NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
POLICE
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Annual Report 2024 for Daventry & Rural

The Daventry Neighbourhood policing team remains at the heart of all policing activities across the district. We continue to be based primarily from Daventry Police Station in the centre of our largest town with a smaller team working from Brixworth, covering the more rural communities in the north of West Northamptonshire.

2023 has seen a number of changes within the Daventry neighbourhood team at both supervisor level as well as amongst the team. In April we said a fond farewell to Police Sergeant (PS) Matt Moore, who left to join Norfolk police. We welcomed PS Lewis Judd to the team as his replacement; Lewis is responsible for the rural areas at both the north and south of the district. This includes Brixworth, Moulton, Welford, Naseby, Weedon, Woodford Halse and Byfield. PS Judd manages a number of PCs and PCSOs' based at both the Brixworth office and Daventry Police station. PS Greg Harrison remains the sergeant responsible for Daventry Town, Crick, Kilsby, West Haddon and Long Buckby areas with his team based at Daventry Police Station, along with numerous response officers on duty 24/7 across the district.

We have also welcomed PS Josh Ellard to the neighbourhood policing team, running Operation Fragment, which is Northamptonshire police's response to anti-social behaviour (ASB) and associated issues on the Southbrook estate within Daventry Town. The team are trialing a number of initiatives to reduce the rates of crime and ASB on the estate; he is supported by three PCs on this operation.

The Team continues to benefit from having sponsored PCSOs who are dedicated to parishes around the area. Les Conopo and Duncan Cumming cover the Daventry International Rail Freight Terminal (DIRFT) and Crick providing a high visibility presence and maintaining good partnerships with the largest business estate on our district. This helps deter crime and reduce ASB as well as providing the village with points of contact for any emerging issues. PCSO Paul Miller has taken over the sponsored role in Woodford Halse. He has spent several weeks ensuring he is a familiar face around the village, making effective partnerships with the schools and local business and targeting the issues raised by the village around anti-social parking and shoplifting. If any parishes would like to seek further information on the sponsorship scheme or are interested in joining, please contact one of the supervisor team. PCSO Emma Teagles has been dedicated to Daventry Town for the past year bringing with her a wealth of local knowledge and contacts that have proved invaluable.

All of this has meant we have a larger team and are able to dedicate more time and resources in tackling the issues that mean the most to you, our residents. Whilst our officers and PCSOs have defined beat areas in which they spend the majority of their time, we are able to be flexible in order to respond to emerging issues and areas of risk if needed. We also now benefit in having staff trained in a variety of skills including off-road motorcycling, response and pursuit driving, drug testing, method of entry, as well as Taser equipped officers. This allows us to provide a suitable response to every situation we attend.

The team endeavour to remain as visible in the community as much we possibly can, utilising several locations to hold community surgeries and drop in events so that you can speak to us in person. We are also continuing to utilise the force's Beat Bus to visit villages and areas where it has been traditionally hard to base ourselves and be visible.

As well as responding to reported incidents as they occur, officers take on crime allocations for offences that have taken place in our policing area. The main focus of our team is driven by locally identified priorities, which are updated quarterly throughout the year.

2023 has seen these alternate between Rural Crime, Drug Dealing & Misuse, Burglary, Auto Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour. In addition, Road Safety and Traffic Offences consistently feature as a priority. Sadly, we have once again seen a number of fatal and serious injury road traffic collisions on the roads of the district and the team remain committed to working to reduce and prevent these in any way we can. We provide a high visibility presence on the roads with a fleet of marked police vehicles and have been able to carry out speed enforcement using our handheld devices to both deter and detect offences. Also working with other teams from across the force as well as the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA), we have been able to establish a number of pop-up check sites where cars are pulled over for document and defect checks at the roadside.

This has led to numerous vehicle recoveries and offences being detected on each occasion. However, it should be noted that the vast majority of cars on the road are being driven legally in accordance with all legislation.

