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Saying no to drugs – community priority

£6 million pounds worth of drugs have been seized in the Sedgemoor area over the last year. Cited as a community priority in many locations in and around the area, we are committed to tackling drug crime and related anti-social behaviour.

Several district wide operations have taken place over the last 12 months to tackle the issue at both street and organised crime level and work with partners continues to look at the root causes of the issue.

Neighbourhood teams have been carrying out regular search warrants under the Misuse of Drugs Act based on information provided by the public and intelligence from police investigations. Most recently officers from Bridgwater have carried out two warrants in the Sydenham and Bower areas of the town. A 29 year-old man was charged with two counts of possession of a class B drug. A 20 year-old woman from Bower was charged with possession of class B drug.

In the last three months there have been over 50 drugs seizures in the Burnham and Cheddar areas and drugs warrants have been carried out in Axbridge, Burnham, Highbridge, West Huntspill and Draycott.

In addition to the warrants a large quantity of cannabis was seized from a car at Berrow, a man was charged with dealing, there were four drugs seizures in Mark in February and a cannabis cultivation site was found and destroyed in Lympsham.

In Highbridge a total of 53 cannabis plants were seized from two addresses in Bristol Road and a cannabis factory was dismantled in Burnham Road. In Burnham we were granted a Crack House Closure at a property in Worston Lane and a large cannabis factory containing over £600,000 worth of cannabis plants was found and destroyed. DNA evidence has identified a suspect. A man will also be sentenced at the end of February for drug dealing offences on the Rosewood Estate.

Sedgemoor

Covering the areas of: Bower, Eastover, Hamp, Wembdon, Durligh, Sydenham, Victoria, Cannington & Quantocks, East Poldens, King Isle, North Petherton, Puriton, Woolavington, West Poldens, Axe Vale – Axbridge – Bream and Berrow – Burnham North – Burnham South – Brent North – Cheddar and Shipham – Highbridge – Huntspill and Pawlett – Knoll - Wedmore and Mark



Message from our new Chief Constable, Nick Gargan

Avon and Somerset Police is one of the most interesting and diverse forces in the country and it's a great honour to take up the role of Chief Constable.

Like the health service and your local council, the money we have to spend grows less each year. But our commitment to keeping our communities safe, and feeling safe, is as strong as ever.

Over 6,000 police officers, PCSOs and police staff work around the clock to tackle crime, catch offenders and disrupt, dismantle and destroy serious organised crime.

“Our commitment to keeping our communities safe and feeling safe is as strong as ever”

Did you know, we have specialist teams who:

- Work jointly with nurses and independent sexual violence advisors to support victims and investigate rape and sexual assault
- Tackle financial crimes and claw back the money to reinvest in the local community
- Target and disrupt particular crimes such as metal and plant and machinery theft
- We have the only police horse mounted section patrolling and keeping order in the region, and
- A dedicated roads policing unit whose special collisions team investigates serious traffic collisions



- Over 6,000 police officers, PCSOs and police staff work around the clock to tackle crime
- All of these people are working hard, some visible, some behind the scenes, so you are safe and feel safe



Dates for your diary

- Nearly 2000 people have given their policing priorities and the Police & Crime Plan for Somerset West will be published on April 1. For more details visit www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk
- Meet Ms Mountstevens on May 2, when she visits Somerset College and Minehead EYE to meet residents and visit local projects.
- Find us on Facebook by liking AandSPCC or Twitter @AandSPCC,

Introducing your new Police & Crime Commissioner

Independent Sue Mountstevens recorded a landslide election victory back in November to become the area's first Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC). Ms Mountstevens received the highest mandate in the country, with 125,000 votes, higher than any other PCC in England and Wales.

Ms Mountstevens was an Independent member of the Police Authority for two years and was lead member for major crime. Previously she was Vice-Chair of the Independent Monitoring Board for Bristol Prison and a Magistrate in Bristol for 15 years. Professionally, she was Director of Mountstevens Bakeries for 20-years before it was sold in 1998. Sue is married and lives in North Somerset.



Your Police & Crime Plan

The Commissioner has committed to introduce a Police & Crime Plan for each of the six policing districts of Avon and Somerset. Each Plan will address the policing and community safety needs of the area. The PCC has been on the road visiting Somerset West to get residents local policing priorities and has been to Taunton, Bridgwater and Minehead chatting to residents and hearing their views.

Sue Mountstevens said: "I believe everyone has the right to be safe and feel safe in their community and I have pledged to tackle anti-social behaviour, burglary, violence against women and girls and to listen to victims. But the Police & Crime Plan will also reflect the communities' views and tackle your local areas priorities."

You can contact the PCC on email via the website www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk or by calling 01275 816377



United Against Anti-Social Behaviour

It's a relief that we seem to have turned the corner into early Spring and left the winter behind - but we know that the longer days can create problems for many in the community.

