



Avon and Somerset Police
NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

Taunton

Policing Newsletter

June 2025

NEWS FROM ACROSS TAUNTON

Hello and welcome to the Taunton Policing Newsletter for the month of June 2025. As always, the newsletters contain a snapshot of some of the work the Taunton Policing Teams have been involved with in the previous month.

80th Anniversary for VE Day

Thursday 8th May 2025, the Neighbourhood team assisted with the various memorial events for the 80th Anniversary of VE Day. The first event consisted of the Flag raising ceremony at County Hall. Somerset Commander Superintendent Lisa Simpson who is the head of Neighbourhood Policing for the whole of Somerset, along with other dignitaries from other services and the military, paid there respects on the 80th Anniversary of the surrender of the German military operations.



There was another memorial event in Vivary Park later in the evening, followed by a celebration and remembrance event at Maidenbrook Park. The team as always were honoured to be involved in the various events.



MEET THE TEAM



OFFICER

PC Jim Breakwell

POLICING AREA

Taunton

YEARS SERVICE

20 years

HOBBY

Rum tasting

FAVOURITE FOOD

Homemade Pizza

ABOUT ME

This month's 'Meet the Team' is PC Jim Breakwell.

Hi everyone...I'm Jim and I've been with Avon and Somerset since March 2005. As I think about 20 years of service my overriding feeling is "time flies when you're having fun"...Fun wouldn't be a word normally associated with policing. We deal with people who are in crisis or who are victims of crime, but I've worked on some great teams and feel that in those 20 years I've made a big, if unseen, difference to our local communities.

I started my career as a patrol officer in Chard where I worked for 5 fabulous years. Working single crewed with you're colleagues spread far and wide across South Somerset certainly drives and formulates your policing style and its in those formative years that I really learned a lot about myself and also what drives people towards criminality.

I joined the Taunton Neighbourhood Team in October 2012 just in time for the local carnival season and here I am 13 years later.

During my time with the NPT we've done some ground breaking work that has led to great results. A few that stand out to me are the first use of the then new Anti Social Behaviour powers to close the Legal High shop "Hush" that was situated on Bridge Street. This was months of work where we collated lots of evidence and took many statements detailing the levels of ASB in the area. I also took a lead on dealing with "cuckooing" which is where out of town drug dealers took over vulnerable peoples houses to supply drugs. Our approach to this took patience and perseverance, but I'm very happy to say was hugely successful and we were able to almost eradicate this style of drug supply from the area.

Recently I have been involved in mentoring some of the new NPT cops locally, and I'm happy to say we are in very safe hands.

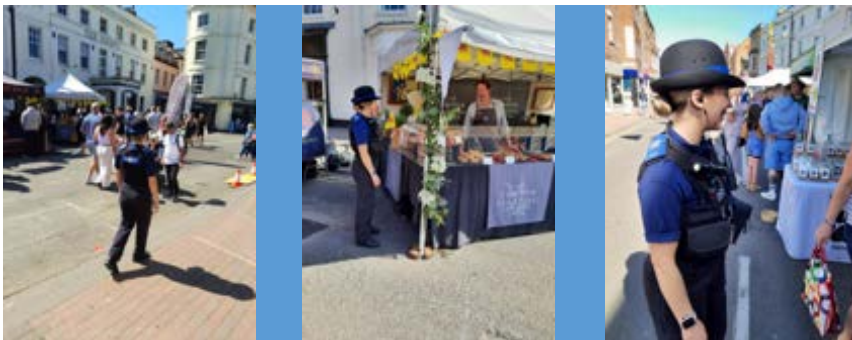
The power of pedals and electricity

One of the most common type of reports that we as the Police receive are missing people and concern for welfare. These reports can be for various reasons but based on the circumstances, can ultimately dictate our response in terms of how many resources we can assign to the report. This report in particular required a lot of resources due to the immediacy of what had been reported to us. Sgt Jon Eamer of the Neighbourhood Policing Team, decided to go out on one of our Electric bicycles to travel the many footpaths and scenic walks across our town. As you can see from the map below, Sgt Eamer covered a huge area in a short space of time, and thankfully located the missing person safe and well on one of the scenic paths. These electric bicycles are a great tool for us to be able to get around the town with ease, especially helpful when we are still wearing our body armour and carrying our other protective kit.



