



Avon and Somerset Police
NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

Taunton

Policing Newsletter

APRIL 2026

NEWS FROM ACROSS TAUNTON

Hello and welcome to the Taunton Policing Newsletter for the month of April 2026. As always, the newsletters contain a snapshot of some of the work the Taunton Policing Teams have been involved with in the previous month.

Town Centre Business Meeting—Working Together for a Safer Taunton

Neighbourhood Sergeant Andy Gloyn and PCSO Supervisor Sam Bushen met with business owners and managers from across Taunton town centre on Thursday 12th March at Mr Miles Tearoom on the High Street. The session provided an update on the positive work and interventions currently underway to help ensure our businesses continue to look and feel safe.

During the meeting, Andy and Sam presented recent crime statistics relating to business crime and outlined the team's ongoing efforts to tackle these issues. They also highlighted some of the operational challenges that can affect how quickly police are able to respond, helping provide clarity and transparency around the policing process.

The discussion offered a valuable opportunity for local businesses to ask questions, share their experiences, and suggest ideas for what they feel would further improve safety and confidence in the town centre.

These meetings currently take place every four months, although there was interest in increasing the frequency based on business feedback.

Pictured is Sgt Andy Gloyn, Colin Barrell (owner of Mr Miles Tearoom) and PCSO Supervisor Sam Bushen



Beat Surgery Success for PCSO King!

PCSO Imran King, who covers the North Taunton beat, held his usual monthly Thursday morning engagement surgery at the Priorswood Community Centre. What he didn't realise was that the centre was temporarily being used as an audiology clinic for Musgrove Park Hospital — meaning it was much busier than usual. This turned out to be a great bonus. The increased footfall provided Imran with plenty of opportunities to speak with local

MEET THE TEAM



OFFICER

PCSO Sean Johnson

POLICING AREA

Taunton West

YEARS SERVICE

3 months

HOBBY

Motorbikes

FAVOURITE FOOD

Roast Beef Dinner

ABOUT ME

This month's 'Meet the Team' is PCSO Sean Johnson.

Hello, my name is Sean, and I'm pleased to introduce myself as a newly appointed PCSO with the Taunton Neighbourhood Policing Team.

I bring with me over 25 years of service in the Royal Air Force, where I developed strong professional standards, resilience, and a deep commitment to public service. After leaving the RAF, I continued working on the frontline by joining South Western Ambulance Service in Taunton as an Emergency Care Assistant, supporting patients during urgent and often highly challenging situations.

I later served as a police officer in Taunton, which gave me valuable experience working directly with local communities and a clear understanding of the issues that matter most to residents. Following my time in policing, I returned to the ambulance service, continuing my work in emergency care before taking on my new role as a Police Community Support Officer.

This varied background—spanning military service, emergency medical care, and policing—has shaped my approach to neighbourhood policing. I aim to be calm, community focused, and grounded in practical problem solving.

Outside of work, I'm a keen motorcyclist with a strong interest in road safety, and I look forward to supporting local initiatives that help promote safer roads across Taunton.

As a PCSO, my priority is to be a visible and approachable presence across the town—listening to concerns, building strong relationships, and working closely with residents, businesses, and partner agencies to help keep Taunton safe, confident, and well supported.

I look forward to meeting many of you in the community.

residents attending their appointments, answer questions, and offer reassurance. A perfect example of making the most of an unexpected opportunity!



Business closure

A three-month closure order has been secured against a shop on Bridge Street which has been selling non-compliant vapes, illegal tobacco and counterfeit goods.

Working with our licensing and our Anti-social behaviour teams, alongside Trading standards, we secured the court order by demonstrating its links to criminality and associated anti-social behaviour in the area.

Taunton Magistrates Court was satisfied Mr Taunton, on Bridge Street has been linked to criminality, nuisance and disorder and granted the order on Thursday 12th March 2026. Evidence to secure the closure order under Section 80 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act was gathered by the Police and it's partners.

The closure order is now in place for three months, which could be extended for a further three months, and anybody who attempts to enter the property will be committing a criminal offence.

Pictured is Police Officer Bella Fitzgerald who led on the investigation.

Taunton Police Station—Setting the Record Straight

We're aware that there is still a common belief within the community that Taunton no longer has a police station. We'd like to reassure you that this is not the case. While our custody cells were relocated in 2014 to three geographically based custody centres across the Avon and Somerset area, Taunton



Police Station remains fully operational. Officers are stationed there every day, continuing to serve and support the local community.

Taunton Police Station is located at Deane House, Belvedere Road, and members of the public are welcome to visit our Enquiry Office during its opening hours.

For full details of when the Enquiry Office is open, please refer to page 4 of this newsletter, in the top right-hand corner.

We hope this helps to clarify any confusion and reassures you of our ongoing presence in Taunton.

POLICE EARLY INTERVENTION TEAM

Early Warning Signs of Child Criminal Exploitation

Child Criminal Exploitation can affect any young person, regardless of background. Offenders often use grooming tactics; building trust, offering gifts or attention to gradually pull a child into situations that become risky or criminal. Many young people don't realise they are being exploited, which makes early awareness essential.

