



READING NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM

»»» NEWSLETTER «««



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SPOTLIGHT ON RETAIL CRIME

There is public interest as the national epidemic of retail crime has recently resulted in the launch of a dedicated retail crime strategy published by the PCC, including dedicated officers taken away from other duties and focussed solely on investigating retail crime. The impact is not just limited to retailers, but to the wider public whom are forced into paying higher prices, exacerbating a cost of living crisis. In addition business owners continue to invest in security staff, CCTV and associated maintenance costs - just to continue operating their business as normal.

Shoplifting is often considered a victimless crime but it is not. As well as the financial losses to businesses this can also have an impact on the wider local economy. Shop staff are often victims of assaults and are too scared to come in to work. Members of the public who are caught up in shoplifting incidents can feel unsafe in their own communities and become isolated through fear of going to local shops.

In TVP there are approximately 14,000 shoplifting offences each year. Nationally 953 million pounds worth of goods are stolen each year. 87% of retail staff have experienced verbal abuse and 63% of all shopliftings are committed by a handful of prolific offenders.



MEET OUR CADO TRIP PANNU

We are featuring a reflection from our colleague, Trip Pannu, a Community and Diversity Officer (CADO) based in Reading LPA. Trip works closely with the neighbourhood team and the community in order to build and strengthen relationships between the police and the lesser heard from communities.

I am Trip Pannu, a Community and Diversity Officer based in Reading LPA.

As a first-generation immigrant who arrived in the UK in 1967, I have always been aware of my ethnicity and heritage. During the 1970s, when racism was pervasive in British culture, I tried to downplay my background to integrate better and avoid hate crimes. However, in 1977, two significant events reawakened my pride in my heritage. Seeing Bob Marley live at the Rainbow Theatre in Camden inspired me and my brother to embrace our family history and fight discrimination. Shortly after, I suffered a serious racial assault, which further fuelled my determination to rediscover and take pride in my heritage.

By the time I joined the police in 1991, I was confident in my identity. Colleagues frequently asked questions about my background, which highlighted the police's limited understanding of the communities they served. By 1993, I felt secure in describing my heritage as Sikh, Punjabi, Indian, and British.



As a Sikh, I am guided by three fundamental principles:

Naam Japna - Remembering God at all times.

Kirat Karo - Earning a livelihood through honest efforts.

Vand Chakko - Selfless service, helping the less fortunate, and respecting all faiths and communities.

As a Punjabi, I belong to one of South Asia's largest ethnic groups, known for our hospitality, family values, outstanding cuisine, industrious nature, and bravery against injustice. I am proud of my Indian roots, being born in the world's largest democracy.

Lastly, I am British, having spent nearly 57 years here, supporting England in everything except cricket!



NEIGHBOURHOOD ROUND UP

Abbey and Battle Outer

PC Bisset has joined the team and is hoping to bridge the gaps between Police, the community and the seldom heard communities by attending community events and council meetings regarding asylum hotels and homelessness. She has also attended reading borough councils event with community officers where multiple agencies came together to provide support and pathways into education, healthcare and many other areas of expertise to help settle refugees and asylum seekers into their new lives.

We have been liaising with other forces to help continue to tackle the ASB on Western Elms Avenue – exploring what they are finding successful as a force and seeing how we can adapt and put it into place in some of our practises. Regular policing operations are now in place in the area as well as working with new charities to tackle the ASB with a number of community protection notices and warnings given already we hope this will continue to support residents in the area.

The police officers on the wider team have made a number of arrests in relation to shoplifting in and around Reading after a crack down on retail crime leading to charges and prison sentences for a number of prolific offenders. This includes a foot chase through Waitrose where they were tackled at the door, charged and sent to prison. A number of the most prolific offenders who have stolen thousands of pounds of property and caused fear amongst shop staff have now been arrested and imprisoned.