Residents may have seen a number of high-profile enforcement days that have taken place in Daventry Town and surrounding villages as part of our ongoing efforts to reduce the supply of illegal drugs in our community. Over this year, the neighbourhood team have executed numerous warrants in the early hours of the morning, as well as during the day to best target when offenders are in possession of drugs. This helps to disrupt the supply of drugs into the community. Currently, we have a number of ongoing investigations and court cases that are due to report on sentencing in the near future. These warrants are based and secured on the intelligence we receive from the community. It is the key factor in assisting with building a wider picture of everyone linked to drug supply and giving us the foundation to apply for and execute warrants to reduce the harm that drugs inflict on our community. A key example of the direct effect this enforcement has had is the link to a reduction in violence in our weekend night-time economy.

At present we are finding that a lot of our time is consumed in dealing with crimes perpetrated via social media. The vast majority of this involves children of school age but is not exclusive to them. Children may not be aware that sending of malicious communications – nasty, abusive messages on platforms such as Instagram, WhatsApp, Snap Chat etc. are criminal offences. The same principal applies to the sending of intimate images between children. We urge parents to take an overview of the chat groups that children join or just who they are communicating with online. There is a wealth of support available for these situations which parents can find via West Northamptonshire Council and organisations such as Service Six. We also work closely with schools to try and disrupt and deter this sort of behaviour as it often stems from relationships developed within a school environment.

We strongly recommend that all living and working within our communities sign up to Northamptonshire Talking. This is an email messaging system that all Schools, Parish Councils, Neighbourhood Watch and community members can join. In registering your email address, you will receive up-to-date information regarding crimes, policing activity, crime prevention advice and much more. This system is a two-way process and offers you a chance to respond to information provided as appropriate. If the majority of the community sign up then we can create a virtual network of additional eyes and ears, watching out for suspicious activity, looking out for vulnerable friends, family and neighbours and receiving information about local events and activities that can help alleviate fear of crime and promote a safe and secure lifestyle.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that even the simplest home safety measures can prevent you becoming the victim of crime, we have seen a number of opportunistic offences being committed across the district that could be prevent if cars and houses are left locked overnight.

Should you wish to discuss a particular issue that is of concern to you or meet a member of your Neighbourhood policing team then please contact us using our team inbox: NeighbourhoodTeamDaventry@northants.pnn.police.uk

PLEASE DO NOT REPORT CRIMES VIA THIS EMAIL ADDRESS

Reporting an issue or crime to the Police can be made in a number of ways. This includes ringing 101 or online. Northants Police's new website offers a reporting system for:

- A road traffic incident
- Missing person – no immediate harm
- Terrorist activity
- Fingerprints appointments – this could be asked for when travelling abroad
- Hate Crime/ Incident

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So that your report can be managed as quickly as possible, it's important to consider the following information and have it ready to provide:

- the date and time the crime happened
- the location, such as address or road name along with the town or village
- a description of any people involved
- the details of any witnesses or suspects
- if you think there's any other evidence such as forensic evidence or mobile phone footage
- if there is clear CCTV footage of the offence being committed

The above reporting tool can be reached via:
https://www.northants.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/

USEFUL LINKS

Northamptonshire Police Website: http://www.northants.police.uk/
Check if a vehicle is taxed or untaxed and report if necessary: https://www.gov.uk/check-vehicle-tax
Useful link for all matters related to driving: http://think.direct.gov.uk/
This link will provide you with useful information to help protect yourself from scams:
https:// www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/scams/check-if-something-might-be-a-scam/
Trading Standards – Advice and help for consumers: West Northants Trading Standards
Contact Crime Stoppers anonymously about crime: https://crimestoppers-uk.org/
Fearless - a site where young people can access non-judgmental information and advice about crime:
https://www.fearless.org/
Northamptonshire Neighbourhood Watch: https://www.ourwatch.org.uk
Report to South Northants Council - Fly tipping, dog fouling, Litter, noise pollution and other issues:
West Northants Council
Advice on boundary disputes with neighbours:
https://www.ricsfirms.com/residential/legal-issues/boundaries/rics-consumer-guide-boundary-disputes/
Street Doctor – reporting Highways issues:
http://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/northamptonshire-highways/roads-and-streets/Pages/report-highway-problem.aspx