



Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter

SHROPSHIRE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

NORTH SHROPSHIRE SECTION

Date March
2019

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.

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Livestock Worrying - Advice for Farmers & Landowners

The following advice for farmers & landowners is provided by [SHEEPWATCH](#) on how to reduce instances of livestock worrying as we head into early lambing season:

How can you better protect your sheep

1. Support education around keeping dogs on leads near sheep. Maybe put some posters up in your vets. Give a talk in the local school or other community groups. This may be a pain but it will be worth it.
2. Let dog walkers know when they are getting near to sheep so dog walkers can keep their dogs close and not allow them to charge through nearby fields - put signs up 'You are 200 meters from a sheep field'.
3. Let dog walkers know when sheep are in a field that they are about to enter 'Sheep in field - dogs on leads please'.
4. Keep signs up to date. If people keep entering a field that says 'sheep - dogs on leads' and then it is empty, people can become sign blind as they don't know which sign is true and which is out of date. Thus they begin to ignore all signs.
5. Don't forget to put your phone number on the gate so people know who to contact if they see an incident occur or discover injured sheep.
6. Where possible block access under gates.

7. If you see people crossing the land without a dog on a lead or not under proper control near sheep, confront them and let them know you will be informing the police as this is a crime. If it is safe to do so, photograph them and ask for their name and address. This could stop the dog attacking in the future and word soon gets about that you will not tolerate bad dog ownership.

How can farmers help the police?

Early warnings: For police to intervene early and reduce the likelihood of a livestock attack, it is critical that poorly controlled dogs, dogs which are repeatedly escaping, or dogs trespassing from public footpaths are reported to the police.

The police and local authorities have options for enforcing responsible dog ownership and can also offer advice and help to dog owners.

Report in all cases: Livestock worrying is a crime and must be reported to the police in all cases.

Data from reported incidents create a picture of where incidents are happening; the police can then put in place prevention initiatives, include targeted educational material and signage.

Preserve evidence: Preserve attacked livestock for forensic examination. This can secure key evidence to identify the dogs involved. If it is raining or wet, please cover any carcasses with waterproof material such as tarpaulin, this will enable the police to obtain the best evidence. Take photographs and video (mobiles or a camera) of the attacked livestock, the whole scene as well as detailed close-ups and ear tag numbers. If possible, obtain a veterinary examination – expert medical evidence is useful for subsequent prosecutions.

Contacting the police

Dial 999

Dogs worrying livestock is considered an emergency if it is taking place at the time and there is, or likely to be serious damage to livestock, so dial 999. Ask for the police and explain to the operator that there is a dog attacking livestock. To enable your call to be correctly graded, please stress to the operator that there either has been, or will be serious damage to your livestock.

Provide an accurate location and in remote areas please try to provide both OS grid co-ordinates and the location of the nearest road and point of interest. If possible, arrange to meet officers to guide them to the location.

Dial 101

If livestock has been attacked and the dogs have left the location, please use the 101 service. Ask for the relevant police force and explain to the operator what has happened. The operator will give you advice and explain how the force will handle your report.

If you are reporting intelligence on poorly controlled dogs, dogs regularly trespassing on farm land, escaping or being allowed to roam freely – then please either report to the local police via the 101 service or email your local force through the address on their website. Photographs and video footage can be attached to email reports.

What service should you expect from the police?

The police will investigate your report of crime – this may be over the phone or by sending officers depending on the circumstances.

If your report is being handled as an emergency you will be informed of this and officers will be dispatched to the location to identify the dog(s) and owner and investigate the offence.

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Cyber crime losses in West Mercia down by over half according to latest national statistics

Cyber dependent crime losses in West Mercia have dropped by over half in the six month period April - September 2018, compared with the previous six months.

Losses for West Mercia of some £227K compare with a national increase in total losses of nearly a quarter, at 24%.

Reporting of cyber crime in West Mercia has also dropped by over 1.7% in the same period, compared with a national increase of just under 8%.

These are among the latest statistics released by the City of London Police's National Fraud Intelligence Bureau in their cyber crime report of 27 January (see <https://www.cityoflondon.police.uk/Pages/default.aspx>).

The figures include details such as the number of reports of cyber crimes made to Action Fraud and the amount of money lost by victims in each police force area. The cyber 'dashboards' show the impact that this kind of crime can have in a local area.

For West Mercia, it is also estimated that at least 74% of all reported fraud crime was cyber enabled (i.e. the fraud crime was made possible via the use of a computer or device).

Other statistics in the report for West Mercia indicate that people aged between 40 - 49 suffered the greatest from this type of offence.

The highest losses to the public in West Mercia due to cyber dependent crime were as a result of 'hacking' of their social media and e-mail, with this type of hacking also being the most reported crime.