Two Warrants have been executed to tackle drug crime using Neighbourhood and tasking officers, Method of entry trained officers and dog handlers. This resulted in three arrests, charges and remand to prison for conspiracy to supply class A drugs in the Reading area. A massive positive step in the right direction. We are aware that there is still a huge issue with drug related ASB in the Oxford Road area and continue to dedicate our time to this as well as working with the council ASB team to target harden and improve the appearance of the area.

Tilehurst and Southcote

We welcomed another new member of the team PC Holdstock who together with PC Johnston are working with the council to help tackle ASB and vehicle related crime in Southcote /Coronation square including the use of illegal E bikes and scooters. You will see a higher than normal police presence there while we work around the best way to tackle and prevent these offences. We have also worked with the council to get a camera installed in a hotspot area which will allow us to tune in and see if any ASB has been happening when police are not in the area. As a result of this several arrests have been made and we have seized a number of the motorbikes and ebikes that are being used to commit this crime.

We have worked alongside other agencies and attended court resulting in two full closure orders at addresses in Dulnan close and Parkside Road. The addresses have been the centre of a huge amount of ASB and drug related crimes and incidents so we hope the closure orders will see an end to the significant issues caused to local residents.

Following complaints in the Rodway road in relation to drug related and motorbike crime we have increased patrols in that area. We have been working with RBC to install cameras and deal with council tenants who are involved in the activity as it will see an impact on their tenancy.

The mini police have been busy with a speed camera day, targeting reports of vehicles speeding in the area of Park Lane school. Students went out with a roads policing unit to catch people in the act with a total of eight people stopped and given words of advice from our future mini police officers.



NEIGHBOURHOOD ROUND UP

Caversham

PC Ammundsen, PC BILANSKA and PCSO Mellor are the team dedicated to tackling ASB and issues in the Caversham area.

They developed intelligence that a number of prolific shoplifters were taking items from COOP and WAITROSE in Caversham as well as many other supermarkets around Reading and selling on the stolen goods to a licenced premise. After gathering evidence the team attended the premise along with Reading borough councils licensing team and made arrests and seized a number of what we believe to be stolen goods. Licencing are also separately dealing with the premise.

Have your say meetings have been conducted in Caversham allowing residents the opportunity to come and speak with officers and relay any issues they feel are happening in the area, this also has allowed officers to give out crime prevention advice and advise around reporting the issues to police so we can action them.

ASB is an ongoing issue in Amersham Road estate, we have worked with Reading Borough Council and ABRI in order to create ongoing plans to tackle this issue. A youth was recently arrested in possession of a zombie knife after being seen by officers acting suspiciously. He has been charged with the offence and will be appearing at court later in the month.

East End

PC NAJAYI and the East Reading neighbourhood team have been making strides tackling shoplifters in the area. In the last couple of months, we have seen several prolific offenders put in to prison. Our thanks to the Co-Op on London Road for their amazing support of our investigations.

Our PCSO's have been made aware of an issue of significant ASB on Eastern Avenue, coming from two particular properties. Community protection warnings have been given to the relevant people in order to curb this behaviour. TVP and the council are also working closely with the landlord of the properties to help them manage the issue. We welcome any reports you may have about continuing ASB, even anonymously, as every report counts!

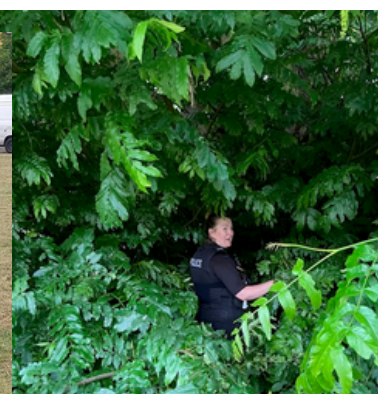
The team have worked with immigration to execute two warrants on addresses believed to be linked to modern slavery. This has resulted in an arrest, safeguarding of vulnerable individuals and two full closure orders.

