequently smoking cannabis. With the two new PCSO's in Amersham this will allow for an increased presence and patrols to deter this.

TVP's more robust attitude towards cannabis will have an effect on those caught in possession who will be ordered to complete a drugs awareness course. The team also executed a warrant and a person was caught red handed growing cannabis plants.

Holmer Green did have a number of issues with a group of youths causing problems. A number of the youths were identified and home visits were conducted with them, and parents, and yellow cards were issued for low level ASB. Working with housing providers resulted in 2 troublesome tenants being moved to the relief of their neighbours.

Chalfont St Peter has had issues with criminal damage. This included cars being attacked and graffiti. Mental Health frequently plays a part in people's behaviours and we are currently working on finding solutions in several cases. These cases require intervention from a number of agencies to try to achieve an acceptable outcome and to get people the support that they need. However, this is not a get out of jail free card and we will still seek charges, when appropriate, and look for court orders off the back of convictions.

Targeted house to house with 'Have your says', in problem areas, has resulted in a number of people feeling confident to come forward and discuss with us concerns and observations. This led to a number of drug dealers being identified and our Stronghold Team obtaining warrants and recovering drugs. Such visits have been conducted in Prestwood, Chalfont St Peter, Chalfont St Giles, Amersham and Holmer Green. The team has also been able to promote our NHW groups. We aim to make life as uncomfortable as possible for any would be gangs so that we can protect our community.

### **Priority 3; SPEEDING**

**We did;**

#### **Community Speedwatch**

The planning for Community Speedwatch in the north of the LPA has been underway since late 2019.

We held our first public training event on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2020 where we sought to train our first group of volunteers in policy and equipment usage. Whilst the event was very well attended and a success from a training perspective all of our efforts up to that point were of course frustrated by the onset of COVID-19 which brought an abrupt but temporary halt to the project.

As we recover from COVID-19 we were given the go-ahead to resume Community Speedwatch activity in mid-2021 and so we picked up where we left off.

We have appointed a Police Support Volunteer to support the scheme. They receive the data gathered by the Community Speedwatch teams, carry out Police National Computer checks on the vehicles involved and generate the warning letters.

The Chalfont St Peter and Missenden/Prestwood teams are now up and running and their proposed roads have been risk assessed. Work remains underway to get Amersham/Chesham Bois team running.

#### **Chalfont St Peter**

The Chalfont St Peter team utilise a Speed Indication Device – a portable flashing sign that records the speed of approaching vehicles and displays it to the drivers. The team then record the speed shown along with the time and the vehicle details. To date the work of the Chalfont St Peter team has resulted in 128 warning letters being issued since June 2021.

Session	Date	Location	Excess speed readings*	Letters sent
1	28/06/21	Austenwood Lane	14	9
2	08/07/21	Kingsway	37	19
3	12/08/21 (am)	Austenwood Lane	28	19
4	12/08/21 (pm)	Austenwood Lane	42	31
5	25/08/21	Nicol Road	1	0
6	26/08/21	Nicol Road	5	4
7	09/09/21	Kingsway	37	30
8	16/09/21 (am)	Denham Lane	6	4
9	16/09/21 (pm)	Denham Lane	15	12
			<b>185</b>	<b>128</b>

#### **Great Missenden/Prestwood/Kingshill**

The Missenden/Prestwood team utilise a handheld radar device to record the speed of approaching vehicles. The team then record the speed shown on the device along with the time and the vehicle details. To date the work of the Missenden/Prestwood team has resulted in 46 warning letters being sent since July 2021.

Session	Date	Location	Excess speed	Letters sent
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			readings*	
1	27/07/21	Martinsend Lane	29	26
2	18/07/21	Honor End Lane	10	8
3	21/09/21	Heath End Road	6	5
4	22/09/21	Prestwood High Street	7	7
			<b>52</b>	<b>46</b>

### Amersham/Chesham Bois

Work remains underway to get teams up and running in Amersham / Chesham Bois. Their proposed roads have been risk assessed. Volunteers have been identified and we are in the process of training them in the use of the Sentinel equipment. The Sentinel equipment is a sophisticated system with a camera that detects the speed of approaching vehicles and records short clips of those travelling above a pre-set threshold. These clips are stored on a memory card and, as the process stands, will be transferred into a written format by the clerk at Chesham Bois Parish Council. Once in a written format the data will be transferred to the Police Support Volunteer for generation of letters. With additional training required for equipment usage and a slightly elongated process there has been a delay.

A further advancement in the CSW schemes website <https://communityspeedwatch.org> comes into fruition this month. This system will allow CSW Schemes to directly import information without having to wait for an administrator to input it, will include training and recording of sites.

*\*Excess speed readings are the number of vehicles noted by the team to be exceeding the speed limit. The number of letters generated often differs where incomplete registration numbers have been recorded or there is doubt over whether the correct registration number has been recorded (e.g. no trace of the vehicle on Police National Computer, vehicle description recorded by volunteers differs from that listed on PNC)*

The use of CSW signage was raised! The position going forward will be as follows. Villages/towns are able to use signage that makes road users aware of an area being active in the CSW scheme. The signs can either be placed on entry to a village or town and be permanent, fixed to existing road side furniture or a single sign that must be placed between 15-20m prior to the activity taking place. These signs will be for the Parish and County Councils to purchase and authorize.

