

West Mercia Police

SOUTH HEREFORD RURAL Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT)

herefordsouthside.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

12th August - 29th August 2015

About your team

Safer Neighbourhood Teams work with local people and partners to identify, tackle and solve issues that matter to the community where you live.

Making neighbourhoods safer by cutting day to day crime and anti-social behaviour is at the heart of keeping people in West Mercia safe. Thanks to an investment in mobile tablet style computers, these will enable officers to spend more time on patrol on the street and in neighbourhoods.


Officers will continue to come to people when they need them and provide a high quality service however you contact us – in person (on the street, at community bases and at partners and communities together [PACT] meetings), on the phone or online.

Where we work

**Hereford South Wye Police Station,
Goodrich Grove, Newton Farm, Hereford,
HR2 7DB**

Covering: Aconbury; Allensmore; Ballingham; Bolstone; Callow; Dewsall; Dinedor; Garway; Grafton; Harewood; Haywood; Hentland; Holme Lacy; Kenderchurch; Kentchurch; Kilpeck; Kingstone; Little Birch; Much Birch; Little Dewchurch; Llandinabo; Llanwarne; Lower Bullingham; Much Dewchurch; Orcop; Pencoyd; St Devereaux; St Weonards; Tretire with Michealchurch; Thruxton; Treville; Wormbridge.

Get in touch

 **101** to talk to your local SNT or report a crime

 herefordsouthside.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

 www.westmercia.police.uk

 Coming soon /  @southsidecops

Only call 999 in an emergency, when a crime is in progress or life is in danger.

Your team

PC Brian Hillstead 0397
PCSO Lowri Anderson 40247
PCSO Christina Howard 6480
PCSO Adam Westlake 6552

The West Mercia Police area and especially South Herefordshire remains low crime. That said a number of incidents have occurred and I would ask you to have a look at these to see if you could help with any information which may assist us in bringing the offenders to justice. Let me know if you need any crime prevention advice.

For daily updates on incidents in your area register for our Dotmailer service via www.westmercia.police.uk.

Should you wish to review crime and anti-social behaviour trends in your area over a longer period this can be done by visiting www.police.uk.

Much Birch

OIS 481s 120815 – On 11th August in the day time a kitten was shot in the back leg on farm land and sadly died.

Tump Lane

OIS 678s 210815 – On 21st August at 19:15 a stolen vehicle has hit a telegraph pole before knocking a 70 year old female who has sustained bumps and bruises.

OIS 259s 220815 – Between 11th August and 20th August 850L of central heating oil was stolen from a property.

Rotherwas

OIS 163s 220815 – On 21st August at 21:30 a wooden fence panel was removed and in excess of 50 car batteries were taken from a Household recycling centre.

Much Dewchurch

OIS 474s 270815 – Between 15:30 on 21st August and 09:30 22nd August a wooden shed and a minibus were broken into at the Steiner Academy. Damage was sustained to the Shed and minibus.

Marlas

OIS 217s 230815 – During the evening of 21st August a garden of a cottage was broken into and many garden plants were stolen.

OIS 311s 280815 – Between 18:00 27th August and 05:45 28th August further plants have been stolen from the above cottage.

Little Birch

OIS 355s 270815 – Suspicious circumstances of two males going door to door selling generators from their van.

If you have any information regarding any of the above you can contact Hereford Police on 101, in an emergency please dial 999. Please be aware that any information provided within this letter is to inform you of incidents of note and to request possible assistance. We do not want to worry you in anyway. Any incidents stated are infrequent and spread about a wide area. Herefordshire is a safe place to live!

Home and Property Security Advice

There's no place like home, and it's important to make your home as protected as possible to ensure that it is a safe place for you, your property, and your loved ones. Follow our advice on keeping your home and property secure from most criminal threats:

Make sure all points of entry to your home or property have locks.

When you leave the property, no matter for how long, make sure that these entry points are all locked. Also make sure you lock up before going to bed at night.

There's no point leaving your keys in an accessible place - don't leave them in doors/windows or hanging within easy reach of the front door.

Think about further security measures - a fence, burglar alarm or security lights can be a good investment and are much more likely to deter burglars. They can also decrease your insurance payments.

When leaving the property to go on holiday, use timers on lights and radios to create an impression that someone is still in the property, or ask neighbours to make occasional visits to your property or park in your driveway. For more information, visit our further advice on preparing your home.

Finally, to ensure you feel secure when answering your door, fit a "spy hole" so you can see who is calling. You should also fit a door chain. Don't let anyone into the property that you feel unsure about, and always ask to see identification - if they don't have any, do not let them in.

