



Working in partnership  
to make our community safer



## Neighbourhood Policing Newsletter

Issue 3 - 2022

### Amersham, Chalfonts and Missendens Neighbourhood Policing Team

The Amersham, Chalfonts and Missendens Neighbourhood Team consists of:  
Inspector James Ellis and Sergeant 3675 Darren Walsh

Along with:

PCSO 9601 Charlotte Marsh and PCSO 7218 Charlotte Stephens covering the Chalfonts.

PCSO 7495 Lucy Groves and PCSO 9783 Chris Hinkley–Ging covering the Missendens.

PCSO 8882 Jacqueline Day and PCSO 9631 Kerry Clarke, covering Amersham.

#### **Team News**

It's good-bye to PCSO 8632 Jen Shraga who will be missed greatly in the Chalfont St Peter area. Jen served TVP for 14 years and won the Chilterns Community Frontline Officer Award a few years back.

Another long serving officer to leave is PC Matt Carson. He has left to join the Roads Policing Department. Matt recently received a commendation for the pro-active work that he worked on in targeting criminals coming into our area.

#### **Policing and Issues Panel**

The priorities for your Neighbourhood Policing Team (NHPT) are decided from the Policing Issues Panel. This steering group of local residents and representatives from organisations across the area allows us to hear what the community wants us to focus on and to consider how we can accomplish these aims. The top three priorities are chosen, every four months and are assumed by your Neighbourhood Policing Team.

**The Policing Issues Forum for our Neighbourhood Policing Team decided that from July 2022 the Local Policing Area (LPA) should prioritise:**

- 1) Speeding**
- 2) Serious Acquisitive Crime**
- 3) Anti-Social Behaviour**

If you have not visited the policing forum website please do at <https://www.csb-forum.org/about>

#### **Priority 1; Speeding**

**We did;**

To deal with speeding effectively requires a multi-agency approach ultimately to change people's

perception and habits and to make it as unacceptable as say drink driving. Thames Valley Police has been working with the community in promoting Community Speedwatch and last month I arranged a Community Speedwatch Event at the new Amersham Lifestyles Centre to promote what the scheme can achieve. Thank you to all those who took the time to attend and especially the guest speakers; PC Lee Turnham, Councillor David King and members of the Hazlemere Speedwatch John Sparks and Eric Hamblin spoke about the benefits of the scheme as a member.

So what are the benefits:

- Groups can register on-line and can be as big or small (3 minimum) as you want.
- Training is on-line – no need to wait for courses.
- Direct input means that you can see your team's results.
- Speed guns, can be supplied to groups on a loan scheme.
- Speeders will receive a letter on their first offence.
- On the second offence, they will receive a final written warning or if the first offence is at such a speed that justifies going to this stage.
- On the third offence, they will receive a home visit from the Roads Policing Department.
- 28,870 letters have been sent as a result of the scheme.
- Results have shown that in over 93.79 % of the cases there has been no repeat offending.

The PCC, Matt Barber has secured funding, enabling short-term loan start-up kits for new areas that are waiting for funds being available to purchase equipment. These will be available for a 6 month term. This will enable other teams starting up in the TVP area to get started as soon as possible.

Interested? then find out more at <https://www.communityspeedwatch.org>

Over the last few months, the Neighbourhood team felt the absence of its two Constables; being abstracted to perform other duties. This situation significantly hindered the team's ability to conduct speed enforcement and compelled me to seek training for additional officers; ensuring that our approved "radar" guns, continue to be utilised.

Our PCSO's have been focused on those areas where motorists were perceived to be routinely speeding.

On Bell Lane in Amersham; 67 cars were checked and out of those 6 were over 35mph.

On Beechtree Rd in Holmer Green; a 100 vehicles were checked and out of those 6 were over 35mph with the highest speed being 37mph.

On Earls Howe Rd in Holmer Green; 85 vehicles were checked and 3 were over 35 mph. The highest speed being 38 mph.

In Hyde Heath; 90 vehicles were checked with 3 over 35 mph the highest being 38 mph.

As you can see by these numbers, perceptions are sometimes misleading.

### **Speed Cameras in Chiltern**

Our Road Safety vans and fixed cameras provide enforcement and a visual deterrent across the JOU. The aim of the enforcement we carryout is to help support you to reduce the speed of traffic, making the roads safer for all road users, and reduce the risk of injury, collisions and casualties in your district.

Figures from the Road Safety Mobile and Speed Enforcement Team advised, that between June to August the following tickets were issued.