Taunton Eat Festival

Saturday 10th May, Taunton saw the return of the very popular Eat Festival. With lots of independent eateries attending, it was great to see East Street and Hammet Street, absolutely jam packed (pun intended) with members of the public. Our role was to provide a high visibility presence for the reassurance of the public and to deal with any anti-social behaviour...which thankfully there was none of! More sunny days like this please!



Cops to the Rescue!

On Saturday 17th May, a couple from the Bedfordshire area were at the Somerset County Ground watching the cricket with their dog. Unfortunately during the cricket match, their dog suffered a seizure. The couple, not really knowing the local area initially ran their dog over to the local vets who were closed. PC's Georgina Cunningham and Chris Lee were on patrol where they were flagged down by the couple, obviously at this point in a lot of distress. Both Georgina and Chris swiftly conveyed the couple and their dog to the nearest emergency vets where the dog was successfully treated and is recovering well. Well done to PC Georgina Cunningham and PC Chris Lee.

POLICE EARLY INTERVENTION TEAM

Monday 19th May to Sunday 25th May 2025 was Knife Crime Awareness week which focused on raising awareness of knife crime.



Somerset is a safe place to live and knife crime offences are relatively low, making up less than 5% of recorded serious violent crimes. When incidents occur, they are most likely to involve adults and can occur in the home as well as in the community.

Although 99% of young people do not carry knives, 7 out of 10 young people who end up in Accident and Emergency departments with a knife injury have been stabbed with their own knife. Although levels here are low, they can have devastating consequences for individuals and their families and an impact on the wider community.

The Early Intervention Team worked with the Somerset Violence Reduction Partnership [Home | Avon & Somerset Violence Reduction Partnership](#), [Safer Somerset Partnership](#), Somerset Foundation NHS Trust, Stand Against Violence and other organisations to put on a week of activities and in schools, colleges and the community.



If you are worried about your child's safety, there is advice on the Somerset Gov website [Town centre safety and young people](#) and at [Avon and Somerset Police](#) where you can also report concerns. Children and Young People can also access support via our Highlight Youth Hubs.



FRAUD AWARENESS

This section on the newsletter will include information on scams that we as the Police are currently aware of and how to hopefully avoid falling victim to these types of crimes.

Beware of phishing texts and emails

This month, Fraud Protect Officers from Avon and Somerset Police want to make people aware of phishing texts and emails. Fraudsters can pretend to be anyone over text or email and they are often influenced by current affairs, such as Covid and the cost of living crisis. Here are some text message examples below where we have removed the links, but these could also come through via email.

Amazon: We detected a login into your account from a new device on 27/09/2022 at 15:10:08 UTC.

If this wasn't you, you can terminate that session via:

Royal Mail: Your package is waiting for delivery. Please confirm the settlement of £1.99 on the following link:

Please note: the DWP winter allowance for 2024 cannot be paid to you, we have not received your claim information, the claim channel will be closed on December 12, 2024, please fill in your information as soon as you receive the information, if you fail to directly fill in, we will consider you have abandoned the claim for this subsidy.

When the victim follows the link, they will be asked for personal details such as bank/card information and passwords. However, just clicking on the link alone can result in malicious spyware or viruses being downloaded onto the victim's device.

Unfortunately, there is often a secondary part to these phishing texts, which is particularly sophisticated. It is known as "transfer into a safe account" fraud. The victim, maybe even a few days later, might be contacted by a fraudster, purporting to be from their bank. The fraudster will know who they bank with, along with other personal details, from the information harvested from the phishing text. They will claim that there has been fraud on their account and their funds are at risk, often referring to the phishing text. The victim, remembering the recent phishing text, is often convinced by the fraudster, feeling panicked by the thought of their funds being at risk. The fraudster explains that, to protect their funds, they need to transfer them into a "safe account". The bank details provided simply belong to the fraudster.

REMEMBER:

- Stop and think before responding to any email or text message
- Don't click on links unless you can verify where they came from
- Never provide information to anyone who contacts you out of the blue – take time to verify their credentials through a trusted source
- Just because a text or email purports to be from a government agency or organisation doesn't mean it is
- Forward scam text messages to 7726 (SPAM) and emails to report@phishing.gov.uk

"To recognise always that the test of police efficiency is the absence of crime and disorder, and not the visible evidence of police action in dealing with them."

