

Police report – Calne Area Board

1. Calne Neighbourhood Police Team Officers

Sgt.: Ronnie Lungu
PC: Sonya Stockhill
PC: Stuart Welsh
PCSO: Mark Cook
PCSO: Shelley Gray
PCSO: Nicole Yates
PCSO: Michael Rameslaar

2. Police and Crime Commissioner: Mr Angus Macpherson

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3. Performance and other local issues.

The neighbourhood police team remain committed to working on the 3 local priorities which have been designated through consultation with the public.

At this current time the 3 priorities have remained unchanged and continue to be:

1. Speeding within Calne and the surrounding rural villages
2. Thefts from residential properties
3. Anti-social behaviour across Calne Town Centre , Castlefields and King Edward Close.

3:1:1

Several speed checks were conducted throughout Calne and in our rural areas between August and November with the assistance of members of the Special Constabulary. One operation conducted in Cherhill, Quemerford and Calne saw 3 tickets issued in Cherhill. One issued to a local driver travelling at 60mph in the 40mph limit and two local drivers were also issued tickets in the same location for travelling at 55mph in the 40mph limit.

PC Stockhill has regular contact with all the Community Speed Watch Teams in our surrounding rural locations, and between August and November a number of NPT house visits were conducted in relation to drivers who have been recorded as speeding by our Speed Watch Teams. This consists of local NPT Officers attending the home addresses of the offending drivers and giving words of advice in regards to their driving standard and to advise them of the consequences and the impact speeding vehicles have on the residents of the areas affected by speeding.

Along with enforcement of speeding it still crucial that regular speed checks are conducted, and PC Stockhill and PCSO Cook regularly conducting speed checks in East Tytherton during each month. To ensure that officers are deployed to the right locations.

3:2:2

During August there was a significant rise in burglaries and thefts from vehicles in Calne. Unfortunately a significant factor in the thefts from vehicles were that the owners had left their vehicles unsecure on the driveways of their properties allowing for any potential criminals to easily gain access to the vehicle and its contents.

Due to this PC Stockhill and PCSO Cook spent several shifts checking the door handles of vehicles around Calne and our rural villages to alert owners to any insecurity, and in doing so prevent any further crimes taking place. Several vehicles were located as being unsecure and the owners were advised to secure their vehicles.

Several pro-active operations were also conducted to in relation to the increased reports, and in August a 20 year old male local was arrested in connection to the increase in burglaries and thefts from vehicles.

This male recently attended court in connection to these offences where he was jailed for just over two years in Prison.

3:3:3

Over the past few months the reports of Anti-social behaviour in Calne has remained at a low number for the time of year, but we have seen an increase in reports in relation to the Kind Edward Close play park. This has been where a number of older youths congregate after dark making noise and leaving litter in the park to the distress of the residents. Due the increase in reports PC Welsh deployed the Area Board jointly funded CCTV van to monitor and deter further reports of Anti-social behaviour. This was welcomed by the residents and was done in conjunction with pro-active foot and mobile patrols in the location. Recently we have seen a significant reduction in reports of Anti-social behaviour in the locality.

Historically Calne has always suffered with a rise in Anti-social behaviour around the Halloween time, and especially on the evening of 31st October. This year was extremely relevant as it is almost 10 years since Calne suffered with one of the worst nights of Anti-social behaviour the Town has ever seen.

Due to this, this year all Calne officers were working an evening shift on Saturday 31st and a special initiative was implemented where PCSO Mark Cook approached the supermarkets of Tesco, Sainsbury's and the Co-op and asked if they would like to donate any bags of sweet to Calne police.

This initiative was done to allow Calne officers to hand out sweets to the youngest of Calne's trick-or-treaters and to promote safe, respectful and responsible Trick-or-treating in Calne, and as you can imagine this initiative went down very well with all the younger children in Calne....and some parents.

A small number of reports of Anti-social behaviour were received later in the evening and with the assistance of Calne CCTV one male was captured on camera discharging a fire work in the Town centre. Officers were dispatched to the location and the male was detained and his details taken. The male then attended Calne Police station a few days later where he received a fixed penalty notice for £90.

Team Changes and news

PCSO Michael Ramselaar has recently joined the Calne Police Team and completed his six week tutorship with PCSO Mark Cook.

PCSO Ramselaar was presented with his powers at police Headquarters in Devizes on the 25th September by Chief Constable Mike Veale and Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon Angus Macpherson.

The ceremony, held at Police Headquarters in Devizes, came after the group, Intake 26, completed their 10-week training course which involved classroom theory sessions, practical sessions and getting out in the community.

PCSO Michael Ramselaar, received a special certificate during the ceremony to recognise his extra hard work during the training programme.

He said: "I was really pleased to receive the certificate; I wasn't expecting it at all.

Nobody in my family is in the police so this was completely new to me and I wasn't sure what to expect. I was a bit apprehensive, but I've really enjoyed it.

"I think the skills I have gained will really help and I can't wait to get out on my patch now."

The 11 PCSOs are now looking forward to putting their new found skills to good use as they join stations around the county.

Partnership working

Partnership working with Calne Town Council is always ongoing, where local officers will liaise with the CCTV Manager on a weekly basis in regards to incidents and intelligence gained by the volunteer operators.

This partnership working with Calne CCTV has recently resulted in a male being arrested for an assault in wood Street, and two males being arrested on The Strand for an assault, both incidents were linked to licensed premises.

On 16th November, the Sovereign Housing association alerted Calne police to concerns they had in regards to one of their properties in Dakota Drive in Calne.

PCSO Shelley Gray arranged a joint police and housing visit to the address where upon attending a small Cannabis factory was located in one of the bedrooms.

Further officers were then dispatched to the address where a 17 year old male and a 41 year old female were arrested. The property was extensively searched all the Cannabis plants and some hydroponics items were seized and removed from the property.

Safeguarding vulnerable persons within our community

It is important that we recognise when a victim or witness of ASB or crime may be vulnerable so we can work with them and our partners to reduce the potential risk of harm.

Recently, Calne Police received a complaint about a team that are pretending to be investigators from Action Fraud that are ringing elderly vulnerable residents. During the phone call, the caller spends a considerable amount of time trying to convince you that somebody from Action Fraud will investigate a fraud connected to your bank account, but only if you transfer several thousand pounds into a separate account which they will give you the account number.

Calne officers assisted the 90 year old vulnerable man who was the victim of one such phone call, he was left feeling so intimidated that he ordered a taxi to take himself to the bank and withdrew several thousand pounds. Upon Calne police being alerted to this, PCSO Mark Cook attend the males bank and alerted them to this scam and requested that the remaining funds in the account be frozen until family members could be contacted, and further safeguards could be put in place to protect the vulnerable male. It is believed that the scam then continues by the victim being contacted again and again being asked to pay the money into a different bank accounts, accessed by the criminals.

The victims are repeatedly told not to tell anyone that they are going to the bank and if the cashiers ask why they need such a large amount of money, they are told to lie or to request smaller amounts as not to alert them.

Please check on any elderly relatives and advise them that action Fraud will NEVER ask someone to take money out of their account, never provide anyone with your bank account details or PIN number.

Sgt Ronnie Lungu

