

On the beat in

Hereford Southside & Rural

Safer Neighbourhood Team Newsletter

January 2026

Where we work



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*We are happy to receive calls from Members of The Public, however, please **do not** use these to report crimes and/or incidents. For more information on reporting a crime/incident please go to www.westmercia.police.uk and select 'Report' or call 999 (Emergency) / 101 (Non-Emergency)*

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Christmas Showcase Day



The team at Southwye worked hard to make the showcase an enjoyable event at South Wye Station. The cars and vans were open for all to sit and climb in, uniform was available for children to dress up, Father Christmas and.....it snowed ❄️❄️❄️

The team engaged with people of all ages, played find the Elf's name game, made snow angels, did some colouring in.

Some of the parents got involved with a bit of role play after their children had cajoled them into being arrested and locked in the back of the van 😊

Be Bright Be Seen items were an added bonus for those that attended as the Team gave out bike lights, flashing armbands, clips and stickers to all who ride bikes, walk dogs and run in the evenings.

We are already planning our next Showcase event – we will let you know details well in advance

Bin Fires

We are still receiving reports of bins being set alight deliberately by unknown individuals. This behaviour is classed as Criminal damage and in some circumstances poses a significant safety risk due to the unknown contents inside the bins. The areas affected are the local play parks, where bins are often positioned in darker or more secluded spots, please remain vigilant and report any suspicious behaviour around these locations.

Safety Tips for Residents

- 🔑 **Stay vigilant** in parks and darker areas, especially near bins. Report anyone acting suspiciously.
- **Avoid placing flammable items** such as aerosols or BBQ materials in public bins.
- ♀️ **Use well-lit routes** during evenings to help deter anti-social behaviour.
- 🔥 **If you witness a fire**, keep a safe distance and call **999** immediately.

- 📞 **Report non-emergency concerns** about suspicious activity via **101** or the West Mercia Police website.
- ☐☐ **Encourage neighbours to stay alert**, especially those close to parks or secluded spots.
- 📺 **Check home CCTV or doorbell cameras** if you notice scorch marks or tampering nearby.
- 👤👤👤👤 **Remind young people about fire-setting dangers** and encourage them to report concerns.

Personal Safety App Launched Across West Mercia

West Mercia Police has launched a personal safety app, which aims to help people feel more confident when out and about. WalkSafe available to people across Herefordshire, Shropshire and Worcestershire and provides users with a list of safety-trained venues, including bars, restaurants and other premises that meet recognised standards through schemes such as Licensed Security &



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Vulnerability Initiative (LSAVI) and Best Bar None. The app also allows people to plan their route home, share their journey with trusted friends or family and make use of an SOS alert button if they feel unsafe. The introduction of WalkSafe across West Mercia supports ongoing work to improve safety in public spaces, particularly for women and girls. WalkSafe is backed by West Mercia's Police and Crime Commissioner and is funded through the Home Office. It will be available all year round. Superintendent Edward Hancox said: "We're pleased to see that the WalkSafe app is now available across West Mercia and we hope it will help people feel safe as they continue to enjoy a night out. "It's a simple tool that helps you stay connected with the people who care about you, whether you're travelling home, meeting friends or enjoying a night out. "The app features a list of safety trained venues; lets you plan and share your route and includes an SOS alert to trusted contacts if you feel unsafe. With so many women and girls telling us they feel vulnerable after dark, tools like this app can make a real difference. "The app forms part of our ongoing commitment to help people feel safer in public spaces and we fully support anything that gives our communities more confidence and reassurance when they're out and about." The number of safety-trained venues featured on the app is continuing to grow as more premises come on board. If licensed venues are already accredited through Best Bar None or LSAVI, or would like more information about being included, please contact your local Safer Neighbourhood Team. PCC John Champion added: "I'm committed to ensuring people not only are safe but feel safe too in West Mercia. "No one should fear going outside their homes or enjoying themselves on a night out with friends at any time of the year. "I'm pleased that the WalkSafe app is being launched in West Mercia, but we also need to see a societal shift and the use of the full weight of the law to stop the people who find it acceptable to perpetrate unwanted and, sometimes, violent behaviour." The WalkSafe app is free to download from the Apple App Store and Google Play, just search for WalkSafe.

Speed Enforcement

You said, we did it! Speeding has been noted as the top Parish Priority in the Southside area. The Team attended several sites on Friday at the request of the Parish Councils. More sites will be visited on a regular basis.

