



Minehead update



Concerns over anti-social driving

We have been approached a number of times over the last month regarding concerns over anti-social driving during the evenings and night times around Minehead town centre.

The culprits we are being told have loud modified exhausts and are driving in a manner that is causing both a nuisance and disturbance to residents.

We are told the driving manner of the individuals is not taking into consideration the safety of pedestrians and is dangerous.

Unfortunately, we have not received many reports via our 101/999 or online forms. We encourage people to make sure if you are being affected by problems with anti-social drivers to report this, only by doing this can we understand the extent of issues being faced by residents in our area.

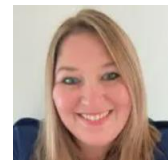
To combat the problem we are gathering information on the drivers so they can be held accountable for their actions. We have made all teams aware of the issues so patrols can be increased especially during the evening and night time.

If you have information regarding the vehicles, please contact us via 101 or make an online report at www.avonandsomerset.police.uk

Meet the Minehead Neighbourhood Policing Team



Neighbourhood Sergeant Jon O'Connor



PCSO Supervisor Katherine Williams



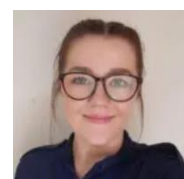
PC Steve Woodward



PCSO Mark Middleton-Smith



PCSO Melanie Cherrington-Firkins



PCSO Sammie Edwards

LOCAL EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 4th July – 10.30am – 11am
Rhyme time, Minehead Library

Tuesday 4th July – 11am - 12noon
Neighbourhood Surgery
Minehead Library

Saturday 8th July – 2pm – 3pm
Neighbourhood Surgery
Café Connect, Minehead

Sunday 9th July – 1.30pm – 2.30pm
Neighbourhood Surgery
Costa, Minehead

Wednesday 19th July 4pm – 5pm
Neighbourhood Surgery
Costa Coffee, The Avenue, Minehead

Saturday 22nd July 11am – 12noon
Neighbourhood Surgery
Café Cream, The Avenue, Minehead

Monday 24th July 10.30am – 11.30am
Neighbourhood Surgery
Talking Café, Minehead Methodist Church

Crimes in Minehead for the last 28 days

Violence Against The Person – 22

Theft – 12

Arson and Criminal Damage – 3

Public Order Offences - 12

Burglary – 2

Sexual Offences – 2

Vehicle Offences - 2

Keep up to date



Facebook and Twitter are a terrific way to keep up to date with your local Neighbourhood Policing team. Follow us on:

Facebook: Insert your NPT area's Facebook @handle here

Twitter: Insert your NPT area's Twitter @handle here

www.avonandsomerset.police.uk

LOCAL PRIORITIES

Anti-Social Driving

We are receiving reports of boy racers at various locations in the Minehead area.

Action: Regular speed checks will be conducted in the area with an aim to reduce speeding vehicles, section 59's will be issued for anti-social driving styles.

Drugs

To target and hold responsible those using and supplying drugs in the area.

Action: To continue working to gain further information on those responsible for drugs in the Minehead area whilst targeting and holding accountable those we find to be involved.

ASB in recreation and town centre areas

Focusing on ASB in our parks and recreation areas plus focus on town centre.

Action: Patrols have been increased especially during the peak times at which we have been told the problems are occurring.

Shop Thefts

There are several reports regarding shop thefts at shops in Minehead. These may continue to increase due to cost of living.

Action: We are working with any stores where possible and have carried out some proactive work to ensure that suspects have been held accountable for their actions,

Courier Fraud

The City of London Police have run a campaign this month warning the public about courier fraud.

How common is Courier Fraud?

The older generation are a particular target for this type of fraud, with victims over 70 losing £12.6 million last year across the country. Here in Avon and Somerset, we had 60 victims of courier fraud in 2022 with a total loss of £278,000. It's even more shocking when you consider that only about 20% of fraud is actually reported.

What is Courier Fraud?

Courier fraud involves the victim receiving a call from a fraudster pretending to be from their bank or the police. More commonly, they purport to be a high-ranking police officer, usually from London. They will claim that they need your help with an investigation. This is a long process where a range of lies are told in order to convince the victim that this is a legitimate investigation, and often lasts a whole day or takes place over a couple of days. They will often claim that they have someone in custody claiming to be your relative. When you say that you don't have a relative of that name, they will say that they are using a false identity and have a cloned bank card of yours. They then say that there is fraud occurring within the victim's bank.



The victim will eventually be asked to attend their bank and withdraw a sum of money, or instead, purchase high value goods such as jewellery or gold. To make the fraud more plausible, they will often ask the victim to read out the serial numbers on the back of the notes. The fraudster will proceed to tell them that a large percentage of the notes are counterfeit and therefore must be collected by a "courier" as evidence. They will usually provide the victim with a pre-agreed password for pick up and may even give them a receipt so that the money can be reimbursed. The fraudster may instead ask that they hand over their bank card(s) and PIN.

Remember...

