



## Gerrards Cross & Denham

### Neighbourhood Team

Your neighbourhood team consists of

Sergeant 5731 Dan RYDER

PC 0795 Bryony POWELL

PCSO 9345 Paul DOBBIN

PCSO 7958 Paul AUSTIN

PCSO 9605 Sarah CHURCHWARD

### Neighbourhood Priorities

The priorities for your Neighbourhood Policing Team (NHPT) will be decided by the Policing Issues Panel; comprised of representatives from Community Boards from the whole of South Buckinghamshire. The Police do not run the panel, 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 other agencies 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. If you wish to learn more please use the following hyperlink: [Chiltern & South Bucks Policing Issues Forum – Community and Neighbourhood Police stronger together \(csb-forum.org\)](https://www.csb-forum.org)

#### Priority – Burglary

We have seen a reduction in Residential burglaries from 46 in the last quarter of 2022, to 22 so far this quarter, which is a decrease of -52%.

From year (April 2022) to date we have seen 79 Burglaries compared to April 2021 to March 2022 where we saw 61. This shows an increase in Burglaries of +22%

To continue to combat this we have been carrying out proactive operations which specifically targets rural and cross border areas of the LPA with proactive patrols during peak offending times. This has helped us to detect crime and apprehend cross border offenders who use arterial routes to enter our policing area and to protect residents living within South Buckinghamshire.

Whilst we target our patrols to intercept the offenders, the Neighbourhood team have recognised over the previous few months that residents have adopted the behaviour of reporting suspicious activity on community social media groups, before phoning the Police. Passing information to the wider community may have value, but shouldn't be preferred to notifying the police.

To tackle the issue of Burglary, should you witness persons acting suspiciously and you strongly suspect that they are breaking into properties or committing vehicle crime, please



phone us immediately on 999. Try to identify any vehicles they may be using and registration plates and numbers/descriptions of offenders. This will allow us to increase our chances of intercepting them, and securing best evidence.

Please remember these tips to reduce the risk of becoming a victim of burglary.

- Cut back your shrubs and hedges to aid visibility
- Set timer switches to turn your lights on when away
- Avoid leaving valuables in plain view e.g. laptops and tablets
- Set any house alarms
- Lock side gates to prevent access to the rear of your property
- Keep any tools and ladders stored safely away in a locked garage
- Don't advertise that you are away and that your home is empty, by 'checking in' or posting your holiday snaps on social media
- Resist uploading any holiday pictures to social media until you have returned home
- Don't leave windows open at the front of your property when you are in the garden

Take a look at Thames Valley Police Website for further crime prevention advice or contact your local Neighbourhood Team. Also, The Policing Issues Forum also still holds a recording of the online Burglary Prevention event which our Neighbourhood Inspector, James Ellis hosted, in December: [Recording: Thames Valley Police Burglary Event 1st Dec – Chiltern & South Bucks Policing Issues Forum \(csb-forum.org\)](#)

We continue to deliver crime prevention packs in the area's that have been subject to recent Burglaries and continue to hold our Have Your Say events where we can advise on more prevention techniques, to protect yourselves and your homes. We publish our dates and locations on our social media platforms, Facebook and Twitter.

### **Priority – Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)**

We have not noticed any particularly concerning levels of Anti-Social Behaviour within our local population hubs this quarter: Given the time of year, this is not unexpected. Our patrols mainly focus on those areas where we have identified groups of youths causing minor damage, using drugs and causing concern to local residents, and we will aim to maintain our patrolling of 'hotspots', as the weather improves.

However, 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.

### **Priority – Speeding**

This quarter, our Safer Roads mobile speed enforcement vans spent 47.58 hours and identified 31 offences across South Bucks and the fixed cameras have identified 59 offenders



To augment the local enforcement provision from Roads Policing, the Neighbourhood team attended the following locations to carry out speed enforcement:

- Tilehouse Lane, Denham-33 vehicles passed, 2 vehicles passed us exceeding the speed limit with the highest recorded speed of 38mph
- Windsor Road, Gerrards Cross- 128 vehicles passed, 0 vehicles recorded exceeding the speed limit
- A40, Oxford Road, Gerrards Cross (40mph) - 178 vehicles passed, 2 vehicles exceeding the speed limit, highest speed recorded 52mph.
- Collum Green Lane - 68 vehicles passed, 0 vehicles recorded exceeding the speed limit

### Other News

The Neighbourhood Policing teams continue to support our colleagues on the local Response teams, who at times require support to meet the multitude of calls for service. Whilst resourcing with 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.

In January, Sgt Ryder whilst on patrol, identified a vehicle that he believed to be on cloned plates, on stopping the vehicle the driver was identified as being wanted for numerous offences, it was also established that he was driving with no licence or insurance. He therefore had these offences added to the charge sheet and the vehicle was seized.

In January, Officers identified a vehicle involved in violent catalytic converter thefts travelling through the area. After a lengthy pursuit, officers disabled the vehicle safely and the 4 offenders made an attempt to escape on foot. All 4 males were located and arrested.

Whilst attending a concern for safety job, PCSO Churchward established that the individual was may be a victim of fraud/scam. Due to the PCSOs persistence on behalf of the victim, this was investigated through the CID. It was verified the victim had been a victim of a large-scale fraud and lost £182,000. PCSO Churchward helped safeguard the victim from future losses with the help of Trading Standards. Through the crime investigation and Trading Standards support the victim was reimbursed £149,000.



## Offenders Brought to Justice

Two males have been charged with drug offences

A male has been issued a community resolution for public order offence

A female has been cautioned for shoplifting

A male has been issued a community resolution for Drug offences

A male has been issued a fixed penalty notice for Drug offences

A male has been issued a community resolution for Drug offences

A male has been charged with assault

A male has been issued a community resolution for Drug offences

A male has been issued a community resolution for assault

A male has been issued with a conditional caution for criminal damage

A male was charged with assault

A male was charged with stalking

A male was charged with sex offences

## Have Your Say Events

We continue our Have Your Say events at varying locations and times when we are operationally able to and continue to proactively attend events to provide the opportunity for the community to come and meet and speak with us about rising concerns and what we can do to assist.

We continue to advertise these events on our social media pages so please continue to monitor and share our events and work that we publish. This will help to keep our communities informed of the work we do and deter criminals



### Contact Us:

Call 101 (Non-Emergency Contact Number)  
Call 999 in an emergency only

Thames Valley Police Webform: <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/report-a-crime>

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