



Avon and Somerset Police
NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

Mendip East Update

NEWS IN YOUR AREA

December 2021

Frome Town

Members of Frome's Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) took part in Operation Sceptre, a national week of action which sees police across the country intensify efforts to reduce the number of knives on our streets. As part of Operation Sceptre the team conducted Knife sweeps in our local parks and also brought the banner van to the town. PCSO Kris Seviour also conducted a leaflet drop around the town providing information on anonymous knife crime reporting via Fearless.org.



Elsewhere in the town, the team have been conducting their routine business, we held a mobile neighbourhood surgery within the Town Centre, Tesco Express and Asda on the 11th November 2021,

PCSO's Ben Pile, Shelley Day and Kris Seviour were on hand to answer any questions presented and also hand out any advice or crime prevention to passing members of the public. Alongside this the team were also pleased to be able to attend local events including the Act of Remembrance ceremony held at the War Memorial, as well as the Christmas light switch on and Lantern parade held in the town centre.



Finally, The Frome Neighbourhood Team were honoured to be recognised by Frome Town council for going above and beyond in 2020. Some of the team are pictured here with one of the ceremonial trees that were planted for people and groups in the community at the incredible Glow in the Park event at the Old Showfield.

Frome Rural

Officers from your Rural Neighbourhood team have been working in partnership with Mendip District Council to tackle Fly-tipping in the locality.

Officers have been conducting joint patrols in the area and have been stopping and searching vehicles that have been carrying waste. Over the course of the operation 27 vehicles have been stopped, while many were found to be generally compliant with waste regulations, a fifth of the transporters pulled-over were unable to furnish documents and are now subject to further enquiries and a potential £300 Fixed-Penalty-Notice.



Elsewhere the team have also been visiting their local farms and encouraging landowners to sign up to any of the various schemes currently in operation. Many of these schemes enable landowners to protect themselves from theft and other issues by getting regular updates and warning of crimes and suspicious activity in your area.

Specifically the rural team utilise the following Watch Schemes to assist our rural communities:

- Horse Watch
- Poaching Watch
- Farm Watch

Shepton Mallet Town

As with the rest of the force The Neighbourhood team from Shepton Mallet have taken part in Operation Sceptre, a national week of action which sees police across the country intensify efforts to reduce the number of knives on our streets. Shepton NPT carried out numerous checks around playing fields and areas which could suggest knives could have been thrown away or hidden.



Knife sweeps were conducted in locations where intelligence suggests that weapons may be stored or hidden and High visibility and plain clothes patrols of areas of high demand for anti-social behaviour, drug dealing and use and other crime which can lead to violence

Shepton Mallet Rural

Following recent reports of speeding traffic along the A37 Wraxall Hill, Shepton Mallet Rural NPT have contacted the Speed Enforcement Unit to make further visits to this location. This will be alongside local NPT officers attending to show a presence in the area. Pictured is the local NPT vehicle parked in a safe area on Wraxall Hill.



Team News

Police Volunteers

On international volunteer day, we were able to celebrate the work of our very own Clive Baker. Clive has volunteered with the Team in Frome for over 10 years.

During his time Clive has proved to be a valuable asset to the team, He has often been found supporting the team on market day by providing a police presence in the Neighbourhood police post assisting with enquiries from members of the public.



Sadly Clive has taken the decision to retire from his role and A/Insp Clark took the opportunity to pop down to the Frome Independent market to bid him farewell. PCSO Mandy Ware and PC Kayleigh Lunn were carrying out high visibility patrols and were honoured to be part of Clive's final shift. We would like to this opportunity to thank Clive for all that he has done and we wish him well for the future.

Year in Review

2021

As 2021 begins to draw to a close, we thought it would be an ideal opportunity to look back on the year and celebrate some of the work undertaken by your neighbourhood team in what has proven to be a unique and challenging year.



Back in January we started the year in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, we found ourselves in a tiered system locally with rules dependent on the COVID levels in the area. This proved a challenging time with the teams having to be able to adapt quickly to the ever-changing legislation. As a force we had to find alternative ways to engage with our communities, As a result we introduced Facebook live and utilised the Mobile Police station to connect with local communities by holding pre planned mobile surgeries.

February saw COVID restrictions continue to change, meaning the team again, had to adapt to the new legislation and continuing to engage and explain this legislation to our communities. We also saw a spike in fly tipping and efforts were made by the rural teams to target this behaviour including targeted patrols and work with Mendip District Council to target waste carriers. Elsewhere we also worked in conjunction with Frome Town council to erect a deployable Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) system within Victoria Park and Mary Bailey Playing field. The Camera was deployed in order to provide reassurance in the area and also act a deterrent to issues in the area.



