



South Northants Neighbourhood Teams

Annual Report March 2022

The last 12 months have continued to present challenges to police and public alike, with COVID-19 having a huge impact on our lives and how we interact with each other. Thankfully the lockdowns and restrictions seem to be behind us, hopefully for good.

There have been many positives in the past year, and we have seen an increase in the number of officers on the Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPT). We now have a team of 11 based at Towcester Police Station, consisting of 5 Police Constables, 5 Police Community Support Officers, and 1 Police Sergeant. There is a team of 7 based at Brackley Police Station, consisting of 4 Police Constables, 2 Police Community Support Officers, and 1 Police Sergeant. This uplift in officer numbers means more time spent out and visible in the community, providing reassurance and having a greater ability to address the issues and concerns of the communities we serve.

The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (Stephen MOLD) funded two Beat Buses which were successfully launched in late 2021. There is one for each side of the county, and South Northants shares ours with Northampton and Daventry. These specially converted vans are designed to enable us to provide a visible and accessible point of contact for the many villages within South Northants. Whenever possible we will endeavour to have the Beat Bus out at least once a week, and we publish our location ahead of time using social media – this is still a work in progress, and we hope to be publishing this on the Force website consistently. We have also publicised the names and contact details of your local officers, and these are on prominent locations such as parish noticeboards and in village shops and have been circulated to Parish Councils and Neighbourhood Watch.

Over the last year Policing priority surveys have consistently highlighted that road safety; acquisitive crime and drugs use/supply are the most significant areas of concern for most people. As such these are the issues that you can expect the South Northants Neighbourhood Teams (NPTs) to be working on as a priority. There are a number of problem-solving techniques that we utilise to address these issues, including making early interventions in partnership with other agencies such as schools, housing associations and the local authority (the new unitary West Northamptonshire council). A key role that we undertake is safeguarding of vulnerable people in the community, as well as dealing with anti-social behaviour. We also work with our neighbouring forces; Thames Valley and Warwickshire Police; to share information and undertake days of action to detect, disrupt and deter criminality.

With the national lockdowns having ended, and people returning to work, we expected to see a rise in acquisitive crime (theft, burglaries etc.) – we have thankfully not seen a significant rise. Our road network makes South Northants vulnerable to criminals that travel into our area from elsewhere. Whilst some of these will be opportunistic, there have been cases where these criminals have made reconnaissance visits to locations that they later target. Crime levels are consistently low in South Northamptonshire, and it remains one of the safest areas to live in the country. We work hard to

keep it this way, but the police are not able to do this alone – we can only ever be part of the solution. If you notice something that seems unusual, it is far better to tell us and it turns out to be nothing, than to keep it to yourself and we miss an opportunity to disrupt criminals. We need you to tell us what is happening, which is why we want to build strong relationships with the Parish Liaison Representatives for each village.

Neighbourhood Officers will, where they can, monitor local social media sites and often note comments regarding a lack of Police in an area or that a crime or anti-social behaviour would have been prevented if there were more Police about. We have also noted comments such as ‘there’s no Police so why bother reporting it’. All communities have a Neighbourhood Policing Team. Some teams are bigger than others due to area crime trends and demographics but all are available to tackle issues identified as an area of concern by the community. Many issues go unreported and as such Police are not aware. You have an opportunity to shape Policing activity by reporting the issues that affect you; including those daily ongoing situations that are considered as anti-social behaviour. If you are not telling Police that there is a problem in your part of the community then our resources are likely to be focused elsewhere where an issue has been identified and reported.

Your Neighbourhood Teams are based within the Community at Brackley and Towcester Police Stations and are often the first port of call for an emergency as the closest Police resource. This will always take priority especially where there is a risk to life. The teams also have a wealth of other responsibilities in respect of safeguarding vulnerable people, working with educational establishments, crime investigation and intelligence gathering. The team are dedicated problem solvers and will seek to address long-term issues which range from low level neighbour disputes, persistent anti-social behaviour to larger volume crimes.