Jun: 28 Mobile tickets and 55 Fixed tickets

July: 189 Mobile tickets and 218 Fixed tickets

Aug: 73 Mobile tickets and 426 Fixed tickets

## **Priority 2; Serious Acquisitive Crime**

### **We did;**

Following a huge drop in burglaries over recent years, there has recently been a notable upturn in burglaries, especially in the Chalfonts and Amersham areas. This hasn't gone unaddressed and the analytical data is being used so that the response teams are patrolling identified areas, at the right times.

We are still working with other forces in joint police operations. This very week (W/C26/9/2022) we worked with our NH Wycombe officers and alongside Hertfordshire Police, our Proactive Road Policing units and armed support units. As a result of the operation, there were 3 arrests in Thames Valley and 2 in Herts, with 4 cars recovered and 5 people reported. An even larger joint operation related in 67 arrests (15TVP) and 28 vehicles (11 TVP) being seized.

Although technically not a burglary, keyless car thefts have a big impact on victims. With the changes in technology, keyless car crime is taking place and offenders no longer have to enter your house to steal your car or cars. Many of the public are still unaware of this risk and car manufacturers are not highlighting the problem. If you have a keyless car please get a Faraday Pouch which can block a key's signal. Certain keys do allow for the signal to be turned off, so it may be worth checking your manual, and some manufacturers can supply motion-sensing fobs, which stop emitting a signal when dormant.

<b>Dwelling Burglaries</b>	2021	2022	% Change from 2021
<b>Amersham</b>	8	20	150%
<b>Chalfonts</b>	6	20	233%
<b>Missendens</b>	5	4	-20%

**Dates; July 1<sup>st</sup> – Oct 1st**

<b>Business Burglaries</b>	2021	2022	% Change from 2021
<b>Amersham</b>	2	5	0%
<b>Chalfonts</b>	5	2	50%
<b>Missendens</b>	1	2	-100%

<b>Robbery</b>	2021	2022	% Change from 2021
<b>Amersham</b>	1	0	0%
<b>Chalfonts</b>	0	1	-
<b>Missendens</b>	0	0	0%

<b>Theft of Motor Vehicle</b>	2021	2022	% Change from 2021
<b>Amersham</b>	6	5	-20%
<b>Chalfonts</b>	11	4	-64%
<b>Missendens</b>	2	8	300%

CCTV reviews have shown that suspects will first try the front door handle and then likely knock to see if anyone is at home and then come up with an excuse should anyone answer the door. There

are a lot of things that we can do to make our properties safer but I will concentrate on 5 key areas.

**1: Keep your doors locked at all times.** Experience shows us that doors are the preferred route into your home for burglars, and can often be as easy as turning a handle. Challenge your family when they leave doors unlocked, and don't offer criminals an easy opportunity.

**2: Use your Window locks.** It's all very well having window locks but are you using them? Again, this is a common method of entry so let's make sure that the burglar can't just open it and wipe the glass away. If it is locked there will be an increased risk of DNA transfer. It's coming into winter so let's lock the window and have the key on a picture hook nearby.

**3: Keyless technology.** Make sure that your keys are in a safe location where car thieves can't target them.

**4: Lock your gates.** Stop people from having free access to the rear or side of your house.

**5: Keep a Light On principles.** Make it look like someone is up and around. Use timer switches, have a radio on or use a fake TV light display to give the illusion you are in. Burglars do not want to get caught and will target somewhere else. Yes, energy prices are rising, but just one low energy LED light, might save the cost of replacing household valuables, or covering the cost of your house insurance excess.

Last year saw the launch of our Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Crime Reduction Advisors. They offer a free service where people who would like an impartial home assessment can speak to a trained volunteer about crime reduction advice. There has been a big uptake for this service. Victims of burglary will be offered a visit by a CRA. For more information e-mail; [bucksnhw@gmail.com](mailto:bucksnhw@gmail.com).

If you are a NH member and would like to become a Crime Reduction Advisor then let me know and I will update you on the process.

### **Priority 3: Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)**

#### **We did;**

Anti-Social Behaviour disputes between neighbours can be a huge demand on the police. Some of the work that the team are currently dealing with includes noise disturbances, boundary disputes, parking, cannabis smells and drug use. We continue to work with our partners as a multi-agency in order to solve these issues and get people the help that they need.

Whilst the coming months may see increased reporting of stereotypical anti-social behaviour, we also handle more protracted cases; frequently involving people with mental health problems and learning difficulties; wrought with complexity and challenging to resolve. Personality disorders cause issues with people reacting differently to how others would expect. Some examples includes a low level whirring noise in a block of flats that has caused huge issues for those involved (including threats to kill being made and physical attacks on property). Whilst police involvement resulted in only a caution for an offence, the continuing behaviour led to the person being served eviction papers by the landlord and is currently awaiting a court date for final removal.

