



Avon and Somerset Police
NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

Taunton

Policing Newsletter

February 2025

NEWS FROM ACROSS TAUNTON

Hello and welcome to the Taunton Policing Newsletter for the month of February 2025. As always, the newsletters contain a snapshot of some of the work the Taunton Policing Teams have been involved with in the previous month.

Partnership Working with Trading Standards

During January, we team up with our colleagues at Trading Standards to complete unannounced visits on three premises in Wellington and Taunton suspected of selling illicit tobacco and vape products to members of the public.

The visits were conducted on the back of powers used by trading standards officers, who check stock and equipment within shops. We supported the operation to prevent any breaches of peace.

These visits proved highly successful with seizures of suspected illicit tobacco and vapes which could have contained more puffs than legally allowed, resulting in these dangerous products being removed and now off the streets.

Our Neighbourhood Beat Officers were able to gain a valuable insight into the workings of Trading Standards and also collect some useful intelligence that will assist in keeping our communities safer in the future.

Cross Border Collaboration between Avon and Somerset and Hampshire Police

Taunton Response Teams responded to an Emergency Call for a Burglary In Progress in the early hours of the morning at a Convenience Store, upon arrival there were clear signs of a break with no offenders nearby.

Officers worked quickly to secure the scene and CCTV for evidence purposes, where upon viewing the CCTV at the store, a vehicle was identified from the VRM of the car used by the offenders to leave the area.

Quick thinking by officers:

- Were able to use the In store CCTV to identify the VRM and checking this through the national police computer system provided us the make and model of the car, the owner and the address of where the car was registered too
- Worked with local Council CCTV to obtain a direction of Travel from the scene
- Utilised ANPR cameras to track the route taken by the offenders to locate a location to intercept if possible
- With the information we had regarding the vehicle we shared this intelligence with neighbouring forces for stop checks if located
- CSI were requested to attend the location to retrieve any forensic evidence linking offenders
- Some of the stolen items recovered and returned to the rightful owner

By working at a fast pace and sharing information of the vehicle and its three occupants where sighted, stopped and arrested within hours in the Hampshire force area including a vehicle seizure.

MEET THE TEAM



OFFICER

Sgt Andy Gloyn

POLICING AREA

Taunton

YEARS SERVICE

17 & 1/2 years

HOBBY

Rugby & Cricket

FAVOURITE FOOD

Nepali chilli chicken

ABOUT ME

This month's 'Meet the Team' is Sgt Andy Gloyn.

I joined Avon and Somerset Constabulary as a PCSO in April 2007, working for 2 and a half years in Taunton, I loved working as part of the Neighbourhood team and wanted to further my career in policing so in 2010 I joined as a Police Officer. After 6 years I returned to The Neighbourhood policing team as a Sergeant. Alongside my core role I am also a public order officer, which has seen me working at many significant events such as Glastonbury festival, The Funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth II, all the way to Scotland for the Climate Conference in 2021. The public order role has also seen me working at incidents of serious disorder both in Bristol in 2021 and across the country in the summer of 2024.

My role in Neighbourhood policing has given me a well-rounded understanding of the local community, from our town centre in Taunton to the rural communities of the Blackdown Hills. Fostering strong, trust-based relationships, creating safer environments while providing a reassuring presence on the streets. I feel incredibly lucky to work with some amazing people many of whom you will have met in previous newsletters.

Outside policing I have a love of many sports, playing some (badly) and retiring into a coaching role at the local Rugby club where I began playing many years ago. At home I'm surrounded by my amazing family including Oscar our bonkers black Labrador who keeps us all entertained with his antics and endless mischief!

Our colleagues in Hampshire contact with Avon and Somerset and Two of our Taunton Neighbourhood Beat Managers headed off to Southampton to continue with the investigation where all three have ben bailed whilst further enquires and evidence is obtained.



Active School Patrols

PCSO Imran and PCSO Brian completed an early morning patrol at Lyngford Park Primary School engaging with Teachers, Students and Parents last month.

The aim of the visit was predominantly to monitor and educate drivers when parking to do school drop off, the time was spent was important giving us the opportunity to remind drivers and students about the importance of road safety and parking considerately for residents living nearby.

Children looked around the Police Van, tried on some uniform and listened to the PCSOs talk about their job.



