



Neighbourhood Policing Newsletter

Priorities

Anti-social behaviour (ASB): ASB is currently one of our top priorities, incidents are becoming more common with the lighter evenings and people staying out later. The Southern Road recreational centre and its car park next to the 1st Thame Scout Hut has been a particular hotspot for ASB. This will likely increase as the schools near their summer closures. The team are aware of these issues and are actively visiting and engaging with any groups to advise on acceptable behaviour and consideration for other users of the play area and Scout Hut, taking action where needed.

We have also given advice to some callers to record any updates to crime they have already reported, thank you to those who have done so, your information is appreciated and vital for us to identify repeat offenders. Always call 999 if it's an emergency.

Tool thefts: In recent months we have seen an increase in tool thefts across South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse. These include thefts from work vans, thefts from building sites and thefts from sheds/outbuildings. Please ensure that tools are all kept secure and that they are identifiable with markings. Do not leave tools in a vehicle overnight. During the daytime keep your vehicle locked even if you leave it just for a few minutes as an opportunist thief could quickly remove tools from a vehicle.

An effective method of protecting your tools from being taken and sold on is to mark them. Thame Neighbourhood Policing Team will be holding a tool marking event at Thame Plumbing Supplies on Wednesday 26th June, 3-5pm, where we can mark your tools for free, so come along and talk to us about how to protect your tools and livelihood. No need to book a place, just turn up!

You said we did

Following the reports of anti-social vehicle use at the Southern Road recreational centre car park the Thame Neighbourhood Team have engaged with groups to consider control measures including Section 59 warning notices in respect of ASB connected to vehicles. Receiving this warning means that if the person or vehicle is used again in an anti-social manner it can be seized. In addition signs have now been erected at the car park to warn users. We will continue working with the local council to explore further options to further tackle anti-social behaviour in the area.

There has also been reports of vehicles parking on the grass verge of Kings Close and Moats Crescent, which may cause damage as well as being parked next to double yellow lines. The no waiting restriction marked by double yellow lines also covers appropriate adjacent pavement and verges therefore we would like to remind drivers that it is still against the law to park on such pavement and verge locations. In addition consideration may also be given to the offence of obstruction. The team have been patrolling these areas and will continue to respond to community concerns subject to other operational demand.

There have been reports of anti-social behaviour in Wheatley near Wheatley Park School. We have liaised with South Oxfordshire District Council's community safety officer to erect signs warning against future ASB and patrols will continue.

Offenders brought to justice

Recently during rural crime patrols, neighbourhood officers came across two men in possession of controlled drugs. Both have now been dealt with fully by investigating officers.

Crime prevention advice

Vehicle thefts: There has been a recent increase of vehicle thefts in the Wheatley area. Such thefts can occur during the hours of darkness and would-be thieves often use various methods to gain access to and remove a vehicle. "Keyless" technology is becoming more widespread, and thieves can utilise such a feature to steal vehicles by capturing the key transmitter signal. This is most often done by using relaying and transmitting equipment to pick up the car key's signal, send the signal to the transmitter to open the vehicle, then using the transmitter to start the car and quickly drive off.

Here are some pointers to stop your vehicle being stolen:

- Make sure your vehicle is properly locked, and keep your keys away from doors and windows.
- Put your key in a metal tin or a container with signal-blocking material so its signal cannot be read.
- Invest in immobilising tools such as steering locks, pedal locks and wheel clamps so the vehicle will be difficult to move.
- If possible, keep vehicles in garages or otherwise out of sight. Otherwise invest in a parking post near your vehicle so it cannot be moved from its position on the drive.
- Invest in CCTV and security lighting, and focus them where you park your vehicles.
- Mark your vehicles with Datatag – its range of unique identifiers will prevent thieves from cutting parts and cloning cars to sell to unsuspecting buyers. You should also invest in a tracking device to increase the chances of your car being found should it get stolen.

If you see anyone acting suspiciously around your or other vehicles, please report it.

Burglaries: Being burgled is a traumatic experience. It's not just the financial cost of replacing stolen items, but also the emotional impact of feeling violated after a burglar has been in your home. You can reduce the risk of becoming a victim by looking at your home security through the eyes of a burglar. Think about how you would break in if you locked yourself out. You may be surprised at how easy it would be.

Because the weather's getting warmer, people are spending more time outdoors, which can leave their homes and belongings vulnerable to burglaries. All it takes is an open window or tools laying around for you to be at risk. Here is some guidance to help protect your home:

- Keep gardening tools and ladders locked away – they can be used to pry open doors and climb through windows. If you use a shed or garage to store tools or anything valuable, make sure they are securely locked.
- Cut your shrubs and hedges to aid visibility of your home from the street.
- Restrict access to your back garden; are your gates and fences in good condition and maintained?
- Invest in a burglar alarm and CCTV – "Ring" doorbell cameras have proven to be useful.

- If you're going away on holiday, ask a neighbour if they can keep an eye on your home. Don't advertise your holiday plans on social media - keep your security settings high!

By working together we can build community resilience to deter burglars from targeting homes within the area. To get started, simply download your FREE Home Security Guide from the Thames Valley Police website here:

<https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/police-forces/thames-valley-police/areas/advice/home-security-guide/>

You can also sign up to Thames Valley Alert, our local messaging system that informs users of incidents in and around their area. You can sign up for messages at <https://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk/>, or download our free app via the Apple or Google Play store.

What the neighbourhood team have been doing

As well as our regular Have Your Say meetings, PCSOs Maya Brien and Tom Kelly have visited Thame market to engage with market-goers and give out free purse bells, "we do not buy at this door" stickers and home security guides to keep them and their property safe. We met and talked with a lot of shoppers, with almost everyone taking a purse bell or two! We will endeavour to attend more market days.

Future events/meetings/active communities

Day of Action - Chalgrove:

The Thame team will be holding a day of action at Chalgrove on Saturday 22nd June, led by PCSO Jordan Ede. We will be going through the town with crime prevention packs in hand, and will be available to talk to you about any issues and concerns you may have.

Have Your Say meetings:

- Thame Waitrose: 11am-12pm, Wednesday 21st June
- Watlington Town Hall: 1:30-2:30pm, Sunday 23rd June
- Chinnor Parish Council Office: 3pm-4pm, Sunday 23rd June
- Wheatley Merry Bells: 11am-12pm, Wednesday 12th June and 11am-12pm, Wednesday 10th July

Tool marking event:

Wednesday 26th June, 3-5pm @ Thame Plumbing Supplies, 4B Station Yard, Thame OX9 3UH

There is no need to book, just turn up. Everything is free on the day. A further event for July is in the works.

Staff news

PCSO Diane Jackson has now finished her service with Thames Valley Police after 15 years, and has moved onto pastures new. PCSO Jackson has been an incredible and influential member of the neighbourhood team; having trained the majority of us and being a good friend! Diane will be missed by all and we wish her the very best in her new job. Thankyou Di !

PCSO Maya Brien has now become PC Brien and will also be leaving Thame to join Abingdon's response team. Maya has been a hard working local PCSO, we know she will be a valued addition to Abingdon, and we wish her well for her new role!

Please get in touch/follow us using the following:

E-mail: ThameNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Twitter: @tvpsouthandvale

Facebook: www.facebook.com/tvpsouthandvale

Phone: 101

Always phone 999 in an emergency