



Neighbourhood Watch Letter 06/11

Hello, please find the latest edition of the Beat Letter covering the wards of Mendip, Clutton, High Littleton & Timsbury. I apologise for the delay since the last letter and there have been reasons for this. I am still your Beat Manager and since the last letter I have lost the services of PCSO David White who has retired. I still have Shelley White-Sharman & Kate Chamberlain but the workload has changed. The Police service if you're not aware is currently under review by the government. All of the forces across England & Wales have been told they will have to make financial cuts. The Avon & Somerset will have to make adjustments but we've been told that the Safer Stronger Neighbourhoods team will remain serving the community. I have been given along with my colleagues tasks that in the past would have been the responsibility of somebody else. Those posts no longer exist so as far as my area is concerned I'm responsible in ensuring those tasks are done. I have always received good feedback over this newsletter and I have been backed by my Sector Inspector in producing the article as it is a good way of reaching out to the rural community.

Since the last letter which was around 8 months ago we have had two Partners And Community Together meetings. In February in Timsbury 33 persons attended which was pleasing to see. Things were discussed such as dog mess, lack of grit bins & cow parsley not being allowed to flower. Road safety in North Road in Timsbury was discussed and this will be an ongoing issue.

The latest meeting in West Harptree produced concern for speed on the western side of West Harptree on the A368.

Scrap metal thefts have been reported all over the force area and the Police have created Operation Fragment. This will allow us to work with scrap metal dealers ensuring that they are made aware of what's been stolen and should it come their way they are advised to report this. It's very similar to Neighbourhood Watch but one difference is that should a scrap metal dealer fail to comply with what's expected of them and they commit offences then they will be reported to the environment agency and the local council which could be expensive. If you have any scrap metal lying around in the garden, yard or inside your garage that's clearly on view then consider this. If the thief driving around the country lanes, A368 or the A37 happens to spot the metal while driving past your property what else is he looking at?. Your house, car?. If they will steal from your garden or garage what's stopping them looking at your property?. My intention isn't to scare you

as domestic burglaries on our area are relatively low but by taking away the opportunity reduces the risk of becoming a victim of crime.

With the summer months now approaching us we have the habit of leaving windows & doors open to allow free passage of air as hopefully it will be hot. That presents the chance of allowing somebody to enter and snatch a wallet, phone, handbag, keys etc. I'm not saying to close all windows & doors and live in a stuffy environment but please be careful. It takes a second for the crime to be committed but could be hours before you realise that your bag is missing. You may have heard that there were a number of burglaries around the area recently?. There was one in Temple Cloud reported among others in Peasedown St John, Marksbury & Wells.

We are aware of this and have increased patrols on the A37 with the assistance of Officers from Bristol. Arrests have been made, property recovered and offenders have been charged and put back in prison. That doesn't mean that we can become complacent though and by securing the rear doors and windows of your property will help. How often on entering the house do you put your keys, bags down just inside?. If you don't then well done, if you do then just reconsider it and put them somewhere else.

We've had a number of thefts from sheds all over the Radstock Sector where gardening equipment including petrol mowers have been taken. Remember items like these can be sold easily at car boot sales but if they were marked with your post code or name it would be more difficult to sell. You can purchase shed alarms from most DIY stores which are a good deterrent. If you consider the screws in the hinges being a weak spot why not consider dome headed nuts with the bolt on the inside?. May seem a bit long winded but could prevent you from calling the insurance company to replace your property.

I had hoped to get Farm Watch off the ground in our area but due to numerous reasons it hasn't and the chances are it won't. This is a shame as the farming community would have benefited from the link. Maybe in the future once things pick up financially all around it will become possible.

I will endeavour to maintain the letters as they keep you in touch with your local Police service and what's going on in and around the area where you live.

Keep looking out for each other and if you see something which isn't quite right then report it, you never know.

Stay safe & enjoy the summer.

Stuart Peard

PC 3455

Beat Manager