

The Wellington Police Team have remained busy throughout the Covid-19 lockdown period. In a bid to increase visibility and engagement with the community all PC's and PCSO's at Wellington Police Station have taken to carrying out cycle patrols on a regular basis. This has been very well received by many members of the Wellington community.

Most members of the community across Wellington followed the rules and have been very sensible throughout lockdown and whilst a number of Covid-19 regulation breaches were reported across the town, the majority were dealt with via engagement, education and encouragement with enforcement only being used as a last result.

Going forward we hope the public will continue to be sensible and take the necessary steps to stay safe and to help protect the other members of their communities.

As of April 1st 2020 Police Sergeant Daniel BISHOP (who has been the neighbourhood Sergeant for Wellington, Williton, Minehead and Dulverton for the past 18 months) had a slight change of role and is now only responsible for Wellington with another Sergeant joining the West Somerset Team to supervise officers in the other areas. This is a real positive for Wellington which has not had a dedicated Sergeant for a number of years now. Sergeant BISHOP is local to the area having previously lived in Wellington for a 10 years and having spent extensive periods of his career since 2010 working in and around Wellington as a patrol constable prior to being promoted in 2017.

Covid 19 restrictions have put a dampener on many community events that the police team had planned to help raise our profile across the town since the beginning of the year, but as soon as Covid 19 permits we will start carrying out our events which will enable us to engage and meet with the community and help people to understand how policing work in Wellington.

Recently there have been several posts on Facebook about incidents in Wellington and the police response to these. It seems to be the same people who comment that Wellington Police station is closed, and state no officers work at the station anymore. The majority of these posts are completely untrue and result in fear and anxiety being caused to many. We hope the Town Council will assist us in getting the message out across the town that this just isn't true!

Wellington Police station is very much open (and has never been closed!). The Wellington Police Team work a range of day shifts and late shifts over a set 4 week shift pattern that's designed to ensure our officers are on duty when demand is at its highest. The town is also policed 24hrs a day 7 days a week by patrol officers and officers from the road policing unit who work out of other bases.

There were plans for the police station to be refurbished in March, these plans have had to be put on hold because of Covid, but they will go ahead and this investment by the force is a clear example of our commitment to policing across Wellington.

Wellington is a big town and getting bigger all the time. Whilst we would of course like to have more officers on the street, the Wellington team work hard and do their absolute best to meet the needs of the community wherever possible.

On the 21st June I used PCSO Steve HILLS Facebook profile to write a post and inform the residents of Wellington that groups of youths across our town were responsible for a number of incidents of Anti-social behaviour the night before. I asked parents if they knew where their children had been and tried to make it clear that this behaviour was not acceptable and that positive action would always be taken wherever possible. The families of each youth

identified as being involved have been visited and the youths are being dealt with using ASB legislation.

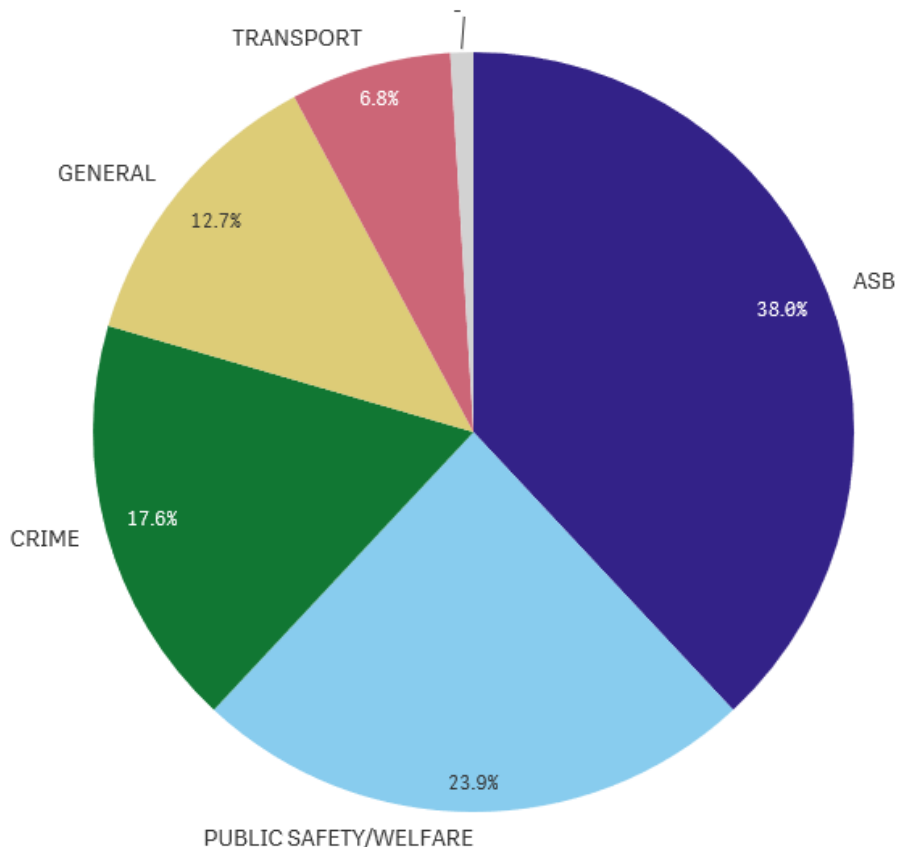
The public's response to the Facebook post was in the main very positive, but some people complained about the lack of policing in our town. On the evening described above though, there were no less than 15 police officers or PCSO's on duty and working across Wellington dealing with the issues identified.

Despite the amount of ASB on Saturday 20th June 2020, sadly there was just 1 x call to the police to report this. The Wellington police team can only deal with matters that we're aware of. Via Facebook I informed the public what had taken place and encouraged the public to report incidents of ASB and such to us whenever they witness it. If people want something done they need to report what is happening!

As a result of youth disorder in Longforth Road a meeting took place at the Esso Petrol Station where possible licensing offences were identified. Significant changes were made by the company who own the petrol station as a result which saw new staff members being brought in, enhanced licensing training being given to staff and alcohol sales being stopped after 10pm every evening. Members of the public (including youths) were also prevented from entering the shop after 10pm and requested to use the night serving hatch.

These changes (all of which happened over just a three day period) have resulted in a significant reduction in youth ASB in the area. These are real examples of what can be achieved once the police team are aware of a problem.

In terms of the policing figures across wellington, I can report that from the 1st April – 30th June this year there were 430 incidents reported across the town. The chart below breaks down this number into call areas.



Out of the 430 incidents 248 were recorded as the following crimes

Offence Group	Crime Count
Violence Against The Person	112
Public Order Offences	42
Arson and Criminal Damage	20
Vehicle Offences	14
Theft	12
Burglary	6
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	6
Drug Offences	4
Possession of Weapons	1

Since April 1st 22 people in Wellington have been arrested. 14 people have been stopped searched in the Wellington area and all but 3 of these individuals have been subsequently dealt with for offences identified as a result. Police have also received 12 separate reports of missing people all of which were successfully located after necessary enquires and investigations took place.

To end...

If any member of the council or member of the public wishes to discuss any aspect of policing across the wellington area they can contact me directly, my email address is shown below. I will be only happy to help where I can.

For your information and with kind regards

Dan.

Police Sergeant 3258 Daniel BISHOP

Neighbourhood Police Sergeant for Wellington

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Our Mission: SERVE – PROTECT - RESPECT

Our Vision: OUTSTANDING POLICE FOR EVERYONE

Our Values:

