Avon and Somerset Police
NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

Taunton West

NEWS IN YOUR AREA July 2023

NEWS FROM ACROSS TAUNTON

Closure

The European Shop in North Street, Taunton, has been closed down after an investigation found counterfeit and illegal vapes and tobacco were being sold.

Police and Trading Standards officers seized thousands of illegal packs of cigarette and tobacco and non-compliant vapes from a lean-to on the roof (pictured) with a hatch directly into the shop.



Taunton magistrates granted a three-month closure order after hearing evidence including the impact of anti-social behaviour linked to the shop and the sale of vapes to children.

Anti-social behaviour week

This past month included the national ASB awareness week, where officers both locally and nationally have been involved in numerous events and operations designed to target and reduce anti-social behaviour.

Here are some of the things that the Taunton neighbourhood policing team have been up to throughout the week.

- Officers were out delivering ASB and Crime prevention packages to various community centres and high-profile areas.
- Responded to 21 reports of ASB between the 3rd and 9th July across the Taunton area.
- Delivered education on the consequence of Crime and ASB to schools in the area, as well as inputs on the legalities around E-Scooters.





Meet the Team

Hi! We are PCSOs Marshall Bernhardt and Lyndsay Smith we cover Taunton West.

Community is at the heart of our policing, and we want to know about any issues and problems to make sure everyone feels safe. We are often out and about in the community so please do come and have chat when you see us.

Keep up to date

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

Facebook: Taunton Neighbourhood Policing

Twitter: @ASPWestSom

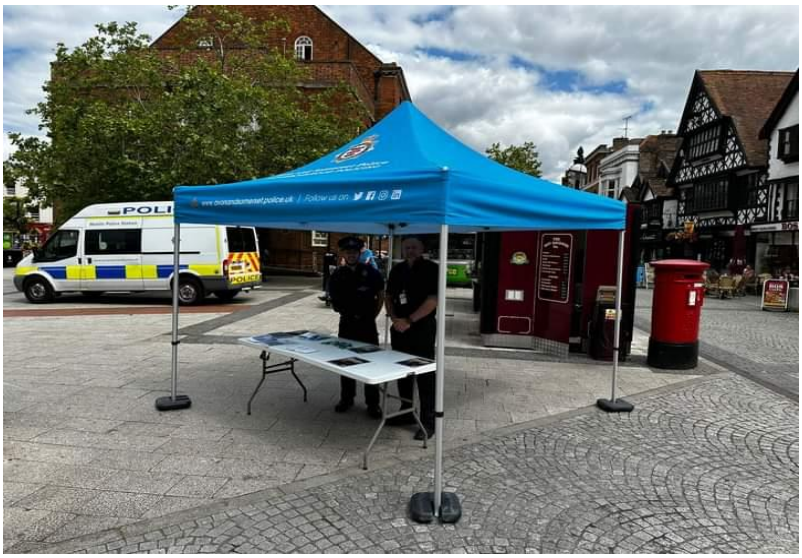
www.avonandsomerset.police.uk

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



Aside from our work above, these stats highlight the efforts of both our Neighbourhood and ASB Teams to reduce the impact of ASB in your communities.

Since the 1st January 2023, we have;

- 4 Premises Closure orders
- 6 Civil Injunction
- 1 Criminal behaviour order
- 3 Community Protection Notices
- 7 Community Protections Warnings
- 11 Acceptable Behaviour Contracts
- And a whopping 241 ASB letters delivered.

CRIME STATISTICS

You can access and find out more about crime statistics near you by following this link: Your area | Police.uk (www.police.uk)

Did you know…?

That there is a tool to help you report feeling unsafe in public spaces.

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 behavioural factors such anti-social behaviour or vandalism or even environmental factors, such as a lack of street lighting or abandoned buildings.

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

You can locate a link to the StreetSafe tool on our website at: www.avonandsomerset.police.uk.

Neighbourhood Surgeries & Events

The Skittles Coffee Shop, Norton Fitzwarren on **Wednesday 12th September 2023 11:00 -12:00**

The Hive Café, Trull on **Thursday 13th August 2023 10:00 -11:00**

Further dates to be announced as they are arranged.

Please note that while our officers will always endeavour to attend events and neighbourhood surgeries, this current period of high demand may mean that due to operational requirements, officers are unable to attend on short notice.

LOCAL PRIORITIES

Anti-Social Behaviour

High visibility Patrols across Taunton West.

Unfortunately, in recent weeks there has been a spike youth related anti-social behaviour with incidents in Norton Fitzwarren around Great Western Way and Longrun Meadow in Bishops Hull.

In response the neighbourhood team will be out patrolling across the beat, particularly around our parks and open spaces, to deter and disrupt this behaviour.

We ask that parents be mindful of where their children are going, what they are getting up to and who they are associating with.

Catalytic Converters

Recently there has been a spike in the theft of Catalytic Converters from vehicles across Taunton.

Although investigations into these thefts are ongoing, we are advising drivers to be weary and take simple and sensible precautions to ensure the safety of their vehicles, such as:

Parking your vehicle in a locked garage where possible, but if this isn't an option to park it in a well-lit and populated area.

Avoid parking your vehicle half on the pavement and half on the road, as this may make it easier for thieves to access the catalytic converter.

Tool thefts

Sadly, we have recently received several reports from across the greater Taunton area, regarding the theft of tools from vans.

The local neighbourhood team are currently investigating these thefts alongside other units. And we are advising those who own and or use works vehicles, to be weary and take appropriate precautions such as removing equipment and tools overnight, or parking vehicles in secure location such as garages.

If you would like support or any advice regarding these issues, please feel to contact the beat team via the get in touch section above.