PHOTO OF THE MONTH



One of our patrolling Neighbourhood officers captured this outstanding view from the Quantocks whilst on their rural crime patrols.

POLICE EARLY INTERVENTION TEAM

Its normal and healthy for young people to want to meet with friends, be sociable and feel part of the community. Somerset is a safe place to live and no young person should feel unsafe visiting our town centres and public spaces.

As part of our work with the Violence Reduction Partnership, the EIT and Young Somerset have been speaking with children and young people. 60% of young people have told us that they would like more information about what to do if they saw or were involved in a violent incident. They told us that they feel the right people to share this information with them include their parents and guardians, police and teachers.

It can be a good idea to talk to young people about how recognise and respond to situations. Encourage young people to spot the signs, to distance themselves and tell someone.

It's important that young people understand the difference between 'Snitching', to get someone else in trouble, to stop themselves getting in trouble or to hurt or upset someone and 'Reporting', to keep themselves or someone else safe, where they might need an adults help or speaking out because they know something is wrong.

Encourage them to be brave and speak up. There is lots of good advice out there to support you and them. [Town centre safety and young people \(somerset.gov.uk\)](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/town-centre-safety-and-young-people/) has links to useful information.

When incidents occur in schools or colleges, they will need to decide whether to involve police or not. Many incidents can be dealt with and resolved internally. They will have their own behaviour policies and guidance. If you have a crime, incident or concerns that you want to report to police, the best way is often online.

In Highlight Youth Hubs, 69% of young people told us that they aren't aware of how to report anonymously.

Young people can visit the **Fearless** reporting site:

<https://crimestoppers-uk.org/fearless> or call 0800 555 111

If you are worried about something or have information you can report anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or visit www.crimestoppers-uk.org



FRAUD AWARENESS

This section on the newsletter will include information on scams that we as the Police are currently aware of and how to hopefully avoid falling victim to these types of crimes.

Message from the Fraud Support service at Avon and Somerset Victim Support

Avon and Somerset Police have been working closely with Victim Support, utilising their fantastic new service for supporting victims of relationship fraud.

Relationship fraud is a complex and manipulating crime, which can take place over a long period time. Fraudsters usually use a false identity with stolen images and information. They target a large number of people with whom they build a relationship of trust and form an emotional bond. They are very convincing and will attempt to extract money from the victim or convince them to move money between bank accounts. Relationship fraud can have devastating impacts on those affected, not only financially but also emotionally. It can result in feelings of violation and betrayal which are hard to overcome in future relationships. Relationship fraud can happen to anyone, it does not define your strength or character.

If you or someone you know has been impacted by relationship fraud, you are not on your own. Avon and Somerset Victim Support are now running peer support groups for anyone who has been impacted by relationship fraud. It can be difficult to discuss this type of crime with friends or family due to a fear of being judged or not being listened to. The peer support group gives you the opportunity to speak to people who can relate to what has happened, share similar feelings and discuss coping mechanisms or just come along and listen to others. The group will be held on Zoom and facilitated by Victim Support. There will be a maximum of 6 people and there are no limits to attending the sessions.

If you would like to be involved or find out more, you can contact us by phone on 0300 303 1972 and we are open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9:30am-5:30pm and Tuesday and Thursday 11am-7pm.

Or email us at avon.andsomerset@victimsupport.org.uk

Here are some red flags of relationship fraud to look out for:

- The person you are speaking to lives or works overseas.
- Jobs including the military, oil rig worker, United Nations employee or any medical professionals (surgeon/doctor).
- Any mention of a high value box; this could include money, gold bars, jewels, or inheritance.
- Moving your conversation away from the website/social media to Google Chat or WhatsApp.
- Asking you for any kind of money – this includes gift cards or cryptocurrency.
- They cannot video call you with a crystal-clear image and in sync audio.
- Any sob stories – the fraudster may claim to be a struggling single parent, widowed, hungry, homeless, injured, sick or stranded in a foreign country.
- Declaring their love for you very early on and even introducing the subject of marriage.
- Claim to have things in common with you, e.g., widowed or having the same religion.
- Promise to meet you but will always have an excuse as to why they cannot.



COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

For those that don't know what 'Community Speedwatch' is, it is where volunteers from the local community carry out speed monitoring checks on specific roads across the community.

