



Working in partnership
to make our community safer



Neighbourhood Policing Newsletter

Issue 4 - 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 7218 Charlotte Stephens and PCSO 9436 Kam Benawra covering the Chalfonts.

PCSO 7495 Lucy Groves covering the Missendens.

PCSO 8882 Jacqueline Day and PCSO 9783 Chris Hinkley–Ging covering Amersham

Team News

It's farewell to Kerry Clarke and Charlotte Marsh both who'll be pursuing new careers as police officers. On a positive note, we will be joined by PCSO 9436 Kam Benawra and PC Andy Mayhew in January.

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. At the last meeting the Policing Issues Forum for our Neighbourhood Policing Team decided that 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;

Over the last few months, your Neighbourhood Team's ability to carry out speed enforcement, following the absence of its two constables, has been affected. PCSOs have been filling the gap and conducted checks at the following locations to assess what speeds were taking place (figures are shared with the enforcement vans):

Elizabeth Avenue in Lt Chalfont between 1330hrs – 1415hrs. Total of 66 vehicles drove past with six being over 35MPH and the highest recorded Speed 41MPH.

Sycamore Rd in Amersham between 1420hrs – 1445hrs. Total of 120 vehicles drove past with four over 35MPH and the highest recorded speed 39MPH.

Speed Cameras in Chiltern

Our Road Safety vans and fixed cameras provide enforcement and a visual deterrent across the area. Their aim 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 August to October.

Aug: 73 Mobile tickets and 426 Fixed tickets

Sep: 163 Mobile tickets and 151 Fixed tickets

Oct: 206 Mobile tickets

Need a New Year Resolution – you can make a difference. If you are concerned about the speeds in your area and want to make a stand. You can become a member of your local Speedwatch group or even start your own. Find out more at <https://www.communityspeedwatch.org> The PCC, Matt Barber has secured funding, enabling short-term loan start-up kits for new areas for equipment. This will allow teams in the TVP area to get started as soon as possible.

Priority 2: Serious Acquisitive Crime

Overall, the burglary picture is not encouraging with a 46% rise across the LPA year to date, compared to last year. I liaised with the Priority Crime Team and they advised: This December we have seen a spike in the number of residential burglaries. We have arrested nine burglary suspects since Sept 1st and our overall positive outcomes for the year to date number 19, leaving us with a detection rate of 4%.

We have seen several burglary series where the same Modus Operandi has been used;

- Series One; offences involve the smashing of rear patio windows where the suspects then search for items of jewellery. These offences roughly take place between 2pm and 8pm. We have seen 33 of these offences since August 16th 2022 and it is believed these are ‘cross-border’ offenders travelling into the LPA using stolen / cloned motor vehicles generally from Herts/Metpol /Surrey.
- Series Two; involves first floor entry by using a ladder or garden furniture to access first floor windows via flat roofs number 16, these offences are again taking place during the daytime, mostly in the afternoon – this may be part of a national offending series where similar offences have been seen in other forces and we are in contact with national operations via our Force Crime coordinator.

Comparable dates; 1st Sept 2021 – 7th Dec 2021 - 1st Sept 2022 – Dec 7th 2022

Dwelling Burglaries	2021	2022	% Change from 2021
Amersham	18	45	150%
Chalfonts	14	27	93%
Missendens	4	4	0%

Business Burglaries	2021	2022	% Change from 2021
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Amersham	5	4	-20%
Chalfonts	8	5	-38%
Missendens	2	3	50%

Robbery	2021	2022	% Change from 2021
Amersham	1	0	100%
Chalfonts	1	1	-
Missendens	1	0	100%

Theft of Motor Vehicle	2021	2022	% Change from 2021
Amersham	10	3	-70%
Chalfonts	26	4	-85%
Missendens	6	6	0%

Locally, dog units and armed support units are supplementing local response units tasking patrols to the west of the LPA where offending is highest. We also utilise a dedicated burglary patrol vehicle at relevant times, where available. The Rural crime taskforce is also being utilised in patrolling the targeted area when available.

We implemented Op Gabriel, our burglary winter campaign and we have to hope we see some positivity from this. DI Clarke has also overseen a concerted social media campaign in the lead up to the festive period and the message of home security is paramount. It has become apparent that during the merger our social media footprint reduced dramatically with the loss of thousands of followers. It is hoped the social media campaign will help claw back some of the lost 'followers'.

