

Police Update – Minehead & Watchet LCN

Since the last meeting, local policing in Minehead and Watchet has welcomed 2 new members to the Neighbourhood Policing Team – PC Mike Dear and PCSO Harriet James. Mike is currently spending time working across all beat areas but will be based in Minehead from the summer and Harriet is based at Minehead, having carried out her tutorship period at Williton.

We have done some really robust work around youth anti-social behaviour – whilst some of our young people have been arrested, and managed via that process, we have used our Anti-Social Behaviour powers. Anti social behaviour intervention can be a timely process as we are heavily reliant on victims whether that be personally or a business to provide us with the evidence to be able to pursue successfully. We have used various ASB powers to tackle youth asb including - Sec 35 Dispersal – this comes from the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. It gives police officers and PCSOs the power to require a person to leave a specific area if their behaviour is, or is likely to be, causing harassment, alarm or distress to others, Acceptable Behaviour Contracts - Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABC) is a voluntary agreement made between a person causing anti-social behaviour, the police, and usually the local authority or housing provider. It sets out what behaviour must stop and what behaviour is expected going forward. It is not a criminal sanction and not legally enforceable, but it is a formal warning and effective early intervention tool. If an ABC is breached and we can evidence this, we move onto the next steps which include a Community Protection Warning - if this is breached the person is issued with a Community Protection Notice – this is legally enforceable and if breached is a criminal offence which can result in prosecution of fixed penalty notice. In some of the cases we have managed locally, where the youths are under the age of 16, we have gone through the ABC process but rather than a CPW/CPN we have had to use a Civil Injunction Warning and Civil Injunction - A Civil Injunction is a court-ordered restriction under the *Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014*. It can place legal conditions on a person's behaviour to prevent ongoing ASB. Breaching a civil injunction is serious and can result in – Arrest, Court action or Fines or custody (depending on age and breach). We have seen some positive results with these interventions, and whilst some have not been as successful, we are continuing to manage our most prolific offenders.

We are currently experiencing a spate of motorbike thefts, particularly in Minehead and Watchet – bikes are generally being hot wired and then dumped nearby, these thefts are usually occurring within the hours of darkness so we urge all bike owners keep their bikes secure, and if anything suspicious is seen this needs to be reported promptly.

We have also this week taken some reports this week of some counterfeit £20 notes in circulation in the local area – the serial number for these are AG57 985718 – please be vigilant.

We have done some focused work on Violence against women and girls - particularly under 18's. Female PCSO's have carried out 'Walk and Talk' events in partnerships with the local schools – groups of girls have been out on walks with PCSO's – this is a pre-planned walk of an area with girls, police, and partner agencies to identify places where people feel unsafe or vulnerable. The aim is to listen directly to their experiences and understand how the environment contributes to fear, risk, or harm. We can use the information to suggest improvements with partner agencies or

factor into our patrol plans. We can also offer reassurance and crime prevention advice. Due to the success of this we are going to do the same with boys of the same age group to see if views, fears or concerns differ.

We continue to support our more rural communities and yesterday held a free trailer marking event with the NFU at Cutcombe Market. We marked over 20 trailers. This received positive feedback and is something we hope to do again in the future. The Rural teams have been holding pop up police posts to allow members of more isolated communities access to their local policing team and crime prevention advice and guidance.

PC Stuart Creech along with PCSO Sammie has been delivering Fraud talks to various groups and is looking to expand these further into our communities, we find there is always new scams being created so the importance of raising awareness to these is crucial.

We continue to try and be as visible as possible in our local communities and advertise on our webpages any events we will be supporting or any beat surgeries we are holding. We continue to carry out foot patrols and will target areas where we know there is ongoing issues – this is where we again appeal for incidents to be reported to us in a timely manner – we plan our patrols and priorities on what is being reported to us and need to know what is affecting our communities so we need information and intelligence to be able to proactively police.

Any questions.....