However, whilst individuals incurred 84% of such crime, businesses were also targeted, representing 13% of the total. This is similar to national figures.

The top 'malware' (malicious software) method of attack used for such crimes in the period was 'Multi-purpose' malware, with 876 devices being infected.

Detective Inspector Emma Wright, of the Economic Crime Unit, said:

"It is good news that West Mercia has seen a decrease in victim losses from cyber dependent crime.

"The reduction in losses may be as a result of people taking on board our 'Cyber Protect and Prepare' key messages, which we have worked hard to convey to the public and businesses, working closely with our partner agencies.

"West Mercia has also seen a decrease in reporting. However, we know that cyber crime is under-reported so we continue to encourage the public and businesses to report cyber crimes to Action Fraud - the national reporting centre.

"Whilst cyber dependent crime remains fairly low, the figures show that for West Mercia around 75% of all fraud is cyber enabled and this is a figure we would like to see come down.

"We have taken significant steps to combat and reduce this type of crime, and are working closely with our partners across West Mercia. We have recently established a team of cyber intelligence and investigative staff, with more equipment and training coming through soon. This will enable us to devote more resources to cyber dependent investigations and bear down harder on cyber criminals.

"However, as always, our best results are achieved by working closely with the public and business. They should be on their guard at all times and report any cyber crime to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or 0300 123 2040.

"Remember the following simple ways to guard against cyber crime:

- ensure you use strong, separate email passwords for your email account.
- protect yourself from cyber crime - always install the latest software and app updates on your phone and computers, as they contain vital security updates, helping protect your device from viruses and hackers.
- consider also enabling two factor authentication (also known as two step authentication or two step login) where services support it.

"Don't be the next cyber victim.

"Members of the public can also find up to date advice and tips on preventing cyber crime at our force website and by following our Digital Police Community Support Officer James Squire, on Twitter - @cyberpcso."

The City of London Police is the national policing lead for fraud, a founding member of the Global Cyber Alliance and hosts Action Fraud, the national reporting centre for cyber crime.

Full statistics for the period April - September 2018 are on the City of London Cyber Crime 'dashboard' published today.

Statistics for West Mercia include:

Victim losses: £227,316 (compared with £521,336 previously, down 56.4%)

Cyber reporting: 238 cyber dependent crimes (down 1.7%)

Reports of Hacking - social media/email: 86

Victim losses from Hacking - social media/e-mail: £99K

Take extra care on rural roads this winter

West Mercia Police is encouraging motorists to take extra care on rural roads this winter where there is mud on the roads, and reminding farmers and contractors of their legal responsibilities around keeping the highways clear of mud and debris.

A particular hazard on rural roads is mud and debris being brought onto the roads from adjacent land. Water running off fields and property will bring mud with it, this will be reduced if land and property owners can do all they can to meet their duty to maintain roadside ditches, along with the drainage systems throughout their property. All traffic exiting gateways to fields, yards and other premises can track mud onto the road. In poor weather, any mud on the carriageway can be easily spread by moving vehicles over a much wider area; this presents a great risk to road safety over the winter period. 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 and freezing temperatures.

Under the Highways Act (1980), all have a legal obligation to ensure their vehicles are cleared of any mud or debris before entering the public highway, to ensure mud is not deposited on the highway.

Superintendent Paul Moxley for West Mercia Police comments: "Every year we face problems with mud and debris being left on rural roads, which poses a real danger to anyone using those roads. While the majority of farmers and contractors 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.

"If you see mud on the roads, please drive with caution and treat this the same way that you would with icy or slippery roads. Slow down, be patient and avoid driving on verges where you can, as this can lead to mud on the road surface."

Anyone wishing to report any issues regarding debris or mud on the road can contact the following agencies:

Shropshire:

Shropshire Council: 0345 678 9006

Burglary Prevention Campaign

Burglary Prevention Campaign

Taking a few simple steps will help you avoid becoming a victim of burglary.

For example:

Setting a timer switch to control your lights to come on and off at various times when no-one is at home, as an unlit house can attract unwanted attention.

Remember to lock your doors, patios and downstairs windows even when your in, make sure you double check before you go to bed.

If you have a burglar alarm make sure you set it when you go out. Also consider setting it before you go to bed.

Don't leave car keys, ID cards or valuables near windows, doors or letterboxes, where burglars can reach through to steal them.

Don't leave Lap tops on view or other valuable items.

At night take your handbag and wallet upstairs with you.

Don't leave Car Keys on hooks in the kitchen or on hall tables, this is the first place a thief will look.

Lock your garden gates and side entrances, this makes it time consuming for a person to enter your property.

