

South Northants Police Update March 2017

Two men from Brackley have recently admitted to a series of offences relating to shoplifting and the passing of fake currency in the South Northants area. A file has been prepared for the Crown Prosecution Service and the men will be summonsed to court later in the year. It is worth noting that CCTV and detailed reporting by members of the public contributed significantly to linking all of the offences together to prove guilt. We are also aware that a number of retail premises may have been victim to these offences but not reported the matters. We would encourage the reporting of all offences, no matter how minor, as this allows us to tackle persistent offenders more efficiently.

It is important for you to be able to access your local Community Police and also understand how our teams are made up and what they offer in addition to the Response Teams that cover the South Northants area. You can find details of your local officers and how to contact them via: <http://northants.police.uk/local-update/contacting-police> - This link also explains how 101 and 999 calls are handled and may dispel a few myths relating to where your local officers are based. A further link allows you to report crime online if you do not wish to ring 101: <http://northants.police.uk/contact/online>

We use social media to offer you an insight into our work, real-time updates where possible or to share important crime prevention information. We also link with local social media networks to enable us to understand the issues that are currently being discussed or affecting the Community. One repeating thread is your frustration that Police do not respond as quickly or when you would expect. Please remember that if a Police officer cannot come out or is delayed then it will generally be due to having been deployed to a far more serious incident. Your local Community Team also respond to 999 calls as they are generally the closest resource and as such can become involved in incidents involving fatalities, significant injury or serious criminality. These types of incidents can often be protracted and restrict availability to attend less serious incidents.

Another hot topic is traffic congestion during school start and finish times. Please use your local networks to circulate the following considerations;

- Park with consideration to residents – do not block or overlap driveways.
- Do not park on the **corners of junctions** as you reduce views and make it awkward for vehicles to safely turn into or out of a street.
- Do not park across or impede **pedestrian crossings** or school zig-zag markings.
- Do not drive along **pavements** when a road is blocked – be patient and wait for traffic to clear.
- On congested routes plan ahead and do not proceed unless there is a **clear space** to use to give way to oncoming traffic or to allow traffic to give way to you.
- If possible join with other parents and share journeys to reduce the number of vehicles used and/or avoid congested routes.
- Please be patient where a car has to cross a pavement to exit a carpark. The driver's view may be restricted and this will be further reduced by pedestrians congregating whilst waiting to pass.
- Be aware that **children do not easily judge the speed of traffic** and may step out into the road. 30mph may be the limit but generally much slower speeds are required.
- Pedestrians, especially with young children, should use the side of the road with the widest pathway and wherever possible protected from flowing traffic by barriers or parked cars. "*Why should we have to cross and use the other side of the road?*" – If it's the safest option in any situation then it's worth doing! A large number of children using a narrow path will always be at risk no matter how busy the road.

The above list is not exhaustive and there will be occasions where people make errors of judgement, especially under pressure. We are all human so please be patient. Police officers will monitor where they can, however there are a large number of schools across the town and villages all experiencing the same issues.

Please be reassured that Brackley, Towcester and surrounding villages do not show any crime trends over and above any other similar size areas. We have sporadic reports of thefts from vehicles, particularly from vans for tools. There are no specific patterns to these thefts and as such owners/operators should review the security of their vehicle and its contents. As warmer weather approaches we generally tend to see an increase in thefts from vehicles parked at beauty spots such as remote parks, wooded areas, churches etc. Please consider; do you need to leave valuables in your car? Take phones, purses, satellite navigation equipment with you whilst away from your vehicle. Placing items in the boot or under a seat does not deter opportunist thieves who may already be watching you when you park.

Brackley currently has an active Street Watch scheme that is always seeking new members. Street Watch, in a nutshell, is the equivalent of a mobile Neighbourhood Watch. In addition it can cover the entire Community and tackle issues such as; vandalism, anti-social behaviour, drug abuse and dog fouling. If you are interested in helping your community and setting up a Street Watch scheme in your area then please contact your local Police team at Brackley or Towcester for details.

Visit our website for more information and updates: <http://northants.police.uk/neighbourhoods>

Sergeant Michaela SIMONS, Brackley and Towcester Safer Community Teams.