



## Amersham, Chalfonts and Missendens Neighbourhood Policing Team

The Amersham, Chalfonts and Missendens Neighbourhood Team consists of Sergeant Darren Walsh, Constable Andy Mayhew, community support officers Charlotte Stephens, Kam Benawra, Jacqueline Day and Chris Hinkley–Ging. Whilst Sergeant Walsh is covering other areas of South Buckinghamshire, Chesham Sergeant Roy Evans is your current point of contact.

The top three priorities for the last quarter were identified at the Chiltern and South Buckinghamshire Policing issues Forum in November 2022. This steering group is made of members of the community and representatives from across the area. The Police do not run the panel although we do attend as representatives. Discussing results of the public surveys and speaking to a wide cross-section of the community, we aim to understand what is most important, what you most want improved and consider how we can accomplish these aims with the help of the community and partner agencies.

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**You said:** Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC) offences are concerning

**We did:** Burglary is always a concern with the public and has been near to the top of priorities for a number of years. Although usually investigated by detectives, the neighbourhood teams will attend reported burglaries in order to conduct the initial enquires, attempt to identify those responsible, to provide reassurance and to provide crime prevention advice.

Since 1<sup>st</sup> January, we have seen an increase in dwelling burglary offences.

In the Amersham areas, we have seen 38 offences compared to 8 last year where the house has been the target. There have been 3 other offences where sheds or garages have been the targeted area of the premise.

In the Chalfont areas, we have seen 11 offences compared to 9 last year where the house has been the target. There have been 2 other offences where sheds or garages have been the targeted area of the premise

In the Missenden areas, we have seen 11 offences compared to 2 last year where the house has been the target. There have been 3 other offences where sheds or garages have been the targeted area of the premise

There has been a slight increase of Business and Community burglary with 6 offences reported in total in the Missendens area. Amersham and Chalfonts have remained the same.



Vehicle crime in Amersham shows an increase since 1st January with 37 offences reported and Missenden showing a slight increase with 12 offences. The Chalfonts has seen a slight decrease with 32 offences reported.

Theft from a person in Missenden has remained the same with 1 reported offence. Amersham has seen an increase with 8 reported offences and the Chalfonts with 3. We have seen 1 Robbery offence in both Amersham and Missenden during this quarter with none reported in the Chalfonts.

We continue to conduct ANPR operations within the South Buckinghamshire area in order to identify and deprive criminals using vehicles to enter our area. Operation Groundhog has seen the Neighbourhood Policing teams working with the Joint Operations Unit to target our most vulnerable areas. During the operations, we responded to numerous suspicious incidents, burglaries in progress, made arrests and located stolen vehicles / property. In conjunction with detective colleagues, resulting prosecutions are within the Criminal Justice pathway: further details are withheld at this time, to avoid Sub judice.

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### **You said:** Anti-Social Behaviour is a concern

**We did:** Anti-Social behaviour has a wide definition. The neighbourhood Team receive numerous reports of ASB, which are categorised as Community, Environmental and Personal. Most of our current workload within the Anti-Social Behaviour category stems from neighbour disputes, which include noise disturbances, arguments, cannabis smells, inconsiderate parking, boundary/Civil disputes, hate crimes and allegations of harassment.

Predominantly, these victims feel that they are personally targeted, due to living in close proximity to the alleged offenders. Each case is assessed as part of our risk management processes, and as the principal law enforcement agency, our primary role is to address Criminal offences. However, more prominent and concerning cases can also be referred to Buckinghamshire Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Action Group, from greater partnership intervention; working with agencies such as Housing, Environmental Health and mediation charities. With the help of partners, some of these incidents can be resolved relatively quickly and efficiently. Yet, with parties often emotionally invested in their dispute, over a protracted time, neighbourly disputes sometimes become entrenched; requiring longer-term problem-solving management: a common example of this would be rule-setting, by means of an Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABC) or Good Neighbour Agreement, and onwards monitoring of a case.

For Chalfont residents, we are very much aware of the more specific ASB issue of Pony and Trap racing along the A413. This has been a principle focus of our team's collective



efforts, over the last few weeks, and months: as many of you will have seen from our social media posts. This has been a pernicious problem for many years, but has become far more frequent and dangerous in recent times. Speaking to our communities, it was hitherto clear that public expectation was for robust police enforcement to be the preferred solution.

However, there is no statute in Law which prohibits such horses on a road (for those who have suggested it, the Town & Police Clauses Act has been considered and precluded by expert advice), and it is the dangerous driving behaviour of the following vehicles, which police can best address: as this is also the most apparent risk to the wider public, this further mandates the police focus, in this regard.

Similarly, we appreciate that some of our less well-informed commentators will presume that police can simply seize all vehicles and horses, and arrest the lot of them, but this is a naïve view, and inappropriate in truth: we hold a duty to execute our powers lawfully and proportionately, and not contriving some concocted reason to do so. In light of recent articles in the Press, never has there been a greater need for unbiased, professional and ethical delivery of policing.

Yet recently, we have even noticed a shift in the public commentary generated from our social media posts, of late; recognising the efforts police have made and better appreciating that we cannot simply enforce our way out of this problem: they too are concluding that a more lasting solution is required.

To better describe the scale of this problem, these events occur at multiple locations all over the country, and it is very challenging to predict when or where the races are likely to occur. Those better acquainted with the topic have noticed that the offenders have changed times, dates and tactics, in order to thwart policing activity. Whilst police have adapted to these changes, in the absence of a wholly predictable pattern to events, we often struggle to position sufficient officers in advance, who by the time they can respond, find the race already over, or significantly outnumbered by the racers who have gathered.

