



Amersham, Chalfonts and Missendens Neighbourhood Policing Team

The Amersham, Chalfonts and Missendens Neighbourhood Team consists of:

Sergeant 3675 Darren Walsh

Constable 401 Andy Mayhew and Constable 6038 Tom Shrieve

Police Community Support Officers; Charlotte Stephens, Kam Benawra, Jacqueline Day,
Chris Hinkley–Ging and PCSO Emma Dyer.

Neighbourhood Team Priorities

The top three priorities for the last quarter were chosen at the Chiltern & South Buckinghamshire Policing Issues Forum on 22nd November 2023. This steering group is made from members of the community and representatives across the area. Discussing results of the public survey, speaking to a cross-section of the community, we aim to understand what is most important to you, what you want improved, and consider how we can accomplish these aims with the help of the community and partner agencies.

You said: [Burglary is a concern](#)

We did: In the seasonal period running up to Christmas time, we expected to see a rise in residential burglaries. This is primarily due to a combination of increased hours of darkness and the increased prospect of people having more valuables in their homes due to the purchase and storage of Christmas presents. These factors makes this period of the year a lucrative time for burglars to offend.

Burglary is a national issue, with Organised Crime Groups targeting properties across the UK. One group in particular are targeting large houses that are often secluded or backed by vast open land. Entry is frequently made via the first floor, with garden furniture or ladders being used to access the windows.

From the 1st October to 31st December this year, we have seen a significant reduction in burglaries in Amersham: Amersham had 27 burglaries compared to 46 in 2022. However we have not seen the same improvement in the Chalfonts which had 48 compared to 26 in 2022 and in the Missendens, which had an increase of 19 burglaries compared to the 6 that happened in 2022

There were no reported distraction burglaries across the area, and we have also seen a large decrease in non-residential burglaries across the 3 areas, with 8 taking place this year compared to 21 in 2022.

The Priority Crime Team advised that 25 persons have been charged/summonsed or cautioned this year for burglaries. The TVP team worked with the MET which resulted in one OCG having 7 people charged with over 60 offences, 19 of those in the TVP area.

Working with surrounding forces we have been concentrating NHP and Roads Policing resources on the M25 corridors to target burglars coming into our areas. In October a



four day operation led to 68 arrests (7 in TVP), 26 weapons being seized (1 TVP), 66 instances with drugs being seized (4 TVP) and 51 vehicles being seized (8 TVP).

Operation Grotto was South Buckinghamshire LPA's crime initiative to focus on the habitual rise in burglaries and ran until the New Year. Police conducted an increased number of overt patrols, with a focus on identified high-risk areas for residential burglary, which include Gt Missenden. Homeowners were left with our crime prevention letter. If you would like a copy of this, you can download it at: <https://www.csb-forum.org/operation-grotto-the-most-important-partner-we-can-work-with-is-you/>

It is important that you continue to look out for yourself and your neighbours. Are you a member of the Neighbourhood watch? If not, we recommend you join. The NHW aims to make you be, and feel safer, within your community. As a member you can benefit from discounts on security devices and receive newsletters with expert crime prevention advice. Find out more at www.ourwatch.org

You said: **Drugs are a concern**

We did: County Lines is an example of the wider damage drugs can do to our communities. It is the term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas within the UK, they do this by using dedicated mobile phone lines or other forms of "Deal lines". County lines massively contributes to drug problems, economic crime and gun and knife crime – meaning in extreme cases this organised crime can lead to murder. In addition, there is a trickledown effect on the users of the county lines, as they will regularly resort to theft and other illegal activity to pay for the drugs, as well as experience mental health issues and paranoia due to the intimidation and pressure from the gang members they buy or deal from.

Unfortunately, we are currently investigating a number of cases where children are at risk of exploitation from such gangs from other towns. This includes a large number of teenage girls and boys in the Chalfonts, Amersham, Risborough and Missenden areas. County lines are known to be involved in modern day slavery, and regularly exploit children and vulnerable adults into moving and storing the drugs and money. They will utilise coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons to control people. This increases the likelihood of youths carrying weapons for protection. This is a great concern for teachers and parents. We will provide additional support to parents and youths who find themselves involved in CDL.

During the last quarter we utilised our areas resources to combat County Drug Lines. Work carried out on the LPA included;

- 3 warrants being executed
- 12 arrests
- Seizure of 400 wraps of crack cocaine
- 193 wraps of Heroin seized



- 90 grams of cocaine seized
- 11 kilos of cannabis seized
- 16 weapons seized
- £13,000 in cash seized

We also conducted variety of community engagement activities. Partnership activity included; patrols, park sweeps, crime prevention events, youth engagement work (including the valuable asset of our police cadet programme) contextual safeguarding activities and assessments, and local authority joint working. We also conducted train station operations which include the use of police dogs and specialist units. In addition we work with The Children's Society, and work to raise awareness around the criminal exploitation of children through promotion of the #Lookcloser campaign.

Other Drugs News

There was a change in law regarding Nitrous oxide, as of 8th November 2023, this became a class C controlled drug. Nitrous oxide is used for pain relief in medical settings and has a wide variety of legitimate uses across many industries. The Government recognises that such users are not misusing it for its psychoactive effect. For this reason, an exemption focuses on proper use and distribution. In practical terms, that means those who import or possess nitrous oxide because they plan to inhale it or distribute it for its psychoactive effect will be committing offences. In addition, if businesses or individuals are producing or supplying this with the initial intention for legitimate usage, yet still turn a blind eye to people using it for improper purposes, this will also be an offence. Legitimate businesses, individual users and organisations will not.

