



Avon and Somerset Police
NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

SGTS UPDATE

NEWS IN YOUR AREA

March 2022



Sgt Lee Kerslake - 07889656025

Last update you may have seen a feature on the challenges we face in policing the Northern areas of North Somerset. Whilst they remain, it doesn't prevent some superb results occurring with both us and the wider team within our area. I wanted to share just a couple of those:

You may have seen on the front page of the North Somerset Times the closure of International Stores in Nailsea. This was a source of significant complaints and, thanks to the work with our fantastic licensing colleagues, the store has now ceased operation. It was possible thanks to the information from the public that we rely on to tackle crime and disorder issues, and followed a number of visits and enforcement activity against the location.

You'll also see on the next page how we have managed to identify and deal with a number of young people causing significant Anti-Social Behaviour issues in the Congresbury area. Within a week of escalating this increased issue, our PCSOs patrolling the area have identified the offenders and we are dealing with them positively.

One of the things I was asked about by a resident recently was about PCSOs; would I want just police officers in my team? And the answer for me here is 'no'...I want people who think. I want talented people who are committed to making a difference and have the capacity to make that difference. I can say with all honesty we have that within our team, superb staff who care and think about how to best respond to the issues that affect you... I am very proud of the team I lead and I hope as these updates progress you will be too.

YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

Your Policing Team

Police Officers:
PS 2781 Lee KERSLAKE

A/PS 3467 Paul LEWIS
PC 1954 Bridget GRIFFITHS
PC 4469 Justina LEWIS
PC 4175 Gary MARRIOTT

Police Community Support Officers:

PCSO 6398 Amy HOLLAND
PCSO 8999 Dan JACKSON
PCSO 9382 Connor AITKEN
PCSO 9779 Julie BERCHALL
PCSO 7948 Kate TURNER
PCSO 8471 Sue HAWKINS
PCSO 7280 Chea SCANDRETT
PCSO 7268 Andy GATENBY

Volunteer – Jon Hunter

Get in touch

In an emergency always call 999

For non-emergency matters call us on 101 or report online via www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report

To report a crime anonymously, contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or visit www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Anti-Social Behaviour

We recently received complaints of escalating Anti-Social Behaviour issues in the Congresbury area – ASB can span a variety of complaints and as such we have many different views on how we should handle it. For this particular issue we had criminal offences and victims who were being routinely harassed such that they feared leaving their home. Taking this information, we sought to proactively target this group (through patrols and investigation). Within a week PCSOs Kate and Dan identified the group (with PCSO Julie's assistance), seizing items in their possession that were to be used against victims. We will be working with the youth offending service to make sure these instances do not happen again.

Graffiti

We have been working on graffiti issues in Nailsea and continue to do so. This has been a frustrating investigation however we hope to have updates soon. I am aware that there is a growing amount of public concern over this and I can only (at this stage) say we are working hard to identify the person or people responsible and we are hopeful of a positive update for you soon.

We are however very keen to receive any further information that leads to the apprehension of those tagging Nailsea. Whilst we have some leads to follow, our success is always only as good as the information we get from the community. Crime is a community issue, we as the police act within the community to deal them. But it is the community that is key. So anyone with information on the tagger **'BRIK'** and/or **'NSG'** please get in contact with me on 07889656025 (you can text if prefer) or call Crimestoppers on 0800555111 (or online www.crimestoppers-uk.org) anonymously. I assure you all reports will be treated seriously and investigated.

Concerns

There have been a number of things we have heard alleged in the community and social media, we wanted to clarify a couple of them:

'A boy was chased through Somerset Square by a man, wielding an axe, who is squatting in the old College building'

Not true. And there are no squatters.

'Shop windows were smashed the weekend of 4th March in Somerset Square by youths'

We received a call stating this. It was false. Officers attended the location and youths were present but causing no issues. The caller was then abusive to our call handler when we said we had attended.

If we can tell you, we will, so please ask us if you have concerns.

What do you know?

Our work is dependent on the community. When you hear about issues affecting your area, or when you are discussing issues in the area with your friends and family, what do you do about it?

Do you know of suspicious activity in the area? Know who's selling drugs? Know where stolen property goes? Know who's driving without a licence? Drink Drivers? Places selling under age alcohol?

There's all sorts of information we would want to know about and whilst some will always say 'isn't that your job' – our job is to receive information from the public to then act on it. International Stores was a success because of information from the public – any activity we do needs the community. Issues are community issues, not policing issues, we only act on behalf of the community to help solve them. Which means you need to tell us.

If you want more information on intelligence, drugs or other things like crime prevention, we can hold 2-hour masterclasses for groups, or organise an open 2 hour event – all we need is the initial interest from a few and we will arrange – in fact shortly you'll see some we have just arranged to see if people will turn up... it worked well when we were in Weston...

Otherwise, any information you have feel free to call or text me, 07889656025, or lee.kerslake@avonandsomers

Paperwork? Lots... but where do you want me?

There's a lot of paperwork being a Sergeant. Don't feel bad for me... please... I'll survive. Despite that, it's important I try to be as visible as possible – getting out is important to me as is limiting the amount of paperwork I have to do in work time (I do this update for example at home out of hours, mainly because I am so cool I write newsletters in my spare time). It's important you can see me and hold me to account on what my team is doing, or guide our activity through information. I go to meetings and groups, but it's also important I am just out and about in your area.

I get a lot of people we talk to saying they never see police officers. I can honestly say my team get out and about every shift. However, with 2 operational police officers and currently 7 PCSOs covering the area above, you may not always see them as they pass your area.

However, today in work I tried a new thing I want to keep doing. I took my office out of the office. We have a mobile police station and I have taken this out and about. I have to do my paperwork, but with staff reviews and investigation reviews to write up I did them in 3 different places:

- Felton
- Congresbury
- Nailsea (Mizzimead end)

I spent about an hour in each and in addition to doing my paperwork I spoke to 17 people about local issues. Whilst I know that's not perfect, I would have otherwise had 0 interactions as my paperwork took up my day in the actual office.

Just to prove it – I took a couple of pictures...



If you want to see me in a certain area, I'll be doing this hopefully quite regularly... just drop me a line on 07889656025 or a quick email to lee.kerslake@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Helping your community...

I bang on about us being only working on behalf of the community on community issues, but I believe it. I also believe it's important that we encourage anyone wanting to help their community to do so.

That's why I'm so supportive of Neighbourhood Watch (NHW), Speedwatch (CSW) and other active community groups.

We are going to transform the way in which we work with NHW and CSW and if you want to be part of this we want to hear from you. NHW and CSW events will be announced in due course but, most importantly, whether it is through these means or just to have a conversation with me about other ways, if you are interested in doing more to help your community stay safe, get in touch.

As always, call or text me, 07889656025, or lee.kerslake@avonandsomerset.police.uk