### **Operation Glare**

In the last quarter, the following locations were targeted, by police, for enhanced checks: Cokes Lane in Little Chalfont, Austenwood Lane in Chalfont St Peter, Copperkins Lane in Amersham, Clifton Road in Amersham, Church Road in Penn, Martinsend lane in Missenden and Kingsway in Chalfont St Peter.

### **Speed Cameras in Chiltern**

Figures from the Road Safety Mobile and Speed Enforcement Team advised, that in August; 247 offences were captured on mobile cameras whilst 548 offences were captured on fixed cameras.

### **General Crime Overview**

What about other crimes I bet you are thinking. If we look at overall figures, there has been a 41%

decrease in crime in Chalfonts, a 38% reduction in crime in Missenden, a 28% reduction in crime in Amersham and a 29% reduction of crime in Chesham. If we compare this to areas bordering us like Wycombe and Aylesbury they have experienced increases in crime.

### **Have Your Say meetings**

We will be running a HYS van with crime prevention on the following dates:

11<sup>th</sup> October; PCSO's Chris Hinkley-Ging, Kerry Clarke and Lucy Sandford  
Amersham – Tesco 9-11, High St Chalfont St Giles 12-13, Pond Approach Holmer Green 15-16

2<sup>nd</sup> November; PCSO's Lucy Groves, Lucy Sandford, and PC Matt Cumming  
Locations to be advertised nearer the time.

6<sup>th</sup> December; PCSO's Lucy Groves, Kerry Clarke and Charlotte Marsh.  
Locations to be advertised nearer the time.

### **Other News**

A farewell to Supt Amy Clements who is leaving us for a new role. Supt Emma Burroughs has temporarily taken over and will be in charge of both Wycombe and Chiltern and South Bucks. Our Neighbourhood administrator Ian Stacey has left and we wish them both the best of luck and thank them for their work on the area.

### **Offenders Brought to Justice**

Offences from the 1<sup>st</sup> July 21. This does not include persons who are currently under investigation.

#### **Amersham**

Person charged for burglary  
Three persons charged for assaults  
Person charged for public order  
Person given fixed penalty number for drugs  
Three persons given restorative disposals for drugs  
Person conditionally cautioned for public order  
Person given restorative disposal for criminal damage  
Person given a caution for an assault  
Person given restorative disposal for sending a malicious communication  
Person given restorative disposal for 2 shopliftings  
Person given caution for producing drugs  
Person given caution for assault  
Person given restorative disposal for dog offences

#### **Chalfonts**

Person received a caution for criminal damage  
Person given restorative disposal for assault  
Person given restorative disposal for criminal damage  
Person charged for 2 criminal damages.

Person given restorative disposal for cannabis  
Person received restorative disposal for harassment

### **Missendens**

Two persons charged with burglary  
Person given restorative disposal for drugs  
Two persons given restorative disposals for sending malicious communications  
Person given restorative disposal for sending malicious letters  
Person given restorative disposal for harassment  
Three people given restorative disposals for public order

### **Rural Crime**

For our summer campaign, we have been working with the Travelling Community. A number of site visits have taken place with the aim of better engagement. We will also be advertising the Rural Spotters Scheme, to help the Police as the eyes and ears of the rural community and to help prevent rural crime, and training up new members. Helen Evans has had a number of volunteers come forward to join the scheme. Please let me know if you are a horse rider and would be interested in joining the scheme in the future and I will forward your details onto Helen and look at further events.

Thames Valley Polices new Rural Crime Taskforce will shortly be operational and will be targeting key rural crime offenders and organised crime groups.

### **Fraud**

Fraud continues to be a big threat, to our finances, especially to our elderly community. In Chiltern & South Bucks there were 95 reports of various types of fraud.

Thames Valley Police are trying to combat the fraudsters and we are working with banks putting in place banking protocols to get an immediate police response for suspicious withdrawals. Currently a victim of fraud can expect to be contacted by one of my team for an Op Signature welfare check and visit if required.

I recently arranged a joint meeting with Buckinghamshire Council, Trading Standards and members of Action Fraud to look at what else we can do to protect people. A number of ideas were discussed and are currently being developed.

We need to ensure that we are supporting the Take Five to Stop Fraud campaign message and educate our families and friends. Criminals are experts at impersonating people, organisations and the police so it can be difficult to spot scam texts, emails and phone calls. However, there are things we can all do to protect ourselves. As Brits we aren't renowned for being direct. However, Take Five is warning that when it comes to fraudsters, being indirect could have serious financial and emotional consequences.

If someone contacts you asking for your personal or financial information it's important to say 'No'. It's ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you. Take Five encourages you to perfect the art of saying 'no' by making sure you Stop, Challenge, Protect.

### **Social media**

We ask our readers to consider subscribing to our Thames Valley Alerts, Facebook and Twitter accounts.

[www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk](http://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk) 'TV Alerts' allow the subscriber to filter the subject matter which is of relevance to them, and only requires an email address to begin receiving local policing information.

Our "Twitter" feed @tvp\_chiltsbucks will show you what the policing team are doing, will provide crime prevention information, witness appeals and "Good Result" stories.

Our Facebook group TVPChilternandSouthBucks will provide the same information as Twitter but seems to be the preferred social media site used by the public.

We do not take reports of crime via social media and we do not see comments placed into personal social media groups. Some feel that if they post about an incident, they will have a direct response. This is not true as local groups are not monitored. Other policing areas are experiencing the same issues. To report crime online. You can do so via: <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/ro/report/>

Stay safe out there 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)