Another case, again around noise, has a person claiming they are hearing the neighbours making

threats through the walls. Repeated calls were effecting the neighbours, alongside the subsequent visits by the police. Allegations that they were outside with knives had the potential to lead to armed police being deployed. The case has already been to court once and the person was found guilty of harassment, yet the behaviour continues. We are working with partnership agencies again to find a long-term solution with eviction as an option.

In another case, we have a person who hates being filmed and will put their fingers up at cameras and been abusive to doorbells. Clearly, there is a mental health issue as even the most severe sanctions have not stopped the problem from reoccurring time after time. Joint agency work is key to being able to try to find a long-term acceptable outcome for all parties whilst considering everyone's Human Rights.

A known person was issued a community protection warning following a number of begging calls to residents in Amersham.

The issue of pony and trap racing on the A413 in Chalfont St Peter and Denham has long been a community concern. With limited resources, we have expedited our response to reports of this nature, and have dealt with traffic offences to deter the behaviour, through prosecution. There is however, an escalation in the events from a couple of traps being followed by a couple of cars to large scale events with hundreds of people attending in multiple cars causing chaos to the roads: such as what occurred at the start of October. This has been a big problem in Hampshire and I suspect that their resource intensive response is moving the problem to our area.

From a neighbourhood perspective, this is not something that can be solved at a local level and I have raised this as issue, which will be reviewed. We do need to be intelligence-led on such events, to afford us the opportunity to coordinate our staff. As nice as it is to have lots of officers on standby just in case, we must remember that this has a huge knock on effect by taking police away from their home stations, reducing the officers available to attend reported crimes, and stopping them from being able to progress enquiries.

We have been liaising with the Councils Traffic Management Dept. to see if this problem could be designed out. I will keep you updated.

With Halloween and Fireworks nights fast approaching, we expect an increase in the levels of ASB from youths. Parents, please take some responsibility for your children: If they are coming home with boxes of eggs, and packets of flour, it is most likely not to cook you breakfast in the morning!

With fireworks, be respectful of your neighbours. If you live next to farms, should you be letting off fireworks? Just because it is legal for a few nights of the year you could still be committing an offence under the Animal Welfare Act of causing unnecessary suffering. The death of a horse, two years ago, led to a police investigation into neighbouring properties and their use of fireworks in such a close vicinity to a paddock. It was a very stressful time for all involved.

### **Have Your Say meetings**

We will be running Have Your Say (HYS) meetings and giving crime prevention advice:

Locations and timings to be confirmed and will be advertised on the [www.csb-forum.org](http://www.csb-forum.org). Please be advised that officers may be required operationally and these events could be cancelled with late notice.

## **Offenders Brought to Justice**

Offences from the 1<sup>st</sup> July 22. This does not include persons who are currently under investigation.

### **Amersham**

Person charged with breaching Court Order  
Person given restorative disposal for ABH  
Person given restorative disposal for Cannabis  
Person given restorative disposal for Assault  
Person given youth restorative disposal for Assault  
Person given restorative disposal for Fraud  
Person given conditional caution for Criminal Damage  
Person given restorative disposal for Theft  
Person given restorative disposal for Harassment  
Person given restorative disposal for Public Order

### **Chalfonts**

Two people given restorative disposals for assaulting police  
Person given a youth restorative disposal for ABH  
Person charged for assaulting police  
Two people given restorative disposals for Cannabis  
Three people given restorative disposals for Public Order  
Person given restorative disposal for Assault  
Two people given restorative disposals for Criminal Damage  
Person charged with the new offence of strangulation

### **Missendens**

Two people given a community resolution for Public Order  
Person cautioned for Public Order  
Person charged with ABH  
Person given community resolution for ABH  
Person given youth restorative disposal for Assault

### **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 South Buckinghamshire ([@tvp\\_southbucks](https://twitter.com/tvp_southbucks)) will show you what the policing team are doing, will provide crime prevention information, witness appeals and "Good Result" stories. The Facebook group: [TVP South Buckinghamshire](https://www.facebook.com/TVP-South-Buckinghamshire) 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. To report crime online visit <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/ro/report/>

Stay safe out there and keep your eyes peeled.

Sergeant Darren Walsh

**Contact Us:**



AmershamNHPT@thamesvalley.police.uk



@TVP South Buckinghamshire

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)