You said: **Speeding is a concern**

We did: Whilst speed enforcement is not principally owned by Neighbourhood Policing, we do conduct speed enforcement in locations where it is safe to do so. The Department of Transport statistics showed that speed was the contributing factor in almost a third of road deaths in 2022. As a society, we need to challenge and build a stigma against those who speed on the road, with the aim to make it as socially unacceptable as drink driving.

On Tuesday 7th November 2023, we supported the Missenden Community Board to discuss the benefits of the Community Speedwatch, this took place at the Great Missenden Memorial Centre. There was an excellent turnout for the event and we were very glad to see so many of you in attendance. Speakers included Councillor Peter Martin, Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Barber, CSW lead Lee Turnham and Paul Egan from the Prestwood and Missenden CSW scheme.

Some of the key messages were. Anyone can set up their own group or look to join an established group. There are 1900 volunteers, with 1461 CSW approved sites. In the last 12 months, 50,487 letters have been sent out to speeding drivers. Over 1000 vehicles were reported to DVLA for no tax. A review of CSW data shows that just under 95% of vehicles captured do not reoffend.



If a driver continues to speed, or was caught significantly above the speed limit, then they will receive a visit from a Roads Policing officer and be required to watch a video about the effects of speeding.

Moving forward PC Turnham and myself (Sgt Darren Walsh) will be looking to do a TVP wide day of action around speeding in the spring with the opportunity for people who are interested to come along and see how it works in action.

If you are concerned about the speeds in your area and would be interested in doing your part to take action, you can become a member of your local Speedwatch group or even start your own. Find out more at <https://www.communityspeedwatch.org>

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 reducing the risk of injury, collisions and casualties in your district.

Figures from the Road Safety Mobile and Speed Enforcement Team show the following:

Sep; 242 tickets from mobile enforcement & 0 tickets from fixed cameras.

Oct; 443 tickets from mobile enforcement & 73 tickets from fixed cameras.

Nov; 81 tickets from mobile enforcement & 439 tickets from fixed cameras.

The NH Team will look to do traffic enforcement for locations that we are receiving multiple complaints about. As a recent example, we received numerous reports and complaints about the A4128 Missenden Road, to follow up we went out to conduct speed checks for a 30 minute period in a plain car, this took place in early afternoon. During this check, data showed 185 vehicles within the speed limit. 7 vehicles were over the limit but only by 2 mph.

Other News

Assault in Gt Missenden

Our investigation into the assault on a female back in August, which occurred in the woods between Great Missenden and Prestwood, has led to the suspect being identified, arrested, interviewed and bailed.

Operation Ghostbuster:

During October and November, South Buckinghamshire's PS Evans ran our annual operation around Halloween and Bonfire night. This year saw the operation run with minimal disorder in the Chilterns area. There were many well planned displays throughout the area and I would like to thank all organisers for their well-planned, safe and successful displays.

Fraud

No Blame No Shame

The phrase 'fall for a scam' is often used, but you don't hear 'fall for a burglary'. This kind of language is akin to victim blaming. We need to change the language we use when



talking to and about scam victims, to remove the building stigmas and shame that may make individuals hesitant to speak up and report scam incidents to the police.

SCAM Prevention - Text message to Ofcom

Received a suspected scam text message? Forward to Ofcom on 7726 (SPAM on older style key pads) and play your part in stopping the scammers.

Rural Crime

For an update on rural crime please see the Autumn –Winter newsletter. Visit www.csb-forum.org.

Offenders Brought to Justice

Offences from the 1st October 23 (This does not include persons who are currently under investigation).

Amersham:

Person charged for assaulting a police officer.
Two people given community resolutions for cannabis.
Person charged with GBH with intent.
Person charged with possession with intent to supply class A.
Person charged for criminal damage
Person given community resolution for assault.
Person given community resolution for assault.
Person given community resolution for public order

Missendens:

Person given community resolution for criminal damage
Person charged with rape (took place in other area)
Person given community resolution for public order

Chalfonts:

Person given community resolution and a Criminal Protection Notice, for allowing dog to be dangerously out of control.
Person charged with theft of motor vehicle
Person charged with theft
Person given community resolution for cannabis.

Local 'Have Your Say' events

Come and speak to a member of your local neighbourhood team and have your say.

17/1/24

Come and speak to PCSO 8882 Day + PCSO 9436 Benwara.

0900-1000 hrs - Tesco, London Road West, Amersham.

1045 -1200 hrs - Hildreths Garden Centre, Wycombe Road, Prestwood.

1300-1430 hrs – Rowan Garden Centre, Gorelands Lane, Chalfont St Giles.



7/2/24

Come and speak to PCSO 7218 Stephens + PCSO 9543 Dyer.
0900-1000 hrs – Gt Missenden Train Station, Great Missenden.
1045 -1200 hrs - Rowan Garden Centre, Gorelands Lane, Chalfont St Giles.
1300-1430 hrs – Tesco, London Road West, Amersham.

6/3/24

Come and speak to PCSO 9783 Hinkley-Ging + PCSO 8882 Day.
0900-1000 hrs – Amersham Library, Chiltern lifestyle Centre, Chiltern Avenue, Amersham.
1045 -1200 hrs - Hildreths Garden Centre, Wycombe Road, Prestwood.
1300-1430 hrs – Rowan Garden Centre, Gorelands Lane, Chalfont St Giles.

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 at late notice.

Social media:

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.

To report crime online visit: <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/ro/report/>



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