

Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter

SHROPSHIRE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

NORTH SHROPSHIRE SECTION

Date June 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, where you can search for your area and view the different incidents that have taken place over a particular period.

The Safer Neighbourhood Team continue to patrol the area to try and identify those involved in rural crime.

Following a series of rural crimes in the area, the Safer Neighbourhood Team continue to patrol the areas affected.

Over the last few months we have seen a number of burglaries from outbuildings in both rural locations and towns. The offenders are usually after high value items that can be sold on through the second hand market; these include power tools, hedge strimmers, lawnmowers and similar items. Some advice to prevent burglaries from your property can be found on the West Mercia Police website.

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/Home-security>

In addition to thefts from residential properties, there have been a number of thefts from farms and small holdings. While these have included high value small items, we have also seen large agricultural vehicles stolen. Advice to help prevent this criminal activity can be found at the following link.

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/13049/Farm-and-outbuilding-crime-prevention-advice>

The Safer Neighbourhood Team are conducting patrols around the rural roads in our area but our best asset in Crime Prevention are the reports we get from people concerning suspicious activity. Such reports are normally made when a member of the public notices something that seems out of place, such as a vehicle in a remote area. In order to assist the police the more detail that you can provide the better, especially relevant is a vehicle registration and a good description of anybody seen in suspicious circumstances.

There are a number of ways you can alert the Police to suspicious activity, ringing 101 is the usual method. However, if a crime is actually taking place, or you believe someone is in physical danger, please don't hesitate to ring 999.

If what you want to report does not require an officer to attend and is not urgent, you can always use our Safer Neighbourhood Team email address, given below.



Awarded for excellence



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

The "Think Bike" Road safety Awareness campaign continues in West Mercia.

Police are asking you to be aware of other road users during the summer holidays.

The Safer Roads Partnership in Warwickshire and West Mercia 2018 'THINK BIKE' 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 period (2014-2016) in Warwickshire and West Mercia there were 528 people either killed or seriously injured following collisions involving motorcycles. The campaign is targeting both motorcyclists and car drivers with the aim of increasing general awareness and offering additional training. 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.

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. With the summer holidays now with us, it is likely we may see more motorcycles on the roads.

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.

Vicki Bristow, Communications Manager for the Safer Roads Partnership said: "Both Warwickshire and West Mercia are popular with bikers and many riders are attracted to the area, particularly at weekends and when the weather is good. 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".

As part of the campaign, Safer Neighbourhood Team Officers will be out on patrol across the area, targeting those areas that are well known as popular driving or riding routes.

The Safer Roads Partnership offers a '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. For more information visit www.rmtnet.co.uk/take-control or <http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/motorbiketraining> .

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

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



Awarded for excellence



Uniting against crime



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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

Shed/Vehicle Breaks In OSWESTRY

Shed/Van breaks in OSWESTRY

Oswestry has seen a slight increase in Vehicle and Shed breaks lately.

We will be offering Help and Support to those affected.

Items that are most frequently stolen and items of high value and those items that can be carried/pedalled away for ease of escape.

These items will include

Cars - Mobiles, Satnavs, Money, Sunglasses, Media storage devices Etc

Sheds - Bikes, Power Tools, Chainsaws, Gardening equipment Etc

Prevention

We find that in the majority of cases reported that the vehicle or shed has been left insecure. First bit of advice is **"TO LOCK IT UP"**

Most insurance companies will not insure tools left in your van, so if stolen you will have no claim.

Cars -

Remove tools from your vehicles.



Open your glove box to show nothing of value inside.

Park under street lighting or have a PIR light to cover your vehicle,

Install CCTV to cover your vehicle to help prevent or to identify offenders.

Sheds -

Why do people put thousands of pounds worth of equipment in their shed and then put a £2 Padlock on it???

Use a lock fit for purpose.

Fit bars to windows and doors.

Use a ground anchor to lock bikes and tools.

Use PIR lighting.

Use an alarm.

Use CCTV deter and identify offenders.

Use secure hinges and screws or drill them out so they can't be undone.

Burglaries in our area

Please be vigilant and take steps to secure your sheds, outbuildings and garages.

Our area has been experiencing a significant spate of burglaries; items being stolen include power tools and lawnmowers. We have gathered a variety of information and are working closely with our neighbouring Policing areas (Cheshire and North Wales) to investigate incidents and disrupt offenders.

The local SNT have been conducting patrols targeting residential streets in our patch to deter would be offenders and to reassure residents. We have also worked with our Response officers, Special Constabulary colleagues and specialist teams to conduct patrols late evening and overnight to address any suspicious activity involving people and vehicles. This included taking steps to identify potential offenders, carrying out searches where appropriate and working to disrupt offending behaviour.

If you see anything suspicious please call us on 101 or make a report using our online system by following this link: <https://www.westmercia.police.uk/report> ([Opens in a new window](#)). there are also a few things residents could do to make sure their property is as secure as it can be:

- Make sure outside lights, motion lights and any alarms or CCTV you have are working properly
- Check you sheds/garages each morning so we can know as soon as possible if a burglary has occurred
- Mark your property with your postcode or surname so we can get it back to you - it also makes it less attractive to steal. Cremark works well (can be bought from Homebase)
- Also available in Homebase or other similar stores are battery powered shed alarms - when motion is detected a loud alarm sounds which will scare people off or wake you up.