We have therefore found best results are achieved by disrupting attendees, before they have a chance to muster; utilising dispersal powers, where appropriate. We have also positioned temporary lane restrictions, in anticipation of a meet; dis-incentivising racing, when we realistically expect a race to occur: this tactic has proven effective when achievable, and we hope that partner agencies might determine a means by which this approach can be employed, in a more permanent fashion.

To this end, we are in dialogue with local agency partners, at many levels of our respective structures; to explore means to provide a permanent fix: whilst one is yet to be agreed, we remain hopeful that such a solution exists. Our local police commander, Superintendent Emma Burroughs, has recently met with council counterparts, and it is hoped that further discussions will follow. In the meantime, your Neighbourhood team remains resolute in our commitment, to provide what service we can, in keeping the community safe.

**You said:** Speeding is a concern

**We did:** Whilst speed enforcement is not principally owned by Neighbourhood Policing Team (Roads Policing owns road safety), we augment this provision with the deployment of our own approved devices.

The enforcement of speed is done with good intention; however, some members of the public feel that police time should be spent on other issues. This seems bizarre, as speeding has consistently featured as one of the community's top concerns, as voted for in the Policing Issues Forum, for a very long time.

We have periodically conducted enforcement. Whilst conducting static speed checks, we have also been utilising our cars' in-built ANPR system, to check vehicles of interest coming into the area.

Below is the Fixed camera and mobile camera data for the whole of the Chiltern area:

- In December, 117 offences were captured using mobile and 408 using fixed cameras
- In January, 362 offences were captured using mobile and 43 using fixed cameras
- In February, 153 offences were captured using mobile and 228 using fixed cameras

**Other traffic related issues:** We continue to receive reports of untaxed vehicles. Many think that this is a police issue due to the operations that have been run locally. However, prosecution of this offence falls mainly to the DVLA. You can contact the DVLA directly at: <https://contact.dvla.gov.uk/report-untaxed-vehicle>. During the last visit, the DVLA attended Chesham, Amersham and Little Chalfont. Numerous vehicles were seized, clamped and owners fined.

## Other News

**County Drugs:** From the 27 February, Neighbourhood and Stronghold teams focused on disrupting those who look to exploit communities by carrying out drug offences and exploiting the vulnerable. The Neighbourhood Teams contributed to a number of warrants that took place across Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire. Neighbourhood officers also conducted many other activities in South Buckinghamshire that included School and Youth Club visits, Community Engagement, Knife sweeps and Drug "hotspot" visits, vulnerable person visits and safeguarding referrals.



## Neighbourhood Policing supporting other areas.

For anyone that missed our previous reports, the process of training new Police officers has changed over time and learning their new role is both practical and paperwork based. Some of the time given to new recruits consist of Protected Learning.

In order for student officers to complete their learning, Neighbourhood Officers continue to backfill the emergency response teams. Whilst resourcing within Neighbourhood Policing is currently challenging, good news is on the horizon: The coming quarter will see both the appointment of our new Chief Constable, Jason Hogg, and the roll-out of the new [Crimefighters](#) initiative, from the Police & Crime Commissioner, Matthew Barber. Both have expressed their commitment and investment in Neighbourhood Policing, and they have very inspiring plans for our teams, in the near future.

We are privileged to have the neighbourhood team supported by our volunteer Special Constable officers. Have you ever thought about volunteering with Thames Valley Police? Having the same powers as regular officers, recruitment is open for special constables. <https://tvpcareers.co.uk/roles/special-constables/>

## Social media:

[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 and Facebook page will show you what the policing team are doing, will provide crime prevention information, witness appeals and "Good Result" stories. With the merger of Chiltern / South Bucks and High Wycombe, our social media pages have changed. The new pages are supplied at the bottom of this update.

To report crime online. You can do so via: <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/ro/report/>







## A small snapshot of positive disposals from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

### Amersham:

- A 37 year old was charged with domestic related harassment and stalking
- A 33 year old was given a restorative disposal for criminal damage
- A 19 year old was given a restorative disposal for possession of cannabis
- A 42 year old was given a restorative disposal for shoplifting
- A 19 year old was given a restorative disposal for possession of cannabis
- A 24 year old was charged with assault on an emergency worker
- A 36 year old was charged with witness intimidation

### Missenden:

- 4 youths were charged with conspiracy to commit burglary – multiple offences
- A 33 year old was cautioned for possession of a weapon in a public place
- 4 youths were given restorative disposals for common assaults that took place at school
- A 24 year old was cautioned for possession of a weapon and possession of cannabis
- A youth was given a restorative disposal for possession of cannabis
- A youth was given a restorative disposal for possession of cocaine
- A 62 year old was given a restorative disposal for failing to comply with an order

### Chalfonts:

- A youth was given a restorative disposal for harassment
- A 22 year old was given a restorative disposal for common assault
- A 18 year old was given a restorative disposal for possession of cannabis
- A 21 year old was given a conditional caution for possession of cannabis
- A youth was given a restorative disposal for criminal damage
- A 32 year old was cautioned for assault
- A 42 year old was given a restorative disposal malicious communications
- A 51 year old was given a restorative disposal for common assault
- A 39 year old was given a restorative disposal for public order offences
- A 51 year old was charged with multiple assaults



## Social Media:



[@tvp\\_southbucks](https://twitter.com/tvp_southbucks)



[TVP South Buckinghamshire](https://www.facebook.com/TVP.SouthBuckinghamshire)

## Community Speed Watch:



<https://communityspeedwatch.org>

## Neighbourhood Watch:



<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/thamesvalley>