Avon and Somerset Police
NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

Taunton West

NEWS IN YOUR AREA February 2024

NEWS FROM ACROSS TAUNTON

Operation Trader

Recently a multi-agency road safety operation in Taunton at the Hankridge Farm retail park, resulted in 19 commercial and light goods vehicles being taken off the road due to dangerous defects.

26 traffic offences were also identified and dealt with by police, including two arrests for drug driving in a single day.



Other offences and issues that were identified included:

- One vehicle seized for having no insurance.
- One driver reported for not wearing a seatbelt.
- Six vehicles with defective lights.
- Two tyre defects.
- Eight insecure loads.
- Two overweight vehicles.

Operation Trader is a partnership between the Avon & Somerset Roads Policing Unit along with local authority licencing teams, Trading Standards, The Environment Agency and the DVSA, involving regular days of action where commercial and light goods vehicles are stopped to ensure they are safe and fit for purpose.

Road Safety and Mounted Officers engaged with the public in and around the Heron Gate area to provide education on recent changes to the Highway Code. Meanwhile, a speed enforcement operation was also held on the nearby A358 that resulted in 155 vehicles being reported for speeding offences.







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

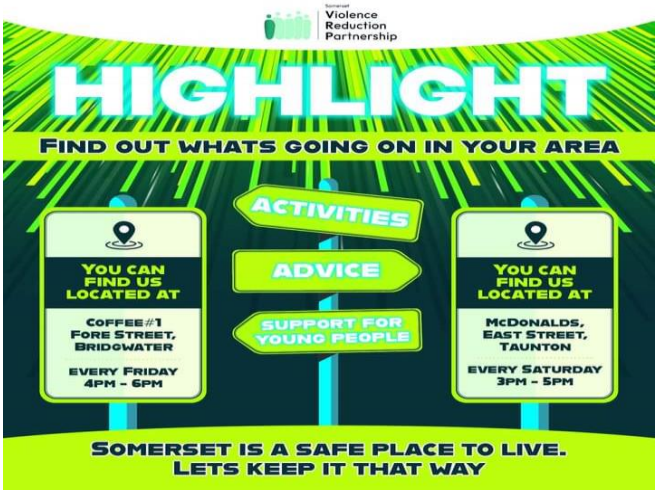
For non-emergency matters call us on 101 or report online via www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report

To report a crime anonymously, contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or visit. www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Violence Reduction

Somerset Violence Reduction Partnership have launched Youth Hubs is Bridgwater and Taunton as part of an initiative to address the concerns raised by young people in their recent survey relating to anti-social behaviour and violence.

“Young people told us that they don’t always feel safe in these areas and that when they have concerns, they are not sure where to turn for help and advice. They also told us that along with further education on these subjects, they feel access to supervised spaces and youth services would help reduce concerns”.



These hubs will be run by Young Somerset and will give young people another way to access youth services and to be signposted to many existing support and activities that they may not yet be aware of or how to access them.

The Taunton Hub will be 3-5pm on Saturdays in McDonalds, East Street.

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…?

The Fatal Five

In 2023, 62 people were killed in collisions on the roads of Avon & Somerset. Nationally, in average, five people die every day on the road and 82 are seriously injured.

Every fatal and serious injury collision has a devastating impact. The majority of these collisions are preventable, and can be attributed to one or more of the ‘fatal five’ factors:

- Drink and Drug driving
- Excess Speed
- Use of a mobile phone at the wheel
- Failure to wear a seatbelt.
- Careless driving

Road users who commit one of the Fatal Five offences are far more likely to be involved in a fatal collision than those who do not.

Neighbourhood Surgeries & Events

Due to high operational demands the neighbourhood team are temporarily halting our Neighbourhood Surgeries.

Further dates for Surgeries and Events will be announced as they are arranged.

Please note that while our officers will always endeavour to attend events and neighbourhood surgeries, operational demands may mean that officers are unable to attend on short notice.

LOCAL PRIORITIES

Vehicle Damages

Unfortunately, there has been a recent spate of vehicles being damaged in the Galmington area of Taunton.

Investigations are currently ongoing, however at this time those responsible have not yet been identified.

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.

Local policing teams are increasing patrols in the area, to disrupt and deter further incidents.

Shop Thefts

Recently there has been a spike in shop thefts across the area, including Norton Fitzwarren and Galmington.

The Neighbourhood Team are currently investigating these thefts alongside other units across Taunton.

Local officers will also be conducting high visibility patrols to prevent further thefts and also engaging with local businesses and advising on security and crime prevention techniques.

Anti-Social Driving

We have recently received several reports in relation to vehicles being driven in an anti-social manner.

Unfortunately, we have received a number of reports of vehicles being driven dangerously and inappropriately that has been keeping the public awake most nights at various locations across the Taunton area.

In response the Neighbourhood Team along with our colleagues from Response and our Roads Policing Unit will be conducting proactive patrols across the area, to deter further incident, as well as take positive action with any offences we encounter.

We ask that if you witness such behaviour, please capture this via video and report it to police via 101 or online where possible to assist us in trying to keep the roads safe.

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.