Crime and anti-social behaviour will always happen due to constantly changing social and economic factors but we can be better prepared to fight it as a cohesive community. Effective community cohesion may be achieved via; public consultation (Independent Advisory Groups, Policing Priority surveys etc.), the identification of capable guardians and community champions (Emergency Services, Neighbourhood Watch, Street Watch, clubs and organisations) and partnership working with a problem solving approach. You can join and/or support the people that work within your community and help us make the area less attractive to criminals.

We use social media (Twitter: **@SthNorthantsNPT** and Facebook: ‘**Daventry and South Northants Neighbourhood Policing Team**’) and Neighbourhood Alert in order to inform you about crime and incidents relevant to your area and some of the work that the team undertake. There are a lot of aspects of our work that we cannot report back on due to the vulnerabilities of the persons involved, and their right to privacy but this does not mean that we are not doing anything.

We currently have two volunteers that work with the Neighbourhood Teams and the Rural Crime Team. These volunteers undertake visits to farms and other isolated premises within the area with a view to offering crime prevention advice and a means to improve communication regarding criminal behaviour. The Rural Crime Team work on a wide range of issues ranging from interference with badger setts to thefts of caravans and trailers. You can follow the work of our Rural Crime Team via Twitter: **@hutch472** & **@NorPolRural**

Neighbourhood Alert is an email messaging system that all Schools, Parish Councils, Neighbourhood Watch and community members can sign up to. In registering your email address you will receive up-to-date information regarding crimes, policing activity and crime prevention advice. You can sign up to the Neighbourhood Alert Messaging System at: www.northamptonshireneighbourhoodalert.co.uk

Towcester and Brackley currently have Street Watch schemes. Street Watch is the equivalent of a mobile Neighbourhood Watch. It can cover the entire Community and members help tackle issues

such as; vandalism, anti-social behaviour, drug abuse and dog fouling. If you have a spare couple of hours per month and are interested in helping your community and joining your local Street Watch scheme please contact a member of the Neighbourhood Policing team.

If you wish to have up-to-date crime statistics for your area then we recommend that you visit: <https://www.police.uk/>

Should you wish to discuss a particular issue that is of concern to you or meet a member of your Neighbourhood Policing Team then please contact either team via: NT-SouthNorthantsBrackley@pnn.police.uk or NT-SouthNorthantsTowcester@pnn.police.uk

PLEASE DO NOT REPORT CRIMES VIA THESE EMAIL ADDRESSES

Reporting an issue or crime to the Police can be made in a number of ways. This includes ringing 101 or online. Northants Police's new website offers a reporting system for

- A road traffic incident
- Missing person – no immediate harm
- Terrorist activity
- Fingerprints appointments – this could be asked for when travelling abroad
- Hate Crime/ Incident

So that your report can be managed as quickly as possible, it's important to consider the following information and have it ready to provide:

- the date and time the crime happened
- the location, such as address or road name along with the town or village
- a description of any people involved
- the details of any witnesses or suspects
- if you think there's any other evidence such as forensic evidence or mobile phone footage
- if there is clear CCTV footage of the offence being committed

The above reporting tool can be reached via:

<https://www.northants.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>

USEFUL LINKS

Northamptonshire Police Website: <http://www.northants.police.uk/>

Check if a vehicle is taxed or untaxed and report if necessary: <https://www.gov.uk/check-vehicle-tax>

Useful link for all matters related to driving: <http://think.direct.gov.uk/>

This link will provide you with useful information to help protect yourself from scams:

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/scams/check-if-something-might-be-a-scam/>

Trading Standards – Advice and help for consumers: [West Northants Trading Standards](#)

Contact Crime Stoppers anonymously about crime:

<https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>

Fearless - a site where young people can access non-judgmental information and advice about crime:
<https://www.fearless.org/>

Northamptonshire Neighbourhood Watch:
www.ourwatch.org.uk

Report to South Northants Council - Fly tipping, dog fouling, Litter, noise pollution and other issues:
[West Northants Council](#)

Advice on boundary disputes with neighbours:
<https://www.ricsfirms.com/residential/legal-issues/boundaries/rics-consumer-guide-boundary-disputes/>

Street Doctor – reporting Highways issues:
<http://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/northamptonshire-highways/roads-and-streets/Pages/report-highway-problem.aspx>

Thank you from South Northants Neighbourhood Policing Teams