Recognising the Signs

While every child is different, certain changes may indicate they are being groomed or exploited. These can include unexplained items or gifts, going missing or staying out late, regularly missing school, or losing interest in activities they once enjoyed. For more information on signs of exploitation, please visit [Protecting children from child criminal exploitation | NSPCC Learning](#)

What You Can Do as a Parent or Carer

Parents can feel powerless when something doesn't feel right, but there are practical steps you can take that will make a difference.

Keep Communication Open

Start conversations gently and avoid blame or confrontation. Approaching a young person in this way helps them feel listened to and safe, which can make them more willing to open up. Keeping communication open also gives you the opportunity to support them and help them navigate the situation.

Strengthen Digital Safety

Grooming is increasingly happening online, making digital safety an important protective factor. You can support your child by:

- Enabling built in phone safety features, including location tracking (Find My iPhone, Google Family Link).
- Setting screen time limits and content filters using parental control settings.
- Using reputable monitoring tools that help identify concerning patterns such as messages from strangers, explicit content, or manipulative behaviour.
- Reviewing social media privacy settings to ensure they only communicate with people they know.

For more digital safety guidance, visit: [Use Parental Controls to Keep Your Child Safe | NSPCC](#)

Trust Your Instincts

If something doesn't feel right, trust your instincts. You know your child better than anyone. Try to keep communication open and keep a note of any signs that concern you. Over time, these small details can help safeguarding professionals build a clearer understanding of what may be happening. If you are worried, please reach out for help early. Early intervention can make a huge difference. You can contact:

- Police (non-emergency 101) or report online via [Report a crime or incident | Avon and Somerset Police](#).
- Children Social Care, information can be found here [Report a Concern - Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)
- Your child's school safeguarding lead and charities such as the NSPCC, who offer confidential advice and guidance.

FRAUD AWARENESS

⚠️ Cash Safety Reminder – Spotting Counterfeit Bank Notes ⚠️

Most people who encounter a counterfeit bank note do so without realising. Unlike the note above, it can be really hard to spot counterfeit notes. We have recently seen a rise in reports of the use of counterfeit notes. Knowing a few simple things to look for can help protect you from financial loss and worry.

Trust Your Senses

Genuine UK bank notes (now made of polymer) have a **distinct feel**:

- They feel **slick and flexible**, not waxy or overly smooth
- Raised print can be felt on areas like the main wording and the Queen/King's portrait. If a note feels unusual, it's worth taking a closer look.

Check Key Features

How to Spot a Fake Bank Note

- **Look at the clear window**—Real £20 notes have a clear plastic window with a picture of the King or Queen in it. The edges should be sharp and clear, not cloudy.
- **Tilt the note**—A shiny silver patch on the front should change words when you move the note, such as changing from “*Twenty*” to “*Pounds*”.
- **Feel the note**—Some parts of a real note feel slightly raised, especially the words “*Bank of England*” and the number.
- **Don't trust marker pens**—Fake note pens don't work properly on modern plastic notes and shouldn't be relied on.
- **Compare if unsure**—If something feels wrong, compare it with a note you know is real. Differences are easier to spot together.
- **Use safer payments if you can**—Bank transfers can be safer than cash. If you do take cash, check each note carefully before handing anything over.

Look for Consistency

If you're handed multiple notes:

- Compare them with each other
- Genuine notes should look and feel **the same**—A single note that looks different from the rest is worth checking.

If you're unsure about a note

If something doesn't feel right:

- **Don't spend it or accept it**
- Take it to **your bank**, who can check it safely and advise you
- Banks deal with this regularly and can help without judgement
- Be conscious when selling things via social media or taking cash payment for any item.



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 March

Over the month of March, **7** out of the **14** Community Speedwatch schemes in Taunton have been visibly active across the different communities. From the **21** sessions that took place, **6,565** vehicles have been monitored by our Speedwatch volunteers. From those, a total of **159** 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 - FEBRUARY 2026

(Latest information available to the public online)

Category	Crimes Recorded
Anti-social behaviour	89
Bicycle Theft	3
Burglary (Including Commercial Burglary)	27
Criminal Damage & Arson	49
Drugs	5
Other theft	40
Possession of weapons	3
Public Order	83
Robbery	8
Shoplifting	85
Theft from the person	0
Vehicle Crime	27
Violent Crime	324
Other Crime	20

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming events where you can speak with a member of the Taunton Neighbourhood Policing Team.

- Rural Crime Prevention — First Saturday of the Month 12pm-2pm Unicorn Saddlery in Hatch Beauchamp
- Trull Community Centre — Saturday 25th April 10am—11am.
- Beat Surgery and Bike Marking — Priorswood Community Centre — 30th April 10am—11am.

“To recognise always that the test of police efficiency is the absence of crime and disorder, and not the visible evidence of police action in dealing with them.”

TAUNTON POLICE STATION

The Deane House, Belvedere Road,
Taunton, TA1 1HE

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

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:

[SomersetWest-NPT@avonandsomerset.police.uk](#)

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

[www.crimestoppers-uk.org](#)