West Mercia Police enforce speeding using mobile cameras (like TruCam II), static cameras, and Community Speed Watch (CSW) schemes involving trained volunteers, targeting areas with safety concerns or high collision rates, with enforcement leading to warnings, courses, fines/points (Fixed Penalty Notices), or court action, depending on the severity of the offense. They use advanced tech like TruCam for detailed evidence, aiming to reduce serious injuries by tackling speeding, including planned average speed cameras on the A49.

Enforcement Methods

- **Mobile Enforcement:** Officers use devices like TruCam II (handheld or tripod-mounted) for laser speed detection and video evidence, often in areas of concern.
- **Community Speed Watch (CSW):** Volunteers monitor speeds in 30/40mph zones, reporting offenders who receive initial warning letters from police; repeat offenders may face police visits and prosecution.
- **Static Cameras:** Planned average speed cameras are being introduced on sections like the A49 (Leominster to Hereford), funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner.



Penalties & Actions

- **Warning:** A verbal warning for minor offenses.
- **Speed Awareness Course:** Offered for minor offenses (e.g., up to 10% + 2 mph over the limit) instead of points/fines, but not for higher speeds or recent convictions.
- **Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN):** For more serious offenses, typically 3 points and a £100 fine, but can increase.
- **Court Action:** For very high speeds or repeat offenses, leading to potentially higher fines (up to £1,000) and mandatory points.

Fit & Fed Christmas Special

Community engagement is about building trust, respect, and real relationships between the police and the people they serve. It's not just about enforcement — it's about listening, supporting, educating, and working together to create safer, stronger communities.

When police and the public connect through positive activities, open conversations, and shared goals, barriers break down and understanding grows. That's how confidence is built and futures are changed.

South Wye Police Boxing Academy is a huge advocate for community engagement. Through discipline, mentorship, and positive role models, they bring young people, officers, and the wider community together — proving that policing is about more than a uniform, it's about people.

🍏 Fit and Fed is a joint partnership with South Wye Police SNT, South Wye Police Boxing Academy, Dirty Feet, Melody Dance, 3Degreez Cheerleading, and Crack Slipper — a fantastic example of community engagement in action.

It's a great way to break down barriers and build strong relationships with the younger generation, creating positive experiences that last beyond the sessions.

👋 Thank you to everyone who supports this project. We look forward to continuing to work with you in the future as we keep building stronger, safer communities together. ❤️

#CommunityEngagement #BuildingTrust #StrongerTogether #FitAndFed #SouthWye
#PositivePolicing #CommunityFirst



Sur-Ron Bikes

There has been a rise in reports of this type of bike being ridden at speed through housing estates on the Southside.

Yes, cops absolutely pull over Sur-Rons, especially modified ones used illegally on roads without registration, insurance, lights, or proper equipment, leading to fines, impoundment, and license points, though enforcement varies by location and rider behaviour.

Reasons for being pulled over:



- **Illegal Modifications:**

De-restricting them to exceed 15.5 mph (the e-bike limit) turns them into unregistered motor vehicles, notes Met Police Service.

- **Lack of Road Legalities:**

No license plates, indicators, or insurance makes them illegal for road use.

- **Reckless Riding:**

Dangerous riding or acting like an "idiot" increases the chances of being stopped/reported

Consequences of being caught:

- Bike impoundment, fines, and fees.
- Points on your license.
- Requirement for proof of ownership, license, and insurance to reclaim the bike.

Off The Line

A football project with Hereford FC called "Off The Line" provides free football sessions for young people aged 11 to 18yrs old on a Tuesday from 4pm to 5pm at Belmont Wanderers 3G pitch HR2 7BF and a Thursday 430pm to 530pm at Herefordshire FA County Ground HR4 9NA.

This is a project that has ran for a couple of years at the County Ground and up until recently Belmont Wanderers have come on board to offer this fantastic opportunity for young people south of the river or for those who may not be able to travel.

This project gives you the opportunity to enhance your football skills alongside members of Hereford FC.

Contact PCSO Thomas on lewis.thomas@westmercia.police.uk for more information.

Neighbourhood Matters

Sign up to Neighbourhood Matters your brand-new community messaging service.

Neighbourhood Matters enables residents, businesses and community groups to keep in touch with local policing teams. You can choose exactly what type of alert you wish to receive and how you receive them, whether that be by email, text or telephone.

Sign up now at: www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk

