

# Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter

## SHROPSHIRE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

NORTH SHROPSHIRE SECTION

Date May 2018

**Please can we all remember that we live in a very low crime area, however, you may wish to view details of offences that have occurred in your areas. These figures are available on the new website [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk), where you can search for your area and view the different incidents that have taken place over a particular period.**

### Changes to local policing to offer improved protection for communities

**West Mercia Police is improving the services it provides to communities. Changes to its local policing service will ensure that officers are more visible on our streets, and that the public receive the highest level of service.**

The changes went live on Sunday 8 April and follow extensive research into crime statistics and how officers respond to incidents. The new policing model aims to provide a more visible and responsive service, with more officers on duty during times of greatest need.

Local communities will see no changes to Safer Neighbourhood Teams and local policing teams, as we have worked hard to protect these resources. Named Safer Neighbourhood Teams will continue to work with their communities and partner organisations to solve particular problems of concern. Police officers will be more visible within communities and will make best use of new technologies to tackle local issues and improve public access to them via digital channels. The changes to team structures and shift patterns will mean that there will be more uniformed officers in the right places, at the right time to tackle crime and provide reassurance and protection.

West Mercia Police is also improving road safety for communities, following its decision to withdraw from the Central Motorway Policing Group. On 8 April, 25 officers who were part of the Central Motorway Policing Group will become part of the West Mercia Police roads policing service. The enhanced team will work to improve roads policing, prevent offending and keep the public safe across the region's large and complex roads network.

Specially trained officers will be providing reassurance to those involved in incidents on motorways and other major roads, in cars that are fully kitted and equipped with technology to catch offenders, and the resources to manage traffic and keep the public safe. The roads policing team will work closely with agencies such as Highways England and fire and rescue services in areas such as training and incident management.

West Mercia Police's Assistant Chief Constable, Martin Evans, said: "These changes to local policing mean that we will not only maintain, but should in fact increase the visibility of police officers within our communities. We have made significant investments in technology which will help to keep officers visible in their communities, enabling them to perform far more administration tasks away from the station.

"The changes to our roads policing service means that officers who have been providing a regional motorways policing service will now be able to concentrate on policing the strategic roads network across Worcestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire and Telford. The returning officers will join existing roads policing



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teams and will offer a more robust service to everyone using our roads and increase road safety across our region.

"We are committed to protecting our current numbers of Police Constables and Police Community Support Officers in our Safer Neighbourhood Teams and will continue to work with partners and our communities to solve local problems, tackle issues of concern and protect people from harm."

Police and Crime Commissioner, John Campion said "Our communities deserve the right response from the police at the time when they need it most, so the matching of resources to demand is crucial.

"I made a commitment to protecting frontline police officers and PCSOs, and the new model delivers this. I also promised to equip our officers with the tools to keep people safe, and by equipping them with technology and specialist training, I am delivering on this promise.

"Our communities deserve a modern, agile and sustainable police force that delivers for their needs. I am confident that these changes, coupled with new technologies and the significant improvements we have already made will build communities where people are safer, and feel safer."

For more information on local policing, and to find out more about Safer Neighbourhood Teams, please visit the [Contact Us section](#).

## **West Mercia Police launch "Think Bike" Campaign for 2018 to encourage safe use of the roads in the region.**

### **West Mercia Police Safer Roads Partnership encourages motorcyclists to check their vehicles as Spring arrives.**

On the 26th of March 2018, Warwickshire Police and West Mercia Police Safer Roads Partnership launched their 2018 'THINK BIKE' campaign. The campaign is aimed at motorcycle riders and other road users to help reduce casualties and deaths on roads across Herefordshire, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin, Worcestershire and Warwickshire.

Over the past three years (2015-2017) in Warwickshire and West Mercia 46 people were killed and 557 seriously injured following collisions involving motorcycles.

The campaign is targeting both motorcyclists and car drivers with the aim of increasing general awareness. Roadside posters are being erected along some key motorcycle routes throughout the region where collisions have occurred over the past 3 years. These highlight routes where both motorcyclists and drivers need to take care and be more aware of each other.

