

Neighbourhood Policing

September 2017 newsletter

Winslow and District

Neighbourhood Policing Team

This is the latest Winslow and District neighbourhood update, covering Creslow, Dunton, Granborough, Great Horwood, Hardwick, Hoggston, Little Horwood, Mursley, Newton Longville, North Marston, Oving, Pitchcott, Singleborough, Swanbourne, Whitchurch and Winslow.

Winslow Police Office opening hours:

**Monday to Saturday
10 am to 2 pm**

Equipment marking service – we offer this service from the police office in Winslow. Our team of volunteers will be pleased to carry this out for you. We also have a good supply of crime prevention information which you can take away to read at your leisure.

As you are aware, the newsletter is now sent quarterly, which requires some forward thinking on our part and will contain information that may seem a bit premature. With this in mind, Halloween and Firework night are the next two events in the calendar which need thought. We have notices in the Winslow Police Office for people to put in their windows asking that they are not disturbed on Halloween. For those trick or treating please be respectful of this. Older people, in particular, do not appreciate being disturbed during the hours of darkness. Many actively do not answer the door after dark. Please remember this.

The Neighbourhood Policing Team will be patrolling all areas on these two evenings. Please call us, using 101, if actions of others concern you so we can deal with them.

Local Priorities

Antisocial Behaviour

You said: Anti-social behaviour in Winslow by, predominately, two groups is really aggravating residents.

We did: We realised that the school summer holidays would exacerbate the problem so any problem areas were added to the patrol plan and covered by the Winslow NHPT when on duty. We found that a lot of incidents were unreported so we encouraged residents to call 101. Gradually we have been able to put names to faces for these incidents. We have, therefore, issued red cards straightaway, ignoring the yellow card. This means if the behaviour continues we are closer to Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABC) into which we can put a series of conditions and the consequences of breaching them. Other incidents have been of public order seriousness and we are going through the process of dealing with this. In some cases ASB has an effect on tenancy agreements which can lead to eviction. This route is also being looked at.

Insp Davies has asked that we set up Community Forums comprising people who are interested in helping to sort issues in the community. These forums are the response to part of the HMIC inspection carried out recently at Thames Valley Police. Our first meeting was in July and Insp Davies intends them to be quarterly. However, this does not preclude us from calling a meeting of the Winslow Forum should the need arise. The members of the Forum have agreed there is a need due to the above. A meeting is to be convened.

Rural Crime

Sadly, the theft of farm implements, trailers, JCBs, tools continues. Patrols have been stepped up in rural areas. Fortunately, in some cases, people have been vigilant with observing suspicious vehicles. As a result, vehicles were located and arrests made. In some cases, property has been returned.

Large items, such as JCBs, are stolen and such a vehicle had been found abandoned in a local field. This item has been recovered and will be forensically examined. It was not stolen locally so it must have been driven on the road. When patrolling in the hours of darkness we do stop farm implements and plant to ensure all is in order. At harvest time farmers are out late so it is not unusual to see such equipment around – a good way to stay hidden in plain sight if one of them is stolen. We are always thanked for checking, however inconvenient it may be for the farmer who needs to get on with his job.

Message here is, if you think it is odd to see such implements and farm machinery on the road in the hours of darkness call us. We would prefer to check it and find it to be in order but if it is stolen someone will be very glad it was stopped.

Neighbourhood Watch

Police have the following information for anyone concerned about unsolicited callers attending their property:

- make sure your back door is locked before answering the front door
- use a door chain when opening the door
- ask for identification and check it carefully before letting anyone in
- ask them to come back when someone else is at home with you
- direct people asking for help to a nearby shop or other public place, don't let them in
- keep all valuables and keys out of sight and out of reach of doors and windows
- don't leave spare keys in obvious places such as under doormats or plant pots
- consider joining or forming a Neighbourhood Watch scheme

In the case of letter box security:

- don't leave keys in mailbox locks
- allow letters to fall through the letter box and avoid collecting them in cages attached to the door.
- if you are away for a number of days, consider asking a neighbour to collect letters/ newspapers from your mailbox during your absence

Action Fraud

Smishing – the term used for SMS phishing – is an activity which enables criminals to steal victims' money or identity, or both, as a result of a response to a text message. Smishing uses your mobile phone (either a smartphone or traditional non-internet connected handset) to manipulate innocent people into taking various actions which can lead to being defrauded.

The National Fraud Intelligence Bureau has received information that fraudsters are targeting victims via text message, purporting to be from their credit card provider, stating a transaction has been approved on their credit card.

The text message further states to confirm if the transaction is genuine by replying 'Y' for Yes or 'N' for No.

Through this method the fraudster would receive confirmation of the victim's active telephone number and would be able to engage further by asking for the victim's credit card details, CVV number (the three digits on the back of your bank card) and/or other personal information.

Protect yourself:

- Always check the validity of the text message by contacting your credit card provider through the number provided at the back of the card or on the credit card/bank statement.
- Beware of cold calls purporting to be from banks and/or credit card providers.
- If the phone call from the bank seems suspicious, hang up the phone and wait for 10 minutes before calling the bank back. Again, refer to the number at the back of the card or on the bank statement in order to contact your bank.
- If you have been a victim of fraud or cyber crime, please report it to Action Fraud at <http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/> or alternatively by calling 0300 123 2040

Have Your Say

As part of our policing role, protecting the vulnerable in our society is a Force priority. So, to this end you will see us attending meetings where the more vulnerable attend. Whilst we call it 'Have Your Say', community engagement probably describes it better.

Free Church, Newton Longville **10:00-11:00** **PCSO Rachel Found**
26 Sept, 24 Oct

Village Hall, Little Horwood **11:00-12:00** **PCSO Wendy Taylor**
12 Sept, 11 Oct

Village Hall, Great Horwood **10:00-11:30** **PCSO Wendy Taylor**
10 Oct

Market Day, Winslow **10:00-12:00** **PCSO Wendy Taylor**
20 Sept, 18 Oct

Thames Valley Alert: is a free service which provides information to subscribers about crime and police activity in their area via phone or email. It also includes information on what we and our partner services are doing to bring offenders to justice or combat anti-social behaviour. You can sign up by following this link: www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk

Contact us: If you want any advice or would like to contact the Neighbourhood team you can call us on the **police non-emergency number 101** but if your call is an emergency then dial **999**. You can also contact us via email: WinslowandDistrictNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk – please note this email address cannot be used to record crimes or for urgent matters.

If you have information about crime or Anti Social Behaviour in your area, but you do not want to speak to the police, please call the **Crimestoppers** on **0800 555111**.

Useful websites and email addresses:

Thames Valley Police – www.thamesvalley.police.uk

Crimestoppers for youth – www.fearless.org/about

TVP Facebook – www.facebook.com/thamesvp

TVP Twitter – @TVP_Aylesbury

Trading Standards – www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk

Scams – www.actionfraud.police.uk or 0300 123 2040

Thames Valley Horsewatch – www.thamesvalleyhorsewatch.org.uk

Thames Valley Countrywatch – www.thamesvalleycountrywatch.co.uk