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

For those that don't know what 'Community Speedwatch' is, it is where volunteers from the local community carry out speed monitoring checks on specific roads across the community.

The aim of Community SpeedWatch is to make motorists who speed through residential neighbourhoods aware of the impact their actions have on local residents, or the danger they pose to other road users and pedestrians. This is something we are working with communities to address.

The 14 CSW groups in the Taunton area operate in a variety of environments with different speed limits and traffic flows. The urban sites that they operate at have far higher traffic flows with typically 500 to 1400 vehicles per hour whereas the rural sites have approximately 50 to 200 vehicles an hour. However the rural sites have a higher proportion of speeders. Unfortunately the 20mph limits have a higher proportion of speeders whether they are an urban site or rural.

Activity during May

Over the month of May, 7 out of the 14 Community Speedwatch schemes in Taunton have been visibly active across the different communities. From the 21 sessions that took place, 5,143 vehicles have been monitored by our Speedwatch volunteers. From those, a total of 192 letters have been sent out to drivers that have not adhered to the speed limit.

The Community Speedwatch is a great service that greatly assists the Constabulary in reducing speed across the communities. Should you wish to join an existing Speedwatch, or would like to set one up for your area, you can find more information here:

[Community SpeedWatch | Avon and Somerset Police](#)



CRIME STATISTICS - April 2025

(Latest information available to the public online)

Category	Crimes Recorded
Anti-social behaviour	123
Bicycle Theft	3
Burglary (Including Commercial Burglary)	28
Criminal Damage & Arson	65
Drugs	6
Other theft	71
Possession of weapons	1
Public Order	95
Robbery	5
Shoplifting	88
Theft from the person	2
Vehicle Crime	22
Violent Crime	315
Other Crime	19

You can access and find out more about crime statistics for a specific area by clicking either of these two links:

[Your area | Avon and Somerset Police](#)

[Avon and Somerset Constabulary | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](#)

What I would like to reassure you all with regards to these statistics is that certain crime types are grouped together in one category. On our systems we can see far more detailed information, but for what we are allowed to share with the public, crime types are grouped together.

For example one of the categories above is '**Violent Crime**'. Domestic incidents fall within that category and Domestic incidents are one of the most common type of incidents we as the Police attend. If you would like to know the definition of what a Domestic relationship is, you can find it here:

[Domestic Abuse Act 2021 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

Hopefully this somewhat reassures you of why the number of crimes within that category are high.

DID YOU KNOW...?

Help us Promote Safer Roads: Submit Your JourneyCam Footage

Dangerous and careless driving puts lives at risk every day on our roads. To tackle this issue, Avon and Somerset Police encourage the public to play an active role in promoting road safety by submitting JourneyCam footage of potential traffic offences. Known nationally as Operation Snap, this initiative allows members of the public to report incidents they've captured on their dashcams, helmet cameras, or other recording devices. Whether it's dangerous overtaking, failure to wear a seatbelt, or a driver using their phone, the footage you share can make a real difference in holding offenders accountable and preventing future harm on our roads.

Submitting your footage is straightforward:

- Visit: Go to www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/roads.
- Answer questions: Complete a short series of questions to determine whether the footage is eligible.
- Follow instructions: Upload your footage and any required information as directed.

More information can be found here - [Help us Promote Safer Roads: Submit Your JourneyCam Footage | Avon and Somerset Police](#)

TAUNTON POLICE STATION

Opening Times

Monday: 08:30—16:30

Tuesday: 08:30—16:30

Wednesday: 08:30—16:30

Thursday: 08:30—16:30

Friday: 08:30—16:30

Saturday: CLOSED

Sunday: CLOSED

USEFUL LINKS

STREET SAFE

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 anti-social behaviour or environmental factors, such as a lack of street lighting. We encourage you to share your experience using the StreetSafe tool.

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

Link to Website to report:

[StreetSafe | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](#)

KEEP UP TO DATE



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

Facebook: [West Somerset and Taunton Neighbourhood Policing](#)

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

Contact the Neighbourhood Team directly:

[SomersetWest-](#)

NPT@avonandsomerset.police.uk

To report a crime anonymously, contact Crimestoppers on

0800 555 111 or visit

www.crimestoppers-uk.org

