

Chesham:

Offences between 1st December 2020 to 28th February 2021 – last year v this year – Change

Residential Burglary

10	09	-10%
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Commercial / Business Burglary

6	7	17%
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Sheds / Garages

8	5	-38%
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Violence against the Person Total

137	153	12%
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Injury - Decrease

30	26	-13%
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Serious injury - Decrease

2	0	-100%
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Drug offences – Increased due to drug operations

23	25	9%
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25% increase detection rate – Some still in investigation process

Possession Weapons

3	2	-33%
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Theft from vehicle

39	18	-54%
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TOMV

9	10	10%
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You said: that dwelling burglary is a growing concern.

Burglary has always been a concern of local residents and we do everything we can to tackle this. Although most burglary investigations sit with a CID departments, the neighbourhood team is very much focused on crime prevention.

We will respond to burglary and “suspicious” incidents. As per my last update in December, the neighbourhood team had great results catching suspects post incident leading to arrests, remand and early guilty pleas at court.

There have been 9 recorded dwelling burglary offences between 1st December and 28th February. 3 of these offences have been attempts (Door handles tried) and 1 was a distraction offence. We have seen a 10% reduction of burglary offences in Chesham and a massive 60% decrease in Chiltern as a whole (between 1st Dec and 28th Feb).

Business burglary remains the same with 6 offences. Most have been barns, outhouses and workshops in rural areas with tools being targeted. 1 offence was an attempt.

We are working on preventing burglary and theft within our rural communities and we are actively promoting County Watch. New marking tamperproof material has been purchased and we will be looking at distributing this new crime prevention material within our rural communities. We would like our partners to encourage their contacts to join country watch. A pack can be requested from myself or Ps Darren Walsh.

We have been taking part in operations in the Chilterns. These operations have not only been local police area operations but also cross border with other forces which include the Metropolitan and Surrey Police. Operation Groundhog has seen many stop checks, vehicle seizures and arrests. We hope that running these operations stop cross boarder offenders from entering our areas.

Speeding:

We have conducted speed enforcement in Chesham concentrating on roads that have been highlighted as a concerns. Unfortunately we cannot be everywhere at the same time though. We know that it is a concern and we make efforts to combat this.

Traditionally Speed enforcement would be conducted by the traffic department and Safer Roads speed vans. The vans generally operate during business hours however they are sited at accident hotspots and thankfully Chesham does not meet the threshold for this. The local Roads Policing team are aware of the concerns regarding Chesham which has been raised previously and try to undertake enforcement when able to do so again this is subject to their other operational commitments. We have also asked for support with our volunteer special constables.

We are aware that Chesham experiences a high number of complaints regarding high performance vehicles driving around Chesham. Most of these reports are via social media and are not “Official reported”. Some of these vehicles have been stopped and the drivers spoken too however speeding was not observed.

Speed is just one traffic offence that we have been dealing with. With an increasing amount of drivers now “Smoking” rather than drinking, many arrests have been made in Chesham for drug driving offences.

We have also had many vehicles seized due to no insurance and no tax costing the driver hundreds of pounds in recovery charges, fines, points on licence and fines from the DVLA.

ASB:

As per explained in previous, we have found there was an increase in people reporting neighbours for Covid breaches, noise, persons loitering and arguments. This has then caused further demand on the police as the neighbours no longer get on and the team are then having to manage new neighbour disputes.

The team spend a lot of time intervening with problem solving methods such as liaising with housing landlords, partner agencies such as environmental health and mediation charities due to long running disputes. An example of Anti-Social behaviour that is reported to the Chesham Team is a tenant hears music and vibrations from a neighbour's property. Most would say that this is not a police matter however increased calls to the police, risk management, safeguarding and problem solving have to be addressed. These types of cases can take months to achieve a positive outcome when no crime is obvious.

Some of the anti-social reports we find ourselves dealing with in Chesham is parking. Although this can be an issue and parking outside someone's address could be anti-social, the police have to assess the issues on a case by case basis and not all issues can be resolved by the police alone. I would argue that these types of cases fall into a different category however the calls to police are shown as ASB.

Drugs:

Drugs has featured at the top of concerns previously so I would like to add to this report. We attempt to tackle drugs head on with warrants, intelligence gathering, stop searches and patrols. We have had good results with intelligence based searches. We also work alongside neighbouring forces in an attempt to stop drugs from coming into the town

The Chesham team with support from other departments have recently conducted proactive operations in Chesham under the name GASPER.

In Chesham we conducted stop checks and searches, made numerous arrests, conducted house searches, seized vehicles, gained valuable intelligence and seized large quantities of cash. Some of the individuals that we have stopped have not been local and have travelled from the London areas.

Although a lot of these arrests and investigations are still ongoing, we hope to see positive results soon. Some of the arrests include possession of drugs, concerned in the supply of drugs and drug driving.

Decelerate.

