

Local priorities for South Northants – You Said, We Did

Following consultation with you, the public, we set three local policing priorities during the above period: Drug Dealing & Misuse, Burglary/Acquisitive Crime and Road Safety.

These were based on responses from local people about issues that gave them the most concern in their neighbourhood. The choice of priorities were also based on local crime statistics and information from our partner agencies.

These priorities have been the focus of much of our work over the last few months and below is an update about some of the work we have been doing to tackle them.

Drug Dealing & Misuse

We rely on information provided by the community to tackle the supply and use of illicit drugs. This can often be a difficult and emotive subject for people to open up about and we have fully supported Crime Stoppers and Fearless campaigns to encourage safe and responsible reporting.

In April we completed a drugs awareness day at Magdalen College School in Brackley and since that time other Secondary establishments have expressed an interest in participating in similar events. These are in the process of being arranged. We have been strengthening our links with Secondary Schools in order to support them in tackling drugs issues and a greater prevalence of knives being carried by children. All reports received by Police in respect of a child carrying a knife have a minimum standard of a visit with parents, a referral to safeguarding services and an offer of support via CIRV (Community Initiative to Reduce Violence).

Officers from within the Neighbourhood teams are currently investigating offences of possession with intent to supply illicit drugs. An adult male from the village of Charlton will appear at Crown Court over the coming months to answer charges under the Misuse of Drugs Act. The other investigations are ongoing and can become protracted whilst we await forensic analysis of products and mobile phones found. We will provide an update on this as soon as we are able.

Burglary/Acquisitive Crime

We previously reported that on 4th April a local male committed a knife point robbery at Brackley Co-op on High Street and had been charged having been identified via CCTV. The male was subsequently found guilty at court and sentenced to almost 4 years in prison. This was widely reported via local media.

As the nights draw in, we are likely to see an increase in rural burglaries. We work closely with our Rural Crime Team to disrupt and deter as much precursory activity to the type of crime as possible. The public have been very supportive in reporting sightings of vehicles and persons acting suspiciously and we would like to see this continue.



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Our Police volunteers have been extremely proactive in visiting farm premises, offering crime prevention advice and reducing the isolation and fear of becoming a victim of crime that some rural residents feel.

We have an excellent network of ANPR cameras that also offer us additional investigative and disruption opportunities, and these are intrinsic to our Road Safety operations that also seek to deny criminals use of the roads.

Road Safety

Road safety has rightly been a priority on the area for a long period of time. We have based our Policing response on the 'Fatal Four' offences:

1. Inappropriate Speed
2. Use of a mobile phone
3. Not wearing a Seat Belt
4. Drink / Drug driving

We welcome and support Community Speed Watch initiatives and it was good to see this being used to good effect in Brackley during June. The volunteers were out most days at locations within the town that had been identified as hotspots for excess speed.

In June officers from across South Northants undertook a day of action in relation to all road related issues and this resulted in a number of people being dealt with for offences of using a vehicle without the relevant insurance in place.

Many local people get frustrated in trying to report abandoned or untaxed vehicles via 101. All calls to this number will be triaged in terms of gravity of the situation and this may mean that a crime or incident that is not in progress will get a lesser response or deemed as not suitable for an officer to attend. Any issues with vehicles can be reported direct to your Neighbourhood Teams via the emails at the end of this report and we will look into each on their merits and address the issue where our powers allow.

All local schools have again received a letter to pass to parents giving advice on appropriate parking and manner of driving during the daily school run. A copy of this can be found at the end of this report. This is generally sent out at the beginning of the school year and then midway through as a reminder. This seeks to address the frequent reports we receive relating to inconsiderate use of vehicles during certain periods of the day.

Your Neighbourhood Team and how else we can help:

Please use the following link to the South Northants Neighbourhood Team Page on the Northants Police Website, this lists the Officers and villages within your Ward area: [Policing in your area | Northamptonshire Police \(northants.police.uk\)](https://www.northants.police.uk/policing-in-your-area)



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Crime statistics

For some time we have signposted our Parish Councils, NHW Co-ordinators and Community Members to www.police.uk where you are able to get an overview of crime and antisocial behaviour in your Ward area

You can also use the following website as a research tool to have an overview of issues affecting your Ward area: www.streetcheck.co.uk is an alternate site where you can view information about crime in your area.

Northamptonshire Police uses a variety of platforms to update the community with information that includes key arrests, successful warrants, matters of priority, information appeals. **You can use the below platforms to view this information:**

Northants Police Website: www.northants.police.uk

 **Twitter:** @NorthantsPolice

 **Facebook:** Northamptonshire Police

Northamptonshire Talking has been set up as a free service for the people of Northamptonshire who want to hear directly from the police about crime, issues and the actions taken by officers in their community.

Sign up here: [Sign Up - Northamptonshire Talking](#) or alternatively scan the below QR code with your phone.



South Northants Neighbourhood Teams also use social media to update the community on a variety of issues and encourage you to follow the below accounts:

 **Twitter:** @SthNorthantsNPT and @BrackleyNptSgt

 **Facebook:** Daventry and South Northamptonshire Neighbourhood Policing Team

Or directly via email:

NT-SouthNorthantsBrackley@northants.pnn.police.uk

NT-SouthNorthantsTowcester@northants.pnn.police.uk



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Alternatively, if you wish to remain anonymous you can provide information via: [Crimestoppers](#) or [Fearless](#) (Fearless is more youth orientated).

Crime Prevention

[Crime prevention advice | Northamptonshire Police \(northants.police.uk\)](#)



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SCHOOL PARKING LETTER FOR REFERENCE:

Your Neighbourhood Policing teams regularly undertake public consultation to determine the most significant concerns within the local community. A recurring theme is road safety and virtually all schools experience traffic congestion issues during drop off and pick up times. As such we appeal to you to consider the following during these periods:

- Park with consideration to residents – **do not** block or overlap driveways.
- **Do not** park on the corners of junctions as you reduce views making it awkward for vehicles to safely turn into or out of a street.
- **Do not** stop on or park across pedestrian crossings or school zig-zag markings.
- **Do not** drive along pavements when the road is blocked – be patient and wait for traffic to clear.
- On congested routes **plan-ahead** and **do not** proceed unless there is a clear space to use to give way to oncoming traffic or to allow traffic to give way to you.
- If possible; join with other parents and share journeys to reduce the number of vehicles used and/or avoid congested routes.
- Please be patient where a car must cross a pavement to exit a carpark. The driver's view may be limited; and this will be further reduced by pedestrians congregating whilst waiting to pass.
- Be aware that **children do not easily judge the speed of traffic** and may step out into the road. 30mph is a limit, not a target and much slower speeds are often required to negotiate busy roads safely.
- Pedestrians, especially with young children, should use the side of the road with the widest pathway and wherever possible protected from flowing traffic by barriers or parked cars.

“Why should we have to cross and use the other side of the road?” – If it is the safest option in any situation then it is worth doing! Large numbers of children using narrow paths will always be at risk from traffic no matter how busy the road.

The above list is not exhaustive and there will be occasions where drivers or pedestrians will make errors of judgement, especially under pressure. We are all human so please be patient. South Northamptonshire has many schools and officers will complete ad-hoc checks and challenge people where appropriate. Persistent obstructive parking may result in drivers receiving a fine and this is easily avoidable with a little more thought as to where to park or wait.