Take extra care on rural roads during harvest season

The Safer Roads Partnership, Warwickshire Police and West Mercia Police are warning motorists of the dangers that may be present at this time of year as farmers are using the roads more when harvesting and moving their produce.

Agriculture is one of our region's key industries and this time of year is very busy in the farming calendar with many crops requiring harvest and transportation, often within a short window of opportunity in order to ensure consumers can enjoy the produce in prime condition. However, this burst of activity traditionally sees a rise in road collisions, many of which are preventable.

A significant proportion of the collisions involving agricultural vehicles occur on rural roads with 60mph speed limits, and many near turnings into farms. The typical causes of the collisions are poor overtaking manoeuvres and inappropriate speed, with drivers finding themselves unable to stop in time when presented with a slow moving or wide vehicle.

A further hazard is caused by mud and debris being brought onto the roads by tractors and other vehicles that have been working in the fields. In the last three years*, there have been 75 collisions across Warwickshire and West Mercia where mud was recorded as a contributory factor.

Under the Highways Act (1980), farmers and contractors have a legal obligation to ensure their vehicles are cleared of any mud or debris before entering the public highway. Excess mud on the road is a danger to cars, motorbikes and cyclists and can change the way a vehicle handles, causing skidding, especially in wet conditions.

Chief Inspector Adrian Knight, Head of the Force Operations Department, Warwickshire Police and West Mercia Police said: "Every year we face problems with agricultural vehicles leaving large amounts of mud and debris on the roads during the harvest season. While the majority of farmers take steps to ensure they keep the roads clear and safe, not all are as diligent.

"We would like to remind farmers and contractors of their responsibilities under the Highways Act. We have already taken action against offenders who haven't complied with this legislation and will continue to take a tough stance against anyone who we believe is being reckless and irresponsible."

Anna Higgins, Communications Manager at the Safer Roads Partnership, said: "We appreciate that during this time of year farmers have to increasingly use the region's roads to transport their crops and that this will affect local traffic at times. Although many drivers of agricultural vehicles use the roads in a responsible way, we are reminding them to be aware of the impact they can have and consider other road users while they undertake their work. During busy traffic periods, pull into a lay-by or safe place to allow other vehicles to pass safely, to avoid traffic build-up and prevent unsafe overtaking manoeuvres.

"We would also like to remind general motorists that extra care and patience should be taken during the harvest season when there is a necessity for more agricultural vehicles to be on the roads. While it can be frustrating travelling behind an agricultural vehicle it's not worth getting impatient and putting yourself and other road users at risk with dangerous manoeuvres."

Drivers of agricultural vehicles or anyone wishing to report any issues regarding debris or mud on the road can contact the following:

Herefordshire:

Herefordshire Council - Highways: 01432 261 800

* Three year period refers to January 2012 - December 2014. During this period, there were 62 collisions in West Mercia and 13 collisions in Warwickshire where mud was recorded as a contributory factor.

Important information for all UK Bank customers

Your bank or the police will never:

Fraudsters are increasingly targeting consumers over the telephone, posing as bank staff, police officers and other officials or companies in a position of trust. Often the fraudster will claim there has been fraud on your account and that you need to take action.

Phone you to ask for your 4-digit card PIN or your online banking password, even by tapping them into the telephone keypad.

""Ask you to withdraw money to hand over to them for safe-keeping.

""Ask you to transfer money to a new account for fraud reasons, even if they say it is in your name.

""Send someone to your home to collect your cash, PIN, payment card or cheque book if you are a victim of fraud.

""Ask you to purchase goods using your card and then hand them over for safe-keeping. If you are given any of these instructions, it is a fraudulent approach. Hang up, wait five minutes to clear the line, or where possible use a different phone line, then call your bank or card issuer on their advertised number to report the fraud.

If you don't have another telephone to use, call someone you know first to make sure the telephone line is free.

Your bank will also never ask you to check the number showing on your telephone display matches their registered telephone number. The display cannot be trusted, as the number showing can be altered by the caller.

How to avoid being a victim of bogus websites

This is a message sent via The Neighbourhood & Home Watch Network (England & Wales). This information has been sent on behalf of Action Fraud (National Fraud Intelligence Bureau)

Fraudsters have created a high specification website template advertising flat screen televisions for sale which are below market value and do not exist. Payment is being requested via bank transfer and will offer no protection to the consumer when the television does not arrive.

Protect yourself:

- Payments made via bank transfer are not protected should you not receive the item.
- Always make payment via a credit card or PayPal where you have some avenue of recompense should you not receive your product.
- Conduct some online research on the website, company name and business address to identify any poor feedback or irregularities.
- Check the authenticity of websites before making any purchases. A "whois" search on the website will identify when the website has been created, so be wary of newly formed domains. This search can be conducted using the following website - <https://who.is/>
- If the item advertised seems too good to be true, it probably is

If you believe that you have been a victim of fraud you can report it online at http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud or by telephone on 0300 123 2040.

