



Avon and Somerset Police
NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

Minehead update

NEWS IN YOUR AREA

October 2023

As the mornings and evenings are getting darker...

The darker mornings and evenings can sometimes attract unwanted behaviours. There are several ways that residents can secure their properties easily, quickly and affordably including -

- Make sure doors are secured, use all of the locks provided and put across the chain if you have one.
- Check how secure your doors are and check they are in good condition with a strong frame
- Double lock PVC-U and multi-locking doors by lifting the handle, turn and remove the key.
- Keep windows locked when not in use and if possible, use opening restrictors when in use. Keep window keys somewhere safe but accessible in case of a fire
- Video doorbells and cctv cameras for home use are readily available and can be operated from your mobile phone or tablet.
- Motion activated security lights are a great way to deter people from going onto your property.
- Make sure any communal doors are secure and any issues are reported to your property manager or housing association.
- Check in with vulnerable relatives, neighbours, and friends to ensure they have everything in place they need over winter.
- Invest in plug timers for lights and radios
- Consider joining your local Neighbourhood Watch scheme

If you have any concerns or would like further advice PCSO's are available at Neighbourhood Surgeries which are free to attend, forthcoming dates can be found below as well as pop up events that will be posted on our social media pages.

We have a number of resources that we can give to you, with a wealth of guidance and general advice for how to protect your property.

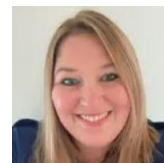
We also offer Fraud Protection Talks to local community groups, we know that many people can be victims of fraud but do not report this to us. We implore people to make sure they are making us aware or by calling Action Fraud if they are a victim of fraud. If your community group would benefit from a talk on fraud please contact us to arrange a visit

Make sure to report any suspicious behaviour, this can be done online or via 101. In an emergency report via 999

Meet the Minehead Neighbourhood Policing Team



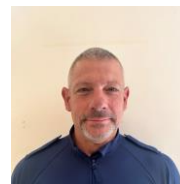
Neighbourhood Sergeant
Hayden Smith



PCSO Supervisor Katherine Williams



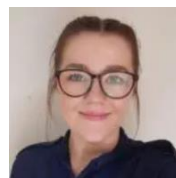
PC Steve Woodward



PCSO Mark Middleton-Smith



PCSO Melanie Cherrington-Firkins



PCSO Sammie Edwards

LOCAL EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 24th October – 10.30am – 11am
Rhyme time, Minehead Library

Saturday 11th November – 11am – 12noon
Neighbourhood Surgery
Café Cream, Minehead

Monday 16th October 10.30am – 11.30am
Neighbourhood Surgery
Talking Café, Minehead Methodist Church



Crimes in Minehead for the last 28 days

Violence Against The Person – 41

Theft – 20

Arson and Criminal Damage – 6

Public Order Offences – 6

Sexual Offences – 7

Burglary – 1

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: mineheadandwestsomersetneighbourhoodpolicing

Twitter: @ASPWestSom

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 town centre areas

Focusing on ASB in our town centre areas affecting residents and shops

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,

ACTION FRAUD UPDATE

Phone Contract Scam

Avon and Somerset Police are seeing an increase in scams where fraudsters are making cold calls, impersonating employees of legitimate mobile network operators and suppliers. The National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) have issued the following warning regarding this type of scam.



Victims are offered early upgrades, or new contracts, at a discounted price. Once victims agree to proceed, suspects then ask for their online mobile account credentials, including logins, [address](#) and bank account details.

Suspects then place orders with genuine companies on behalf of victims, selecting a different handset to that requested and have it shipped to the victim's address.

When received, the fraudsters tell victims that there has been an error and instruct them to 'return' the handset to a different address not affiliated to the mobile company.

After intercepting the 'returned' handsets, the suspects cease contact, and victims find themselves stuck with no phone and liable for the entirety of a new contract taken out in their name.

What you need to do

- If you're unsure that the person calling you is an official representative of the company they claim to be from, hang up and do not reveal any personal information.
- Only contact your mobile network provider on a number you know to be correct. For example, 191 for Vodafone customers, 150 for EE customers, 333 for Three customers, 202 for O2 customers, 4455 for Tesco Mobile, and 789 for Virgin Mobile. Or attend the store and speak to someone in person.
- If you receive a device that you did not order or expect, contact the genuine sender immediately. The details for this will be within the parcel.
- NEVER post a device directly to a given address. All genuine Mobile Network Operators would send out a jiffy bag for you to return without you incurring additional cost.
- Don't disclose any of your personal or bank account information, including your PIN or One Time Passcode (OTP).