As part of the campaign the partnership is also targeting those bikers who haven't ridden during the winter months and encouraging them to make a few simple safety checks on their bike before getting back on it for the new motorbike season.

For some riders, their bike may have only been off the road for the worst of the winter but for others it can be close to six months. The partnership is therefore urging all riders to check that their bike is in good working order before getting out on the road again and make a few simple checks on areas such as battery / electrics, tyres, chain, fluids, controls, brakes and chassis.

Supt Paul Moxley, Warwickshire Police and West Mercia Police, said: "Both Warwickshire and West Mercia are popular with bikers and many riders are attracted to the area, particularly at weekends as the weather improves. We're aiming to make motorcyclists and other road users more aware of the risks that are present when they are out on the roads and to help us reduce the amount of collisions that take place".

The Safer Roads Partnership also offers a subsidised 'Take Control' motorcycle skills enhancement course for bikers who want to brush up on their skills, gain more confidence on their bike or become a better rider in preparation for their full test. Courses are highly subsidised with one day courses being offered for only £50



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(normal training price of £150). For more information visit @rmtmotorcycletraining or RMT Motorcycle Training on Facebook and request a Take Control course.

Warwickshire Police and West Mercia Police will also be focusing on various operations throughout the spring and summer months, targeting dangerous and anti-social riders on targeted routes across the region.

### **ALL TERRIAN AND QUAD BIKE THEFTS REPORTED**

**Please be aware there has been a significant increase in the theft of Quad bikes and similar vehicles from rural locations throughout Shropshire in recent weeks.**

Quad Bikes and All Terrain Vehicles are among the items most likely to be stolen in rural areas. Owners of such machines are advised to take the following crime prevention measures to combat these thefts.

1. Secure any Quad bike inside a locked building (as near to the main dwelling as possible)
2. Remove keys
3. Anchor the Quad down with a Heavy Duty chain and padlock
4. Alarm the building if possible
5. Take a photograph of the machine and keep safe any serial numbers if not road registered.
6. Fit a tracking device
7. Park larger vehicles in front of access doors to prevent easy access
8. Mark or customise your property so it is easily identifiable. This can deter thieves and assist recovery if they are stolen

Further crime prevention information and details for of: Stop That Thief, contact your local Safer Neighbourhood Team, to see who your team is go:<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/myarea>

### **If you suspect offenders are on your premises and crime in progress call 999**

Further crime prevention advice can also be found on the West Mercia Police website, Crime & Safety section <https://www.westmercia.police.uk/crime-and-safety>

### **Appeal for witnesses following assault in Oswestry**

**West Mercia Police is appealing for witnesses or information following an assault in Oswestry.**

At approximately 8pm on Tuesday 27 March, a 15-year-old boy was stood opposite the Co-Op on Cabin Lane when a black Range Rover pulled alongside him. An unknown male exited the vehicle and punched the boy in the eye, causing bruising. He did not require hospital treatment. The victim then ran off from the scene.

The offender is described as a white male, between 17-19 years old, with black hair. He was wearing a black jacket and was holding an item believed to be a rounders bat. Investigating officer, PC Jason Tierney from Oswestry police station said: "We are currently investigating this offence, which took place in a busy part of Oswestry. We would ask anyone who witnessed the incident or recognises the description of the offender or the vehicle to please come forward. If you have any information, please call West Mercia Police on 101, quoting incident reference 687S of 27 March 2018."

Alternatively, you can call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via their [website](#).

### **Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia Police is to consult with local communities about Local Policing.**

**Local Communities are to be asked for their views on Local Policing.**

Communities across West Mercia are being asked for their views on local policing, as part of a new project from the Police and Crime Commissioner, John Campion.

A survey has been circulated to every town and parish council across the West Mercia area.



Councils have been asked for their thoughts on a range of subjects, including the visibility of local policing, relationships with officers and local crime priorities.

