



Wellington Police Team

Town Council Report – March 2021

Introduction:

Since the last Town Council Meeting there have been just 297 calls to the police from members of the public relating to Wellington. We've dealt with 38 Covid-19 Breach incidents which led to £200 Covid-19 penalty notices being issued to 3 individuals.

Wellington Police Team will continue a "four Es" approach to policing coronavirus restrictions, this being to engage, explain, encourage and enforce.

Our over-riding message to people continues to be help us to help you. Stay home and save lives.

What's Been Happening?

February saw us targeting speeding motorists and those using mobile phones whilst driving. We used our Wellington Neighbourhood Policing Team Facebook page to highlight the work we carried out and responded to a number of concerns raised by carrying out speed checks in the areas where members of the public told us there was a problem with vehicles travelling at excess speed.

We dealt with 39 separate incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour during February, the majority of these incidents involved youths. Positive action was taken whenever possible using ASB legislation.

The team dealt with 1 x missing person in Wellington report during February, a male who I'm please to say after enquires were made was located safe and well.

Increased patrols in and around the skate park and the Rugby Club area since the last town council meeting has resulted in positive stop searches being conducted using our powers under the misuse of drugs act. 4 youths have been dealt with for possession of cannabis. 1 adult male being dealt with for the same offence and a 17 year old youth being dealt with for possession of cannabis with intent to supply. The possession offences resulted in some of the youths being referred on to Youth Alcohol Drug Diversion schemes (YADD) which offer an alternative route for drug possession and drunk and disorderly offences for young people aged 10-17.

YADD is a drug and alcohol education intervention delivered by local Youth Offending Services or local Youth Drug Services. It is delivered on a 1-2-1 basis to which the young person must attend and engage with the Youth Drug Worker.

The intervention aims to educate young people about the use of drugs so they can make more informed decisions about their drug use and reduce or stop taking illegal drugs. It also educates them on the harms of excessive alcohol use.

Wellington Crime Figures from 1st February 2021 – 1st March 2021

The number of Crimes reported across Wellington during February is higher than January with 75 separate crimes being recorded throughout the month, when broken down this relates to:

- 15 Public Order Offences
- 12 Assault without Injury
- 10 Malicious Communications

9 Criminal Damage
8 Harassment and Stalking
6 Thefts
4 Assault with Injury
3 Drug Offences
2 burglary (Commercial Premises)
2 Sexual Offences
1 Vehicle Offence
1 Coercive and Controlling Behaviour
1 Cruelty to and Neglect of Children
1 Threats to Kill

In reviewing these crimes I can confirm that there are no emerging trends, patterns or identified crime hotspots.

To End...

A full refurbishment of Wellington Police Station begins on Monday 8th March. Our enquiry office is currently closed because of Covid-19 so there will be no additional disruption caused to the public as a result of the work being carried out. For 3 weeks the station will also be closed and non-accessible to all officers including myself. We have plans in place that enable the team to continue to Police in the way that we always do throughout this period. Police vehicles equipped with Wi-Fi along with personal issue laptops and mobile phones means all officers can work agilely in the community despite having no access to the Police Station. We already have access to several Community Hubs (Village Halls, Community Centres and such) across Wellington and the wider area which we will be able to utilise if we need to for any reason. The refurbishment of Wellington police station is welcomed by the team and a positive step for all residents of Wellington. I hope people see this as a clear testimony of Avon and Somerset Constabularies commitment to policing in our town and the longevity of Wellington continuing to have an operational police station in the heart of its community.

The Police Constable vacancy created by PC Rob Brown leaving the team last month was advertised internally at the beginning of last month. I am thrilled to say the post has been filled by Police Constable 4448 Sara Norman, an officer with many years of policing experience under her belt and who has previously worked within the Neighbourhood Policing. I'm sure Sara will make an excellent addition to the team and will quickly become familiar to The Town Council and members of the public in Wellington too.

Finally, I think you have all been notified that Somerset West and Taunton are not renewing the Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's) for Wellington. I don't want this to cause concern. PSPO's have not been the chosen way to tackle the problems of street drinking and such for a number of years now, not since the introduction of other powers and legislation that enable us to tackle this and Anti-Social behaviour more effectively. I am very confident that the removal of PSPO's in Wellington will have no negative impact at all.

For your information and with kind regards

Dan.

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