We did;

The Neighbourhood Team have been out giving crime prevention tips at various supermarkets, garden centres and sports centres in an effort to empower the community to make their homes more secure. This did result in the public reporting suspicious activity enabling us to gain more intelligence on potential offenders. We have been putting information out by way of Neighbourhood Alerts, Facebook and Twitter. Following increased concerns from the community, a Q&A session was held with Insp James Ellis, Detective Inspector Lucie Clarke and myself. <https://www.csb-forum.org/recording-thames-valley-police-burglary-event-1st-dec/>

Proactively we are working with other forces in joint operations. In September, South Buckinghamshire NH officers worked alongside Hertfordshire Police, our Proactive Road Policing unit and armed support units. The operation resulted in three arrests in Thames Valley and two in Herts, with four cars recovered and five people reported. An even larger joint operation resulted in 67 arrests (15 TVP) and 28 vehicles (11 TVP) being seized. December's days of action resulted in four arrests, four people reported and six vehicles seized or recovered. A quick response to one burglary resulted in a burglar fleeing, dropping jewellery and leaving behind something else he wished he hadn't. I hope that I will have an update next month on the next edition.

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. In November PCSO Groves trained up further volunteers for the scheme.

Priority 3; Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)

We did;

Anti-social behaviour disputes between neighbours can be a huge demand on the police. The team are frequently the first port of call for civil issues such as noise disturbances, boundary disputes, parking issues, and crimes such as cannabis and drug use. Increased patrols took place over the Halloween and fireworks period. A known person was issued a Community Protection Warning following a number of begging calls to residents in Amersham which stopped the problem.

The NH team will put in place problem solving solutions for protracted cases; frequently these involve people with mental health or learning difficulties; wrought with complexity and challenging to resolve. Even when there is evidence and people are taken to court, this is normally a short reprieve before the behaviour starts over again caused by their illnesses. Frequently such people may not be getting help from their GP and may even feel that their behaviour is totally justified and that they do not need any help. We work with partnership agencies to put in place support for those with mental health problems. Working with Housing Associations has led to several people having their tenancy reviewed and being served papers with the threat of eviction. Sadly sometimes the easiest way to stop a problem is by arrest and incarceration. There comes a time though when this approach needs to be questioned and other agencies need to review should they in fact be leading on finding a solution. 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.

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. The events range from a couple of traps being followed by a few cars, to 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 one of several reasons for the problem moving 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. We 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 base stations, reducing officers available to attend crimes in progress and stopping them from being able to conduct enquiries then only to find the race date has been changed or is somewhere else in the country. We are liaising with the local Boards and the Councils Traffic Management Dept. to see if this problem could be designed out. I will keep you updated.

Have Your Say meetings

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

6th January 2022

Missenden Library on High Street, Gt Missenden 09:00 – 10:30

Chalfont St Peter Hub on Church Lane 11:30 – 13:00

Amersham Tesco, Amersham Old Town 14:30 - 1600

10th February 2022

Missenden Library on High Street, Gt Missenden 09:00 – 10:30

Chalfont St Giles Library on High Street, Chalfont St Giles 11:30 – 13:00

Amersham Chilterns Lifestyle Centre, Chiltern Ave, Amersham 14:30 - 1600

3rd March 2022

Missenden Library on High Street, Gt Missenden 09:00 – 10:30

Chalfont St Peter Market Square 11:30 – 13:00

Amersham - Tesco, Amersham Old Town 14:30 - 1600

14th April 2022

Missenden Library on High Street, Gt Missenden 09:00 – 10:30

Chalfont St Giles Library on High Street, Chalfont St Giles 11:30 – 13:00

Amersham - Chilterns Lifestyle Centre, Chiltern Ave, Amersham 14:30 - 1600

Locations and timings to be confirmed and will be advertised on the 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 1st October 22. This does not include persons who are currently under investigation.

Amersham

Three people charged with assaulting police officers

Person charged with assault

Person charged with stalking

Three people given youth restorative disposal for assault

Person given youth restorative disposal for cannabis

Person given youth restorative disposal for cannabis

Person given restorative disposal for shoplifting

Person given youth restorative disposal for shoplifting

Person given conditional caution for dangerous dog

Person given restorative disposal for cannabis

Chalfonts

Person charged with stalking

Person charged with criminal damage

Two people given conditional cautions for assault ABH

Person given a youth restorative disposal for cannabis

Person charged with assault

Person given restorative disposal for cannabis

Person given restorative disposal for public order

Person given caution for assault

Person given youth restorative disposal for shoplifting

Missendens

Person given restorative disposal for harassment

Person given restorative disposal for assault

Person given a restorative disposal for public order


Person charged with harassment

Person charged with breachin non-molestation order
Person charged with assaulting a police officer
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.

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 or speak with one of your Neighbourhood Policing Team.

Our “Twitter” feed TVP South Buckinghamshire  [@TVP South Buckinghamshire](https://twitter.com/TVP_South_Buckinghamshire) 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

www.thamesvalley.police.uk

