



02/05/2024

Annual Policing Report 2023/2024 **Minehead Neighbourhood Policing Team**

The Minehead Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) have had a large focus over the last year on tackling Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) and Crime within Minehead with increased partnership working including engagement with external agencies such as housing, Somerset Council and Minehead Town Council.

A meeting has recently been held alongside partner agencies to discuss ongoing concerns around antisocial behaviour and drug misuse within Blenheim gardens which has been brought to the team's attention by members of the local community. There are regular patrols being conducted in that area and action being taken to tackle this behaviour.

Another issue which has been recognised by the NPT is the concerns around regular shoplifters targeting shops within the town. We have been working closely with the police's ASB team and have issued some of those responsible with Community Protection Warnings and working towards issuing more of these over the coming weeks and months. These are put in place with conditions on their behaviour which has been impacting those in the community.

The NPT send their monthly newsletters out to partners within the community and members of the Minehead Town Council with regular updates on our proactive work and focuses within the community for that month. We are keen to hear how the community is feeling and we are now hosting 'Pop Up Advice Hubs' in public spaces around the town where people will be able to come and speak with a member of the local policing team and discuss any issues that they feel are affecting the community and get advice on any crime or non-crime related policing matters. They will also continue to offer Bike Marking sessions into the summer months, which have been successful throughout the last year.

PCSO's recently carried out a Walk and Talk event in the town, which was run by female PCSOs, giving females the chance to have an informal chat about their safety within the town and discuss anything could be done to improve how people are feeling whilst in the area. In attendance were representatives from YMCA, Magna, and Street Pastors. It was interesting to find out the perspective of people who are out in the town, but also their thoughts about how they feel can change based on time of day, whether they are on their own and if there are places they would avoid. We are continuing to promote the 'Street Safe' tool which can be used to make us aware of places that make people feel unsafe – we have distributed information sheets to a number of locations across the town including a QR code that can be scanned, alternatively you can go online to the web address to report (<https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report/streetsafe/>).

During the first school term of 2024, students at St Michaels School took part in the Mini Police course which was used to teach the year 4 children about the police and focus on the impacts of crime within their community and encourage them to make good decisions in their behaviour to reflect what they have learnt. The students conducted a social action project which focused on littering and smoking within the town centre, they carried out a litter pick along the high street, collecting a large bag full of litter. This allowed them to learn about the impact of littering on their local community and why it is important to ensure that we are looking after the community that we live in.



Students at West Somerset College and Minehead Middle School (as well as other schools in the wider community) have also had a Child Exploitation input which was led by Avon and Somerset Police's Child Exploitation Prevention Officer and Coordinator. This was delivered to the children to educate them on the risks of exploitation, the signs to be aware of, and how to keep themselves safe from exploitation. The Violence Reduction Unit also attended the college and issued information around violence and knife crime. All the youth clubs around West Somerset have had inputs delivered on keeping themselves safe online.

We continue to provide the secure knife collection bin at the front of the police station which allows people to anonymously dispose of any bladed articles in a safe manner, deterring people from disposing of these in bushes around the town, making it safer for members of the public whilst they are out in their community.

As a team we have been working positively and proactively with Butlins and their staff, offering regular training sessions and we are hoping, in collaboration with Butlins, to open these up to the wider community and partners later in the year.

Please see below the latest crime statistics for the year, May 2023 – May 2024:

Number of Crimes by Offence Type	
Arson and Criminal Damage	97
Burglary	28
Drug Offences	13
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	12
Non-Recordable	8
Possession of Weapons	4
Public Order Offences	140
Robbery	8
Sexual Offences	61
Theft	265
Vehicle Offences	18
Violence Against the Person	491

We would like to take this opportunity to remind people that if there is anything they wish to report to us then they can call 101 for non-emergency or 999 for emergencies. Non-emergency can also be reported by the public through our online crime reporting form which can be found on the Avon and Somerset Website.

Kind regards,

Minehead Neighbourhood Policing Team

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www.avonandsomerset.police.uk