Do not leave garden tools around the garden or yard, doing so provides a thief with the tools to break into your house.

Do not leave valuable items on show in your car whether it is out shopping or parked at home.

Never leave the car unlocked, or with the keys in the ignition when it is unattended. Not even for a couple of minutes. Doing so could affect your insurance.

Do not leave your car running unattended whilst it defrosts, this is a traffic offence on a public road and it leaves your vehicle vulnerable to THEFT.

Keep your outer buildings locked and consider whitewashing windows of sheds to stop people looking inside.

Mark property to help identify it. This can be done with either invisible ultra violet pens or Smart Water. or visible with paint. You can consider etching your postcode onto items such as tools.

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Safer Roads - West Mercia Police and partner agencies are offering free places on four "Biker Down" Safety Awareness Courses on 9/10 March 2019.

Free Safety Awareness courses offered for Biker - "Biker Down" in Shrewsbury.

Free 'Biker Down' courses in Shropshire

Bikers across Shropshire and the wider West Mercia area are invited to attend a free 3.5 hour 'Biker Down' course in Shrewsbury, offering potentially life-saving skills. Four courses are available, over the weekend of Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th March 2019:

- **Saturday 9th March AM (09:30 to 13:00)**
- **Saturday 9th March PM (14:00 to 17:30)**
- **Sunday 10th March AM (09:30 to 13:00)**
- **Sunday 10th March PM (14:00-17:30)**

The Biker Down course is 3.5 hours long, and each course is limited to 20-25 attendees. Places will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis. All courses will take place at Shrewsbury Fire Station but places **must** be booked in advance. It is only necessary to attend one of the listed courses. Full details will be provided to course attendees once their place is confirmed.

The Biker Down course is being delivered in partnership by a number of organisations who all have a vested interest in reducing motorcycle-related casualties and reducing the severity of injuries sustained, including: Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service, the Safer Roads Partnership in Warwickshire and West Mercia, West Mercia Police, the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM) Road Smart and Midlands Air Ambulance.

Designed for motorcyclists of all ages and abilities, Biker Down is a free course which offers bikers the chance to benefit from essential first-aid training and advice on what to do should they find themselves first at the scene of a collision where a motorcyclist is injured, as well as learning practical skills to help avoid being involved in a collision. The course is made up of three modules: Collision scene management, Basic first aid and casualty care (including CPR and helmet removal) and 'The science of being seen' - advice on visibility and positioning.

Biker Down is a national course which originated in Kent, and has already been adopted by numerous other areas across the UK including Gloucestershire, Dyfed Powys and West Midlands. 2019 courses in Worcestershire and Herefordshire are currently being arranged and dates / venues will be promoted accordingly.

To book a place on one of these courses, please email Roadsafety1@westmercia.pnn.police.uk with your details (name, email address, contact telephone number, preferred course date / time) as soon as possible. Or call 01905 331323 if you have any queries.

Two men arrested in connection with county lines

Two men have been arrested in connection with county lines after a drugs warrant was carried out in Shropshire.

On Friday 15 February the Local Organised Crime Team and South Shropshire Safer Neighbourhood Team, supported by the Local Policing Priorities Team, carried out a warrant in The Wildings in Ludlow.

Class A drugs believed to be cocaine and heroin along with cash and mobile phones were seized.

A 45 year old Ludlow man and a 19 year old man from Tipton were arrested on suspicion of possession of a class a drug with intent to supply. Both have been released on police bail.

The warrant comes as West Mercia Police continues to reinforce its commitment to tackling serious and organised crime as part of its Protect campaign.

Shropshire Superintendent Mo Lansdale said: "We know county lines is happening in Shropshire and over the past few years have put a lot of work in to address this, we're certainly not complacent though and recognise there is still more to do.

"This activity is an example of the robust approach we're taking to relentlessly pursue those involved to tackle this serious and organised crime and I hope our communities feel reassured about the work we're doing.

"Education is a key aspect to help us prevent people from becoming involved in county lines and serious and organised crime and much of our work includes working with our partner agencies, such as the local authority, to raise awareness of what it is and how to spot the signs someone may be at risk of being exploited by county lines criminals.

"We have already seen some significant results targeting county lines and will continue to build on these successes to prevent people coming into our rural towns to deal drugs as part of our protect campaign."

Protect is a campaign being run by West Mercia Police alongside a range of partner agencies to tackle serious and organised crime (SOC).

The broad-ranging operation covers four key areas of activity:

- Pursue - prosecuting and disrupting those involved in SOC
- Prevent - stopping individuals from becoming involved in SOC
- Protect - increased levels of protection against SOC
- Prepare - reducing the impact of SOC where it occurs