Spring's a time when we always see an increase in reports of anti-social behaviour (ASB), as people take advantage of the better weather and lighter evenings to gather out of doors. A noisy BBQ, an ill-directed football or music blaring room an open window can all cause irritations that can escalate into community tension. If the problem persists it can really affect your quality of life so we're committed to working with you and other agencies to make things better.

What is ASB? Any sort of issue causing harassment, alarm or distress. It can include crimes like damage, drunken rowdiness or arson.

The police, councils and housing providers all have different powers to tackle different problems.

Some issues are not criminal offences for example and would be dealt with by the council rather than us, such as noisy neighbours and littering.

"We are committed to working with you and other agencies to make things better!"

What can I do about it?

- **Report it** to your neighbourhood police team, local council or housing provider
- **Keep a record** of on-going incidents including times, dates, locations and names or descriptions of those responsible. You can print an incident log template from our website.
- **Help us identify** who is behind ASB and secure the evidence we need to take action

The council can help tackle and clean up graffiti in your local area.

Who can help?

Neighbourhood police – call 101 or visit www.avonandsomerset.police.uk

You can also email your local beat officer through the website by visiting the In My Area pages on the website.

Sedgemoor District Council 0845 408 2540 www.sedgemoor.gov.uk

Your local housing provider – housing providers have powers to enforce tenancy agreements and add conditions of residence.

Foundations for change

Foundations have been laid for a new police station and operations centre in Bridgwater. Work at Express Park, Bridgwater is well underway to build a new operations centre and police station.

This will house an enquiry office open to the public, local response officers, specialist teams such as road policing and crime scene investigators (CSI), custody and a crime investigation team. Construction began in October and the facility will become available in Spring 2014.

Working with our partner, Blue Light Partnership, which comprises Bilfinger Project Investments, Miller Construction as main contractor and Cofely FM, we are working with local communities and businesses throughout the construction phase; at least 70% of sub contracts for construction will be placed within 35 miles of the site.

We will be working with local schools to offer site visits linked to the curriculum and recruiting apprentices.

We will keep you up-to-date as work progresses.



How you can set your community priorities, shape local policing and have your say? Log on to our website to find out when we are holding your nearest beat surgery or "Have Your Say" meeting. You can also register your priorities online.

Log on to the "In Your Area" section of our website, or scan the QR code below, for more news and details of local meetings.



Scan Me!

You can also find us on:



www.twitter.com/aspolice



Search avonandsomerset on Facebook



www.youtube.com/aspolice

Or call:



You said: You were concerned about alcohol related ASB in Manor Gardens in Burnham-on-Sea. Groups of young people were causing damage whilst drunk.

"Have your say"

We did:

Identified the main perpetrator and seized their alcohol. They were arrested for public order offences and were banned from the area as part of their bail conditions. They breached the conditions and were arrested and detained for court.



Spring Cleaning

Spring is coming. As the warmer weather approaches, spring clean your ideas on protecting your property. We will provide a free property marking service and advice on how to make your home, car and personal property less attractive to a thief or wrong doer. So please get in touch. It is my job and that of my team to make you safe, but we all have a responsibility to help. You can minimise your own risk of becoming a victim of crime.

"You are our eyes and ears. It's essential you let us know what is happening in your neighbourhood!"

We need your continued support to help us be effective. Let us know what is causing you concern. Let us know who you think is making the lives of others unpleasant. We represent you, work for you and wherever and whenever possible we aim to deliver what you ask for. Let's work together.

Roger Tolley
Sedgemoor Neighbourhood
Inspector

Spring security

We're urging everyone to register their new gadgets and electrical items on the national property database **immobilise.com** Anyone who signs up has a much greater chance of getting their property back if it's ever stolen or lost.

Registering your property on the website can also deter thieves because it makes it harder for them to sell the property because it can be identified. It can also help us to detect crimes like burglary because it allows us to find out easily if someone we have arrested is in possession of stolen property.

Here are some tips on how to keep your property safe:

- Register all your property on www.immobilise.com
- Download tracking software on to all tablets.
- Photograph each item individually and as close-up as possible.
- Make sure you are adequately insured.
- Always keep your property on your person and in your sight when out and about.

With warmer weather coming, remember to:

- Always ensure that your doors, windows and any side or rear gates are locked. If there isn't easy access it can deter burglars. Use good quality locks
- Don't leave tools, ladders or power tools insecure. Lock them away when you have finished using them.
- Fit a window grille and/or frosted window film to stop a thief seeing into your shed or garage. Use a tough pad bar fitted with a strong padlock and secured with coach bolts to your shed door.



Please pass this newsletter on to friends, family or your local community.