



## Towcester AGM Report

### INTRODUCING YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM



We have had a busy year with a great team that have had been very proactive in tackling the concerns of our community. The team have been involved in various operations that revolve around ASB, Vehicle Safety, Driving Offences and Drugs and associated drugs related criminality.

Above are the officers that currently represent Towcester, Roade, Stoke Bruerne, Tiffield, Shutlanger, Heathencote and Hulcote. However, we have an additional 3x PC's and 2x PCSO's on the team that represent surrounding villages and often cross over to support our Towcester team. We also have 4x Special Constables within our team and another 2x Special Constables that float between South Northants and Daventry.

Below are some examples of what we have been up to in Towcester recently.

#### **ASB**

We received multiple reports of ASB in the St Lawrences Churchyard in October including; broken bottles, drug use, minors consuming alcohol, verbal abuse towards users, rubbish and bins being set alight.

To tackle this, we arranged evening operations to carry out targeted patrols and stop searches in this location and others where there had been reports of ASB and drug use/dealing. We had great results from this with a total of 12x stop searches, 2x of which were positive for cannabis. These resulted in Immediate Justice referrals where they completed a total of 8hrs unpaid work between them, and used this time to clean up the memorial area of the church yard. We have had no further reports for this location and



others that were included. We will continue to hold these operations in future as they proved to be very successful.

### **Immediate Justice Introduction**

The Immediate Justice scheme was launched in 2023 for Northamptonshire through OPFCC funding. The scheme means those found committing anti-social behaviour or low-level crimes, can be made to repair the damage they inflicted on victims and communities. This could see them being made to pick up litter, remove graffiti or carry out other work to make environmental improvements in the community.

This year the scheme lowered the age group down to 12 and extended the funding. This allows officers to tackle young people who are committing low-level offences with outcomes that are impactful but will not harm their future with a criminal record.



In the Towcester beat area, we have made 11 x Immediate Justice Referrals which have totalled 44 hours unpaid work in the community. This time has been used to clean up the memorial garden in the churchyard, restore old, abandoned graves, clean graffiti and clear up litter. The response from offender's has been very positive as we have seen a clear change in their behaviour for the majority.

### **Patrols and Operations**

Throughout the year, the team have been involved in various targeted operations in Towcester.

- Op Lapland – (December – January) Patrol to prevent shoplifting during a prolific time of the year, covering Supermarkets, Towcester Town Centre, Bell Plantations and shops within.
- Op Sceptre – (All year round) Intel led sweeps to search for potential hidden or discarded knives, searches of bushes surrounding secondary schools, amnesty bins and knife crime inputs at schools from our Early Intervention Team.
- Op Intern – We spent the day visiting shops, barbers/hairdressers, cafes and eateries in Towcester where our young people might visit to raise aware to owner around Child Criminal Exploitation and how to spot the signs.
- GP Visits – (December) We spent the day visiting GP's and other medical facilities with a member of the Alcoholics Anonymous team in South Northants, including Towcester. This was to raise awareness of what support GP's can offer their patients, particularly around the time of year where drink driving spikes.
- Op Watten – (March) This operation was to help support local businesses which were seeing a rise in Shoplifting and abusive behaviour. We used this week of action to patrol all our local supermarkets, shops, businesses and Town Centre and offer a visible presence.

- Op Limit – This is a targeted annual campaign that runs every November – January to target drink/drug driving. This year, we visited all of our local pubs/bars and delivered free beer mats, bar mats and posters to raise awareness of the consequences of drink driving. The team completed intel led patrols for drink drivers and carried out various stops and breath tests in South Northants.

## **Education Based Policing**

We carried out our annual Blue Butterfly and Road Safety talks at all our Primary schools in Towcester and surrounding villages, between September and December. This captures new students that have joined the school or started in reception and allows us to revisit existing students and build relationships. Many of the children remember the team's face when they are next seen in the community.

In December, we completed a vehicle safety day at Sponne Secondary school with the year 12 students. Many of them will be starting to drive within this year group and statistics show that young drivers account for one of the largest proportions of traffic collisions compared to other age groups. Young male drivers, aged 17 to 24 are 4 times as likely to be killed or seriously injured.

We want to reduce this statistic and help keep our young people safe, so we have devised an interactive day involving; vehicle safety checks, demonstrations on how to behave when near emergency vehicles, interactive games that show how drink/drug driving impairs a person's ability to think, see and react and advice around vehicle modifications and driving licence points. This was received very well by students and the school therefore we plan to host this at all of our secondary schools in South Northants on an annual basis.



PC Mel Carter has been visiting all the care homes in Towcester with our Fraud Prevention Team, to deliver inputs on Fraud and Cyber related crime.

## **Road Safety Events**

In February and December 2024, we completed road safety days at Jacks Hill Café on the A5. To deliver this, South Northants Neighbourhood Teams teamed up with the Safer Roads Team, Roads Policing Team, Rural Crime and DVSA. The idea was to target vehicles that do not look road worthy, are lacking legal requirements such as insurance or carrying unsafe loads.

In February, we checked 70 vehicles through the site and had the following results:

- 2x no MOT
- 1x no insurance
- Multiple number plates cleaned
- Approximately 35 completed breath tests and all passed



- 1x advice given for an unsafe load

In December, we had just over 30 vehicles through the site with 23x immediate prohibitions and 13x delayed prohibitions from DVSA.

- 3x tyre offences
- 1x offence of no tachograph (HGV)
- 3x overweight vehicles
- 11x vehicles with insecure loads
- 1x no insurance
- 15x words of advice (varying from defective lights, vehicle modifications etc).
- 2x drivers reported for driving otherwise than in accordance with a licence,
- 1 arrest of an outstanding male for theft (section 32 search then completed on his van).



### **Street Watch & Volunteering**

Towcester's Street Watch Scheme have been very busy over the last year, completing a total of 156 of patrols with and without officers. They have formed great relationships with our young people in the community, regularly visiting parks and the rec. The scheme is made up of 2x volunteers, Karen & Ian Birdsey.

Karen & Ian have also been very busy with other police/community initiatives as they joined the local Emergency Services Cadets at Sponne School in February 2024, and became leaders in August. They have around 28 regular cadets between age 13 – 18 and run sessions that will help prepare them for their future career in Police, Fire or Ambulance. They also support with events such as Bonfire Night, Remembrance Sunday, Test Purchasing of licences premises and charitable events.

Additionally, Karen & Ian are both Police Support Volunteers within our office, supporting with administrative work, investigative queries and cyber related support.

The Street Watch Scheme is currently seeking additional members. If you know of anyone that would be interesting in supporting us, please contact [rhiannan.turner@northants.police.uk](mailto:rhiannan.turner@northants.police.uk)

You can see the Street Watch Recruitment video which features Towcester and Sergeant, Lorna Clarke via this link: [https://www.instagram.com/reel/C\\_sPJx5I-Bg/?utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_copy\\_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==](https://www.instagram.com/reel/C_sPJx5I-Bg/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==)



## **Events**

The team have supported with various events in Towcester over the last year, including Remembrance Sunday and Carols in the Square.