Offsite Links

- » [Smartwater](#) ([Opens in a new window](#))
- » [Crimestoppers UK](#) ([Opens in a new window](#))

Downloads



[Shed security crime prevention advice \[359kb\]](#) ([Opens in a new window](#))



Awarded for excellence



Uniting against crime



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

New speed enforcement sites launching in Shropshire

The Safer Roads Partnership in Warwickshire and West Mercia is launching a number of new mobile speed enforcement sites in Shropshire, in direct response to concerns raised about the speed of vehicles travelling in each area. New sites will be launched on the A528 Grange Road Ellesmere, B5068 Dudleston Heath, Wenlock Road in Bridgnorth, Sutton Road in Shrewsbury and the village of Treflach.

The new sites will launch this month and will form part of the Safer Roads Partnership's Community Concern programme, which responds to community requests for speed enforcement. Local residents in each area raised their concerns through their local parish council or safer neighbourhood team who then brought it to the attention of the Safer Roads Partnership and asked for action to be taken.

Speed enforcement activity will take place on the A528 Grange Road Ellesmere where the posted speed limit is 30mph. Speed data collected by the partnership highlighted a significant speed compliance problem; 15% of vehicles were found to be travelling above 37.9mph and over 50% of all vehicles were found to be travelling above the speed limit.

On the B5068 in Dudleston Heath, speed data highlighted that 15% of vehicles are travelling above 36.7mph and 47% of all drivers are exceeding the 30 mph limit.

In Wenlock Road, Bridgnorth speed was also highlighted as a concern for the community, 15% of vehicles are travelling above 35.4mph and over 40% of all drivers are exceeding the 30 mph limit.

Similar issues were present in Sutton Road, Shrewsbury, with 15% of drivers travelling above 35.4mph and over 40% of drivers are exceeding the 30mph limit.

Speed enforcement activity will also take place in the village of Treflach where speed data has highlighted a significant speed compliance problem, with 15% of drivers travelling above 38.6mph and over 60% exceeding the 30mph limit.

Sergeant Gavin Williams said: "We are launching these new community concern sites in Shropshire to address the high level of concern in each of the local communities. Data collected at all of the sites has highlighted unacceptably high speeds and local people are understandably concerned as each of the roads are near residential areas and community amenities.

We hope that the presence of a speed camera will encourage drivers to change their behaviour and drive at a lower, safer speed."

Alice Croft, Principal Engineer at Shropshire Council, said: "We have been discussing ongoing concerns with the Safer Roads Partnership in relation to these sites. The new speed enforcement sites being launched within Shropshire will help to address the speeding concerns that have been raised by these individual communities.

This will help to improve the quality of life for people living in these areas, reduce the risk of harm, and improve the safety of the roads for all those who use them."

Speed data will be collected while the sites are in operation to assess the impact upon traffic speed and driver behaviour.

Police offer practical advice on how to deal with neighbour disputes.

Practical advice and links to websites for further information on how to deal with a dispute with your neighbour.

We would all like to live in peace with our neighbours, but unfortunately that is sometimes not how things work out. Here is what you can do if you are having problems. Unless a crime has been committed or someone is in



Awarded for excellence



Uniting against crime



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

immediate danger, the police are unlikely to intervene in neighbour disputes. However, we will put you in touch with the groups and organisations who can help.

Examples:

"I am having a dispute with a neighbour about our property boundaries, can the Police help?"

The Police are not able to determine the boundary of your property or that of your neighbours, it is a civil matter that will require you to try and find an amicable solution with your neighbour. If this does not prove possible, we suggest seeking the advice of a solicitor to resolve this. You could also contact your bank, building society, or whoever holds your deeds, to confirm the boundary lines.

The following resources may also be of use:

The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) www.rics.org

The Land Registry www.gov.uk

"I am having a dispute with a neighbour about their CCTV camera pointing at my property, can the Police help?"

Many people are installing closed circuit television (CCTV) as a home security measure as it has proved to be an effective tool in deterring crime and identifying offenders. Cameras used for limited household purposes are not subject to the Data Protection Act 1998. However, if the footage covers areas beyond this, such as neighbouring streets or other properties, problems may arise. There could be issues regarding privacy and harassment if you are being recorded in your home.

You can find good advice from the Information Commissioners Office, check out their website.
<https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/cctv-on-your-property/>

In the first instance, speak to your neighbour to see if it is possible to reposition the camera so that it does not point at your property, or for you to come to some other practical solution.. If this is not successful, and you want to take further action, we recommend seeking legal advice from a solicitor or calling 101 if you believe that the person operating the CCTV is deliberately capturing images of you or your family.

To find a local independent solicitor visit The Law Society web site www.lawsociety.org.uk

This information is provided courtesy of "Ask The Police".

"My neighbour plays music to an excessive level, can the Police help?"

The GOV.UK site allows you to submit a noise complaint to your local council online. If you live in a rented property or local housing then please contact your landlord or the housing association who will be able to provide relevant support and guidance.

Further advice on what to do to resolve a neighbour dispute can be obtained from the Gov.UK website www.gov.uk

This independent website also offers advice www.problemneighbours.co.uk

If you live in a rented property or local housing then please contact your landlord or the housing association who will be able to provide relevant support and guidance.

The Citizens Advice Bureau also offer sensible advice <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/housing/problems-where-you-live/complaining-about-your-neighbour/>

Shropshire Council can also be a source of advice <https://shropshire.gov.uk/environmental-health/community-and-local-environment/advice-and-guidance/noise/>