Increase in Land Rover Thefts

It has been identified that in recent months, the WEST MERCIA policing areas have experienced a marked increase in the number of attempt thefts and thefts of Land Rover Defenders - since the start of the 2015 there have been 38 offences with 13 since 01/04/2015.

In the vast majority of these offences, offenders have stolen the vehicles without keys. This is likely due to the lower levels of security offered by the model. However, research has shown

that there are devices that allow the immobiliser to be circumvented in a matter of seconds (one of which is a pre-programmed key and small block device - similar to the head of a SCART lead - that can be plugged into an internal port under the drivers' seat).

To date, very few of these vehicles have been recovered. Consideration is made that they may be being broken down for parts (although this isn't confirmed).

If you see anything or anyone acting suspiciously around your area please report it on the 101 number. It may also be worth considering joining the West Mercia Rural Watch Scheme which can be found on the West Mercia Police Website. Alternatively you can follow the link below:

www.westmercia.police.uk/article/4530/Rural-Watch

Published 18/08/15

Shed Security

We have had a number of reports recently of garden sheds being targeted and there are several precautions that you can take to protect your property.

Try to avoid leaving expensive equipment like garden tools, mowers, mountain bikes and power tools in your shed. If you have to then it is worth considering the below.

- * Keep your shed in good condition
- * Fit a closed shackle padlock to the door
- * Fittings should be bolted through the door and any screws concealed
 - * Fit grilles or mesh to the windows
 - * Invest in an alarm

Make sure:

Large items such as bikes are chained together. It is much more difficult to a thief to carry away a lot of large heavy items all at once.

Ladders are locked to a secure fixture in the shed or garage so they cannot be used to reach top floor windows of your house.

Top tips for a safer Garden

- * Gates fences and walls should be kept in good repair to stop intruders getting in.
 - * Grow prickly plants close to vulnerable areas such as windows, fences, boundary walls and drainpipes – examples include Berberis, Pyracantha and Holly.
 - * Don't leave ladders and tools lying around in your garden – these could be used to break into your home.
 - * Mark your garden tools with your postcode.
 - * If you have nowhere else to store valuable equipment, take measures to secure your shed.
-

Horse watch

This is a Watch Scheme for horse owners to join. There is no website at present but there is a Facebook page. The membership form is attached for anyone who may be interested. Free signage is available to those who join the Watch Scheme.



membership.doc
(43 KB)

Anti-Social Behaviour

A quick guide as to what it is...

Anti-social behaviour means "any behaviour from any person that causes another person harassment alarm or distress". This means hurting or upsetting someone.

Now we are in to the summer holidays, this is where we tend to see a few more cases of ASB (Anti Social Behaviour), although, ASB is **NOT** just caused by young people! ASB covers many different types of behaviour, some which you might find is a part of your daily life without even realising the effects it can have on others and the consequences you can face.

Types of anti-social behaviour include:

- Graffiti and vandalism
- Littering or dumping rubbish
- Misuse of fireworks including using them late at night
- Shouting or noisy behaviour in places where this might be annoying or upsetting (e.g. outside someone's house)
- Using rude, abusive or insulting language
- Threatening behaviour or bullying - including on the internet or via mobile phones
- Uncontrolled or dangerous dogs
- Assaulting someone or threatening them
- Stealing
- Joyriding or using vehicles in an anti-social manner (for example noisy radios, wheel spinning)
- Drinking alcohol in the street
- Rowdy drunken behaviour in the street.

Some antisocial behaviour, are crimes and punishable by the law. Each case will be treated individually. Anti-social behaviour is widespread and takes many forms. The Police and Council work together in partnership, identifying and then trying to resolve these issues.

P- phone 999 only if
O- offenders r nearby
L- life is at risk
I- injury caused/threatened
C- crime in progress
E- everything else call 101

Your nearest public service counter is at Hereford Police Station, Bath Street, Hereford, HR1 2HT:

Opening hours of:

Monday to Saturday: 8am to 8pm
Sundays and Bank Holidays: 10am to 4pm

Useful Contacts

Victim Support	01432 347208
Childline	0800 1111
Domestic Violence Helpline	0800 7831359
National Drugs Helpline	0800 776 600
National Neighbourhood Watch Association	02079 630160
Herefordshire Road Safety Hotline	01432 364582

Website: www.westmercia.police.uk

Regards

Lowri ANDERSON

PCSO 40247

Southwey Safer Neighbourhood Team