The aim of Community SpeedWatch is to make motorists who speed through residential neighbourhoods aware of the impact their actions have on local residents, or the danger they pose to other road users and pedestrians. This is something we are working with communities to address.

The 14 CSW groups in the Taunton area operate in a variety of environments with different speed limits and traffic flows. The urban sites that they operate at have far higher traffic flows with typically 500 to 1400 vehicles per hour whereas the rural sites have approximately 50 to 200 vehicles an hour. However the rural sites have a higher proportion of speeders. Unfortunately the 20mph limits have a higher proportion of speeders whether they are an urban site or rural.

Activity during January

Over the month of January, 6 out of the 14 Community Speedwatch schemes in Taunton have been visibly active across the different communities. From the **13** sessions that took place, **5,467** vehicles have been monitored by our Speedwatch volunteers. From those, a total of **52** letters have been sent out to drivers that have not adhered to the speed limit.

The Community Speedwatch is a great service that greatly assists the Constabulary in reducing speed across the communities. Should you wish to join an existing Speedwatch, or would like to set one up for your area, you can find more information here:

[Community SpeedWatch | Avon and Somerset Police](#)



CRIME STATISTICS - December 2024

(Latest information available to the public online)

Category	Crimes Recorded
Anti-social behaviour	92
Bicycle Theft	7
Burglary (Including Commercial Burglary)	16
Criminal Damage & Arson	42
Drugs	5
Other theft	63
Possession of weapons	2
Public Order	65
Robbery	7
Shoplifting	86
Theft from the person	0
Vehicle Crime	8
Violent Crime	284
Other Crime	11

You can access and find out more about crime statistics for a specific area by clicking either of these two links:

[Your area | Avon and Somerset Police](#)

[Avon and Somerset Constabulary | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](#)

What I would like to reassure you all with regards to these statistics is that certain crime types are grouped together in one category. On our systems we can see far more detailed information, but for what we are allowed to share with the public, crime types are grouped together.

For example one of the categories above is '**Violent Crime**'. Domestic incidents fall within that category and Domestic incidents are one of the most common type of incidents we as the Police attend. If you would like to know the definition of what a Domestic relationship is, you can find it here:

[Domestic Abuse Act 2021 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

Hopefully this somewhat reassures you of why the number of crimes within that category are high.

DID YOU KNOW...?

Help us Promote Safer Roads: Submit Your JourneyCam Footage

Dangerous and careless driving puts lives at risk every day on our roads. To tackle this issue, Avon and Somerset Police encourage the public to play an active role in promoting road safety by submitting JourneyCam footage of potential traffic offences. Known nationally as Operation Snap, this initiative allows members of the public to report incidents they've captured on their dashcams, helmet cameras, or other recording devices. Whether it's dangerous overtaking, failure to wear a seatbelt, or a driver using their phone, the footage you share can make a real difference in holding offenders accountable and preventing future harm on our roads.

Submitting your footage is straightforward:

- Visit: Go to www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/roads.
- Answer questions: Complete a short series of questions to determine whether the footage is eligible.
- Follow instructions: Upload your footage and any required information as directed.

More information can be found here - [Help us Promote Safer Roads: Submit Your JourneyCam Footage | Avon and Somerset Police](#)

TAUNTON POLICE STATION

Opening Times

Monday: 08:30—16:30
 Tuesday: 08:30—16:30
 Wednesday: 08:30—16:30
 Thursday: 08:30—16:30
 Friday: 08:30—16:30
 Saturday: CLOSED
 Sunday: CLOSED



USEFUL LINKS

STREET SAFE

StreetSafe is an online tool that can be used by anyone to anonymously tell us about public places where they have felt or feel unsafe.

You might have felt unsafe in your local area due to anti-social behaviour or environmental factors, such as a lack of street lighting. We encourage you to share your experience using the StreetSafe tool.

The information you provide will be considered alongside evidence already gathered by police forces and will be used to inform policing and local authority safety activities within your community.

Link to Website to report:

[StreetSafe | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](#)

KEEP UP TO DATE



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

Facebook: [West Somerset and Taunton Neighbourhood Policing](#)

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

Contact the Neighbourhood Team directly:

SomWestNPTTaunton@avonandsomerset.police.uk

To report a crime anonymously, contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or visit

www.crimestoppers-uk.org

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