



Your local area update.

Williton Police Station

NEWS IN YOUR AREA

February / 2024

Rural Thefts

Over January we had seen a rise in the number of rural thefts happening in the communities, that being tool thefts, high value bike thefts and trailer/machinery thefts.

Most of these being in the Minehead and Dulverton Area but also some in the Williton area.

We advise those with high value items like power tools to keep a record of the serial numbers, take photographs of the items, mark the items so they are unique and most importantly keep them in a secure area.

We understand that it is simple to break a padlock however if the area is well lit and secure it is less likely that it would be targeted by opportunists.

Neighbourhood Policing Week

For those who aren't following the new Neighbourhood Policing Facebook page you may not have been aware that between the 22nd and 26th of January it was the Neighbourhood Policing Week where we shone a light on what the Neighbourhood teams get up to, in that week the local PCSO for Williton Zach went to the local businesses in the area to hand out leaflets with business crime advice along with QR codes for CCTV guidance and online reporting to save businesses time to report the crimes.

Along with that the local officers also liaised with other agencies, assisting to search for a MISPER (Missing Person) and conducted DPVO (Domestic Violence Protection Order) checks.

Licensing checks were also conducted throughout the week and patrols of the towns and villages.

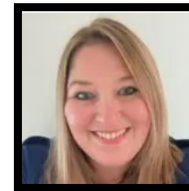
We understand the frustrations with being on the phone to report crimes can take time so for those who want to report crime that isn't an immediate emergency we advise reporting online.



Meet the team.



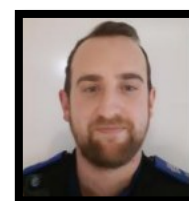
Neighbourhood
Sergeant
Hayden Smith
267



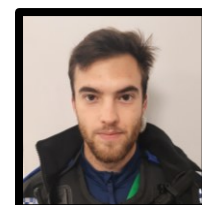
PCSO Supervisor
Katherine Williams
8460



Neighbourhood
Constable
Ben Hicks 2647



Neighbourhood
PCSO
Zack Howe 6551



Neighbourhood
PCSO
Zach Marlow 8076

LOCAL EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

Keep an eye out on our social media page for any events like bike marking or community events we attend!



West Somerset and Taunton Neighbourhood Policing

Page · Law enforcement agency

5.6K likes · 6.9K followers

Welcome to the West Somerset and Taunton Neighbourhood Policing Facebook page.

Not Monitored 24/7

Contact Us

Like

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Reporting crimes

There have been plenty of posts on Facebook of people reporting crimes and suspicious activity.

To report a crime please use the proper means, if it is an emergency, please call 999, if a non-emergency please call 101 or report online to

<https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report/>

What constitutes and Emergency?

- Think, does this need police attendance NOW?
- Is the offender on scene?
- Is there an immediate need to safeguard someone?
- Will evidence be lost immediately if police do not attend?
- Is there an inherent danger to the public?

If the answer to any of these questions is no, please use 101 or online reporting system.

Crime statistics for January 2024

Arson & criminal damage x 8
Public Order Offences x 17
Sexual Offences x 3
Theft x 3
Burglary x 1
Violence against the person x 23
Vehicle Offences x 2

LOCAL PRIORITIES

Keep up to date



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

Facebook: Minehead and West Somerset Neighbourhood Policing

www.avonandsomerset.police.uk

Community Speedwatch

If you would like to be a participant and volunteer for such a scheme, contact the local Beat Team and we will support you in setting this up. If you are interested in becoming involved, either contact your local Parish Council, or the Neighbourhood team, & we will forward your details.

Anti-Social Behaviour

There has been a focus on Anti-Social Behaviour in rural areas with reports of Illegal Poaching and Conflict around the Hunt Season.

We currently liaise with the rural affairs team and target the areas known.

For individuals who we establish are involved we offer words of advice, issue ASB warning letters or look at more serious consequences based on the severity of their actions.

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

Safely shopping online

Online shopping can save you time, effort and money. However, don't be caught out by convincing fake online shopping websites or fraudulent listings on buy and sell platforms. Avon and Somerset Police advise people to be extra cautious when considering purchasing items online.

- Don't be lured onto a fraudulent website by clicking on a link you have been sent in a text or email. You can report suspicious emails by forwarding them to report@phishing.gov.uk and suspicious text messages by forwarding them to 7726
- Ensure your email and online shopping accounts are protected with strong passwords and you don't use them anywhere else.
- Use the recommended payment method, or you may not be refunded for any losses to fraud. Pay securely and with payment protection (such as using a credit card).
- When paying either by online payment service or payment card, ensure that the link is secure, in two ways:
 1. There should be a padlock symbol in the browser window frame, which appears when you attempt to log in or register. Be sure that the padlock is not on the page itself ... this will probably indicate a fraudulent site.
 2. The web address should begin with 'https://'. The 's' stands for 'secure'.

The above indicate only that the link between you and the website owner is secure, and not that the site itself is authentic. You need to do this by carefully checking the address for subtle misspellings, additional words and characters and other irregularities.

- Check credit card and bank statements carefully after shopping to ensure that the correct amount has been debited, and also that no fraud has taken place as a result of the transaction.
- Avoid carrying out any financial transactions over unsecure connections, such as public wi-fi.
- Ensure you have effective and updated antivirus/antispyware software and firewall running before you go online.
- If you're unsure about a link to a website don't click on it. If the offer seems too good to be true, it probably is. Do your research on a website and go with your instincts.

When using auction sites:

- Remember that it's easy to set up a fake profile.
- Stay on the website when communicating with the seller.
- Do your research on the seller to make sure they are genuine.
- Decline any requests to pay by bank transfer or virtual currency.
- Sending a PayPal payment through Friends & Family will deny you any payment protection which PayPal may otherwise provide.



You also need to be wary as a seller. Criminals sometimes pose as buyers on auction sites, sending fake emails as proof of payment transfer to the genuine seller. The payment fails to materialise, but the goods have already been sent. There have also been cases where criminals have turned up to the victim's home to collect an item and presented a fake banking app, showing that the funds have been sent. Always check your account online or ask your bank to make sure cleared funds have been received before sending or handing over any item. Fraudsters may also suggest sending a courier company to collect the item from you, as they are unable to pay in person. They will offer much more than the item is listed for, on the condition that you pay insurance for the safe delivery of the item. They will send you a link to make this payment, but once you have entered your card details, they'll disappear.

If you are the victim of fraud, report it immediately to Action Fraud, the UK's national fraud reporting centre, by calling 0300 123 20 40 or by visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk and your bank.