



## South Northants Neighbourhood Teams

### Annual Report March 2021

The last 12 months has presented some interesting challenges for Police and public alike. COVID19 has reshaped the structure of our lives and how we interact as a community. Community heroes have emerged bringing light to some dark times for many vulnerable persons. Restrictions have been ever changing and this has caused confusion and misinterpretation on occasion. Police now receive a vast number of reports of persons or businesses acting in apparent breach of regulations. Each of these reports has to be assessed and often officers are deployed to make checks. On occasion these reports are found to be incorrect but made with good intention. Others have been malicious however there have been a number of situations within South Northants where breaches have been identified and fixed penalty notices issued.

As more people are remaining at home and exercising locally there have been many more chances to interact with local officers. There have been no additional officers brought into the South Northants area due to COVID however people are seeing more of us due to the circumstances of the lockdowns. Northants Police has committed to increasing the establishment of Neighbourhood Policing Teams and as such there will be additional Police Constables posted to South Northants over the coming months in order to continue the problem solving work that the team currently undertakes. These officers will each take ownership for smaller defined areas which will increase their visibility and accountability to the larger public. The teams based at Brackley and Towcester will continue to provide sector-wide coverage in support of each other however communities will benefit from having specific named officers as their points of contact.

Over the last year Policing Priority surveys have continued to highlight that theft from vehicles 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. Another topic that features frequently is 'Police visibility', especially within rural Communities. The increase in establishment of Neighbourhood Officers will seek to address this concern and allow officers to work more closely with key partners and agencies in tackling anti-social behaviour and crime. There also continues to be interest in parishes sponsoring their own Police Community Support Officer (PCSO).

A sponsored PCSO is paid for by the parish and their sole responsibility is for that parish area. This means that the officer will focus their daily activities on issues and concerns as identified by that Community that are suitable for Police intervention. The officer works as part of the larger Neighbourhood Team and as such can rely on their team colleagues to also be involved in solving more significant issues that may arise within the area. If you would like more information regarding sponsoring a PCSO please contact the team. We already have a number of sponsored PCSO posts around the county that can provide examples of the effectiveness of the scheme.

Repeated national lockdown has created differing levels of demand for Policing within the county. Behaviour trends have changed and opportunities for acquisitive criminal activity have reduced by virtue of people working from home or being subject to restrictions on movements. There have been increased reports of anti-social behaviour in locations previously identified as vulnerable and also in some new locations as young people seek to let off steam. Your local Neighbourhood Team gather information from active reporting of these situations and adapt their patrol plan to cover these locations. As you might imagine the summer months and an easing of restrictions brought a significant number of issues sometimes leading to community tensions played out over local social media. Higher priority locations were subject to a partnership working approach and this will continue in anticipation of spring and summer 2021. Towcester town now has some CCTV cameras managed by Northampton Borough Council and accessible by Police. These have already paid dividends in identifying persons involved in criminal and anti-social behaviour who are now subject to legal interventions.

Team members will monitor local social media sites where they can 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 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.

As a team 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. Unfortunately there are a lot of aspects of our work that we cannot report back on due to the vulnerabilities of the persons involved. You are also able to 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](http://www.northamptonshireneighbourhoodalert.co.uk)

Towcester, Brackley and Deanshanger 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](mailto:NT-SouthNorthantsBrackley@pnn.police.uk) or [NT-SouthNorthantsTowcester@pnn.police.uk](mailto: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 also 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/>

Please use this link to support your children's safety: <http://talesoftheroad.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: [Contacting Northamptonshire 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/>

Report to South Northants Council - Fly tipping, dog fouling, Litter, noise pollution and other issues:

[www.southnorthants.gov.uk](http://www.southnorthants.gov.uk)

Advice on boundary disputes with neighbours:

<http://www.rics.org/uk/knowledge/consumer-guides/boundary-disputes-guide/>

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**