March saw the first major relaxation of COVID restrictions and also the introduction of the Government's COVID-19 Roadmap out of Lock down. This meant, again the team had to adapt and understand the new rules in order to engage and explain them to our communities. In what was a challenging first quarter of 2021 the team remained resolute and determined to provide first class services to our communities.



As we moved into the second quarter of the year, the teams continued with their normal business, following the receipt of information the team were able to seize a significant amount of cannabis and remove it from the streets. With the further relaxation of COVID rules we also had to educate our communities on behaviour in our local beauty spots, the team responded to numerous reports of damage being caused to these areas by fires and impromptu BBQ's. April also brought the Rule of six which meant our Community Speed watch (CSW) schemes could return to the roadside following the numerous lockdowns.

May saw the teams partake in Operation Sceptre a national week of action aimed at reducing knife crime, the teams conducted numerous sweeps of our parks and open spaces. The aim of these sweeps are to search these areas for any discarded knives and get them off the streets. We also we able to continue to offer our communities the chance to register their bikes to the Bike Register, the UK's national Police approved bicycle marking & registration scheme.





June saw the team grow with PCSO Kris Seviour joining the Frome team upon completion of his initial training, Kris was eager to get started and begin meeting and engaging with his communities, Elsewhere the rural teams continued their efforts to tackle fly-tipping by conducting joint patrols with Environmental Health and Mendip District council, By joining forces with our partner agencies the team were able to combine Police and Environmental Protection powers in order to carry out robust patrols and target our local waste carriers. Our efforts against speeding also continued with more and more CSW schemes returning to the roadside, feeding data back to the team.

As we continued along the Roadmap out of lockdown, July saw the team return to events, we were pleased to support Frome Town's Picnic in the meadow and Shepton Mallet's Skate Jam event, and we also continued to conduct our routine business, such as holding neighbourhood surgeries and also continued to grow our Community Speed watch schemes. July also saw a peak in demand for our call centres prompting our neighbourhood teams to assist our response colleagues.



Once restrictions allowed the events returned thick and fast, In August the team were pleased to attend the Bath and West Show where they were promoting road safety and raising awareness of the use of electric scooters in public spaces as well as on the highway and what you could be facing if you don't know the rules. In Frome the team attended the Lions summer fete and offered the Bike registration service as well as a host of crime prevention advice.

Equally, the events didn't stop there, in September we were pleased to be able to support Frome's independent market and the Lions Club 'Ride Kids Ride' event. Both were generously attended and the teams really enjoyed being about to engage with various members of their communities about issues that affect them.

As we moved into the darker months the team focussed on dealing with priorities to their communities, the rural team focussed on visiting their outlying villages, giving communities the chance to meet the team and discuss issues most affecting them. In town the team had similar thoughts holding events at Sainsbury's. We also secured some funding to bring the 'Drug bus' to the Frome. The drugs bus provides a platform for us to engage with people about drug issues and misuse by utilising an escape room format.



The Rural teams also held a day of action against fly tippers, Conducting numerous Stop and searched of waste carrying vehicles. Over the course of the operation 27 vehicles were stopped, while many were found to be generally compliant with waste regulations, a fifth of the transporters pulled-over were unable to furnish documents and are now subject to further enquiries and a potential £300 Fixed-Penalty-Notice.

Overall 2021 has been a good year for the team, we have seen the team grow, we've adapted our ways of working more than we've ever had to before and have overcome numerous challenges. We have also learned lots of new ways to interact and engage with our communities ensuring that everyone in our communities has a voice. We continue to explore ways to develop our relationships with our communities and would urge anyone with any ideas or issues to make contact with us. As we move towards the festive period we would just like to take the opportunity to thank everyone for their support during what has been a uniquely challenging year. The team are always on hand to answer your questions or concerns and we can be contacted via the links listed at the bottom of this newsletter. Finally we would

just like to wish everyone in our communities a very happy, safe and secure Christmas and New Year.

LOCAL EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

Facebook Live

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic we have been conducting live sessions via Facebook. Details of our next event can be found on our social media channels or our neighbourhood website.

<https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/your-area/>

Bike Marking

Details of future Bike Marking events can be found on our Social Media channels or also via our neighbourhood website.

<https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/your-area/>

CONTACT US

Get in Touch

In an emergency always call 999

For non-emergency matters call us on 101 or report online via www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report

To report a crime anonymously, contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or visit www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Keep up to date



Facebook and Twitter are a great way to keep up to date with your local Neighbourhood Policing team. Follow us on:

Facebook: Frome Neighbourhood Policing
Mendip Neighbourhood Policing

Twitter: @ASPMendip

www.avonandsomerset.police.uk