John Champion said: "I promised I would engage with our local communities and give them a strong voice on the issues that matter most to them. This project is one of the ways I am delivering on that promise. Our town and parish councils are acutely aware of the issues that matter most to their local communities and I am keen to hear their collective and individual thoughts on local policing and crime. Their feedback will help inform priorities for myself as well as our police force. It will also help identify where and how local police relationships are working well, or if they can be improved".

The survey will be open for three months to allow every council a full opportunity to take part, the survey is open until the 6th of July 2018.

Postal versions will be available on request. Councils are asked to contact the PCC if that is the case.

You can email the Safer Neighbourhood Team at [bridgnorth.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:bridgnorth.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk), but be aware that this email address should not be used to report an incident that requires an urgent Police answer as it is not monitored 24 hours a day.

Please follow us on Twitter: @BridgnorthCops for updates to this story and others for the area.

### **Lambing Season - Livestock Worrying - Your responsibilities as a dog owner.**

**In our rural County we have regular problems with livestock being worried by dogs that are not under proper control.**

With large numbers of lambs out in the fields it is important for dog owners to keep in mind the following when out walking:

"Under the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953, **if a dog worries sheep on agricultural land, the person in charge of the dog is guilty of an offence.** The Act considers sheep worrying to include attacking sheep, chasing them in a way that may cause injury, suffering, abortion or loss of produce or being at large (not on a lead or otherwise under close control) in a field or enclosure in which there are sheep."

The Countryside Code produced by Natural England offers the following advice:

When you take your dog into the outdoors, always ensure it does not disturb wildlife, farm animals, horses or other people by keeping it under effective control. This means that you:

- keep your dog on a lead, or keep it in sight at all times, be aware of what it's doing and be confident it will return to you promptly on command.
- ensure it does not stray off the path or area where you have a right of access.

Special dog rules may apply in particular situations, so always look out for local signs, for example:

- Dogs may be banned from certain areas that people use, or there may be restrictions, byelaws or control orders limiting where they can go.
- The access rights that normally apply to open country and registered common land (known as "Open Access" land) require dogs to be kept on a short lead between 1 March and 31 July, to help protect ground nesting birds, and all year round near farm animals.

It's always good practice (and a legal requirement on "Open Access" land) to **keep your dog on a lead around farm animals and horses, for your own safety and for the welfare of the animals.** A farmer may shoot a dog which is attacking or chasing farm animals without being liable to compensate the dog's owner.

However, if cattle or horses chase you and your dog, it is safer to let your dog off the lead, don't risk getting



hurt by trying to protect it. Your dog will be much safer if you let it run away from a farm animal in these circumstances and so will you.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/558112/countryside-code.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/558112/countryside-code.pdf)

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### **West Mercia Community Ambassadors, who are they and what is their role?**

**The West Mercia Community Ambassador for Shropshire, Graham Oliver, is engaging with local communities across Shropshire.**

**Each force area in West Mercia has its own dedicated Community Ambassador who represents the Police and Crime Commissioner. These individuals act as the 'eyes and ears' for John Campion and ensure community concerns and issues are fed back and dealt with accordingly.**

Anyone can contact their local Ambassador to bring issues around crime, safety or policing to the Commissioner's attention.

The Ambassador for Shropshire is Graham Oliver.

If you want to contact your local Community Ambassador and find out more about the area you live in, please visit the West Mercia Office of Police & Crime Commissioner website <https://www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk/in-your-community/community-ambassadors/>.

### **Who are they and what do they do?**

They engage with local communities to ensure their priorities are understood, their voices are heard and their needs are met.

They develop new relationships with partners and communities.

They ensure the Police and Crime Commissioner, John Campion, has a visible presence and is accessible right across a large policing area.

They represent the Commissioner's values, vision and work.

### **What meetings do they attend?**

They have monthly meetings with the Superintendent for their policing area.

Take part in patrols with their local Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT).

They attend local parish council meetings, community events, such as festivals and fetes,

Check in with grant recipients, and identify other groups that may benefit from funding

### **How do I get in contact with them?**

Graham Oliver, Shropshire

Email: [grahamopcc@gmail.com](mailto:grahamopcc@gmail.com)

Phone: 07976 948 870