Community Speedwatch

Newsletter # 1

Welcome to the 1st newsletter from your TVP Community Speedwatch co-ordinator for;

Buckinghamshire, Berkshire & Oxfordshire. (TVP)



TVP community speed watch newsletter, to be published quarterly, which will hopefully spark debate and allow sharing of best practice within the world of CSW.

Firstly let me introduce myself. I joined Thames Valley Police in 1990, being stationed at High Wycombe. In 1995 I joined the then Traffic department, dealing with many of the road issues we still see today on our roads. I became one of a selected few, a vehicle examiner. In 2002 I left the now Roads Policing Department, and back onto the beat. In 2004 I became a neighbourhood police officer, dealing with common issues within community life. One of the major issues was excess speed. Setting up speed watch within the community overtook my policing work following an injury at work. Speed watch in that area became the most active area within Thames Valley Police, 150 active locations with over 150 volunteers. In 2020 I re-joined the Roads policing department but within the Joint operations unit, holding the position of community speed watch co-ordinator for Thames Valley Police. I retired from the force, following 30 years of service, in August 2020, being a glutton for punishment I returned as a Police officer in October 2020 to continue this important role. My two main hobbies are restoring classic cars and motor sport.





Nothing can be more emotive than the conversations arising from excess speed. Yes we have all exceeded the speed limit, 32 in a 30 is still an offence. However we all have the ability to address this through our own distinctive ways. Many of the motoring public seem to have the mind-set that it is ok to exceed the limit in another area of which they have no community links. I believe that education is the tool, followed by enforcement as and when needed.

Over many years the implementation of community speed watch has been ad-hoc, many areas have taken the baton and run successfully. However the interpretation and knowledge of how the system works have never been cohesive.

Community speed watch is now to be driven from the PCC's (police crime commissioner) office. With a direct mandate, that the clue is in the title, **Community**. With ever increasing pressure being loaded onto front line officers the time has now come to promote the concept across TVP. Taking the emphasis back into the community, releasing officers/PCSO's back to the front line. The community as a whole know the issues with speeding motorists and in some cases the sad consequences.

Thames Valley Police (TVP) have worked hard, listening to the concerns, trying to accommodate change where necessary. Two major changes are;

1, **Use of hand held devices;** These devices were, at one time not allowed within the TVP policy and therefore not supported. This has however changed. TVP will now support the use of such devices due to the cost implications that static devices were costing, therefore impeding smaller communities from being able to use the scheme. The second was that TVP insurance/policy would not allow these devices on safety grounds. This has now been changed to accommodate their usage, BUT only **NON HOME OFFICE APPROVED** devices can be used. The likes of Laser LTI 20/20 and SPEEDAR devices are **NOT** to be used within the scheme. An example of such an approved device, and there are others, would be a Bushnell 101911 radar gun, which is currently selling online around £150. This is significantly cheaper than non-hand held devices and therefore makes it a much more viable option for all communities who wish to take part in CSW.

2, **Insurance;** The public liability insurance for a scheme of roadside activity was potentially costing some of the smaller parishes a great deal of their small precept. With this in mind TVP insurance was consulted. The outcome was that providing each scheme signed a service level agreement and had undergone the relative training, then the TVP insurance would be in place. This has a liability of £50M, far higher than that of a small parish being able to obtain.

TVP has appointed a Community speedwatch co-ordinator in order to pull all councils, parishes and volunteers together, enabling the use of technology to drive forward an education lead program. This will take place by, all device users being either contacted or visited in person, addressing concerns, installing new working practices, with a common goal of reducing speed through education.

TVP are working with outside agencies as well as other Police forces to align the working practices across the country. This will inevitably take a time to co-ordinate.

The Vision.

All community speed watch activities across Thames Valley Police are aligned in the implementation and administration of the scheme.

All community speed watch activities are carried out in accordance with Policy, procedure and the best intentions of the community volunteers.

Members of the community are happy with the education process and potential targeting of persistent offenders.

**CHECK
YOUR
SPEED**

**CHILDREN
LIVE HERE!!**

In these unprecedented times we are all feeling the constraints from the Government, COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH has been on hold since the first lockdown.

To this I add, we have been working hard, in the background, to establish a pathway forward for its re-instatement. There are numerous issues that dynamically continue to change. Following the start of the second lockdown, we now find ourselves in a position that does not allow the program to move forward. We will still be looking at a safe return when the lockdown is eased.

To this I have to inform you that there is to be **NO** COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH until it is deemed that it is safe to do so.

I will be updating everyone when we are in a position to go forward. Sitting/standing at the roadside is only a small part of the exercise, and the backroom issues are continually being assessed to make the Police environment a safe place to accommodate our Volunteers.

Kind Regards

PC 3146 Lee Turnham.
Community Speedwatch Co-ordinator
Joint Operations Unit, (Road Safety)
Roads Policing Unit
Amersham
HP6 5AL
lee.turnham@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk



Life is fun, keep smiling, stay Safe.

Non Emergency Police number 101



Please feel free to contact me on the above email address with any feedback or how you would like to see your newsletter in the future.