- The bank or police will NEVER ask you to withdraw cash, purchase high value goods or hand over your bank cards and PIN to assist with an investigation.
- HANG UP! – the genuine police or bank would never be annoyed by you being cautious of a call, only a fraudster.
- Fraudsters can disguise their numbers to appear to be calling from anywhere they want, including your bank. They can also hold the line open, so ensure you either do your checks on a different phone or wait at least 10 minutes for the line to clear. If you can, attend your bank or police station in person.
- Take 5 and Tell 2 – Take 5 minutes away from the contact and think carefully about what is being asked of you. Then, tell 2 people about the contact you have had to get their opinion.

[View this in your browser.](#)



Safer Somerset Partnership

VIOLENCE REDUCTION UNIT

Feel safe, be safe

Monthly News - May 2023

Somerset Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) form part of the Home Office's targeted approach to serious violence. The VRU brings together essential partners to reduce local violent crime and address the underlying causes.

Read more here [Somerset Violence Reduction Unit](#)

SPRING EVENTS 2023

Over 450 people who work with vulnerable communities in Somerset joined the VRU this spring to learn more about reducing violence. Professionals and volunteers from health services, housing, education, criminal justice, social care and the voluntary sector took part in training events and webinars to help promote healthy relationships and learn about preventing exploitation, violence against women and knife crime.

The VRU ran 4 in person events and 8 online training events. We would like to thank the following organisations for providing representatives to speak at our events.

- Unseen

- Ben Kinsella Trust
- Somerset and Avon rape and sexual abuse service
- NHS Royal Devon university healthcare
- Bournemouth University
- Gangmasters and labour abuse authority
- Department for work and pensions
- St Giles Trust



Following on from these events we providing all participants with copies of the presentations so they are able to relay this information with the rest of their staff/contacts.

When attendees were asked to rate how likely they were to use and share what they had learnt they scored 4.5 stars out of 5 and were offered to provide some comments:



"Found out about new/different services. Speakers were engaging. Handouts exceeded

expectation.”

“Really informative and engaging conference with great speakers. I’ve taken away lots of information and ideas which I will be sharing with my teams.”

“Excellent presentation and informative information. Has given addition insight and motivation to improve my role.”



Somerset students speak out about violence against woman and girls

Over the last few months students across Somerset have been studying the topic of violence against women and girls, and have demonstrated their fantastic knowledge and amazing creativity by writing and producing podcasts on the subject.

The podcasts were then uploaded onto the website for the general public to vote for their favourite. In total, 20,467 votes were cast, meaning the VAWG message has been spread far and wide. The Somerset Secondary School winners were Kingsmead Academy and Blue School. For more info please visit [Collaborate Digital](#). Also please feel free to listen to the podcasts here [Podcasts from students](#).

Since January 2023 Collaborate Digital as part of the Safer Somerset Partnership have achieved the following:

- 32 Schools and Colleges visited
- 28 Creative Media Workshops delivered
- 66 Interactive Assemblies presented
- 139 Podcasts produced
- 9,925 Students engaged

Awareness week.

PRU interventions

Teachable moments are also currently undertaking 1:1 'Positive masculinity' interventions with three pupils at a local PRU, discussing misogyny and gender equality.

Bike Project

It offers students one session a week, for around 6-8 weeks, to build up bike maintenance skills step-by-step, developing the skills needed to keep a bike road-worthy and safe.

of fundamental maintenance principles, as well as discussing any other issues they may be facing in day to day life alongside.



Knife Crime Awareness Week & Op Sceptre

The VRU team have been out in Somerset communities from 15th -19th May operating engagement stands in schools and at Glastonbury market to support Avon and Somerset police with a week of action to prevent knife crime.

They have had the opportunity to meet the general public, school/college staff and students.



As part of the national campaign we have also managed to install a knife bin outside Deane House (Taunton), where people can voluntarily hand any knives/weapons into the bin whilst remaining completely anonymous.



Avon and Somerset Police
SERVE. PROTECT. RESPECT.

If you would like to find more information please follow one of the below links:

[We're taking part in a week of action to tackle knife crime | Avon and Somerset Police](#)

[Somerset Violence Reduction Unit](#)

[Ben Kinsella Trust - Knife crime awareness week](#)

Let's Tackle Hate Crime Together

Unique Voice and Crimestoppers in the West Country are delighted to be hosting an in-person event at the **Taunton Brewhouse on 28th June, 10am-12pm** for professionals working in the Taunton and Bridgwater area.

During the event, through funding from the Violence Reduction Unit, we will be launching FREE educational resources and lesson plans to help aid all professionals in

teaching and informing young people about the topics of hate crime, discrimination and community cohesion.

[Let's Tackle Hate Crime Together Tickets, Wed, Jun 28, 2023 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

Further Information:

You have received this Safer Somerset Partnership newsletter from Somerset Council as you are currently part of the Safer Somerset Partnership Network.

Should you know anyone who would be interested in receiving this newsletter or no longer want to receive this newsletter then please do get in touch with our communications officer - jodie.dingle@somerset.gov.uk