South Reading

Officers have been conducting regular foot patrols around South reading some concentrating on the reports of drug dealing and ASB around the Chagford Road and dealing with the street drinking around Linden Road. Closure orders have been granted and checked and through speaking with members of the public further intelligence has been gathered around issues of drug dealing.

PC BOWNESS have been targeting Hexham Road due drugs and ASB. A number of closure orders have been granted. In order to make the area a safer place for residents we have organised and attended a number of community events and held bike marking sessions.

Joint operations have been conducted with traffic enforcement officers focusing on the new School Safer Street Scheme around Exbourne Road/ Northumberland Avenue. This has received lots of positive feedback from the schools and residents.



NEIGHBOURHOOD ROUND UP

Katesgrove and Coley

We have welcomed PC Hepburne-Scott who has joined the team and will be working alongside the other officers and PCSO's in the South East area of Reading. He has already made an impact on the area and made a number of arrests. Following an incident in Coley four males have been arrested and charged with a variety of offences. The neighbourhood team have been granted a partial closure order on one address to safeguard the vulnerable resident and another family are being safeguarded due to fears of further offences.

PC ANGELL is making use of community protection warnings and notices in relation to ongoing ASB and begging problems. He is working with the council around further long term problem solving.

An address in Quadrant Court was identified as being used to take in stolen goods and drugs and was causing significant ASB. An investigation has been started and a closure order sought in order to tackle the crimes and improve the area for other residents.

TOWN CENTRE

The town centre team has been busy with reports of problematic youths causing issues around the town centre on their bikes including assaulting a member of the business warden team. This has led to a proactive response and arrests made in order to put an end to it. This will be a continuation priority and we will continue to respond appropriately.

Over the past few months there officers have worked in partnership with the council and support agencies in relation to two concerning address's. Due to this work, officers were able to gain court closure orders for the property. This has led to a number of arrests from the property and easing of anti social behaviour spilling out from the properties. Officers continue to proactively patrol these areas.

We continue to take action to tackle aggressive begging within the town centre. A number of community protection orders have been given to aggressive beggars within the town who have been seen to pressure people into giving them money.

These notices have led to a number of arrests for breaches in the town centre. Continued support has been offered to those beggars as part of the project. This area continues to be a priority so that those that choose to come into the town centre feel safe.

The retail crime team continues to tackle shoplifting in Reading which has led to a number of arrests and court appearances with suspects getting strong custodial sentences which is hoped with continue to send a strong message to those shoplifting and to the victims.

We are working closely with trading standards and the Licencing team in order to combat stores handling stolen goods. Stores that are willing to buy stolen good provide an easy and quick way for shoplifters to fence off stolen goods. Officers alongside RBC have successfully closed two shops linked to handling stolen goods.



COMMUNITY EVENTS PAGE

We really want to get stuck in to traditional Neighbourhood Policing values and being available to the community is an important aspect of that.

We want to tell you where we will be, have been and give you an opportunity to request us to attend an event you or your community are planning. We understand that this is a difficult thing to request unless you have a contact in the team, and so we have launched a new form to request us to attend an event. Either click the QR code below or scan it with your mobile phone. Fill in the form and submit. It will send the neighbourhood team an email and they will then be in touch.

We wouldn't be the Police if we didn't remind you at this point that it is not for reporting crime and/or ongoing incidents that need a Police response. You should use the appropriate 999, 101 or webform option to tell us about those matter.

We will also have to disappoint some people as the Neighbourhood Policing team are not a 24/7 provision. If it is the case we will let you know, but we hope to be seeing a lot more of you soon.

For now, please see some of the photos of the team from the last few months. To those that invited, hosted or tolerated us, thank you.



Reading Neighbourhood Policing Team Event attendance request



USEFUL LINKS



Thames Valley Alert is a free email messaging system where you can receive regular crime updates, information on ongoing incidents and crime prevention advice relevant to your local area.

By signing up to Thames Valley Alert you can get involved in helping to make your local area a safer place, tell us what the police should be doing in your area, shape the initiatives that help to keep people and property safe and tell us what matters are causing your communities harm.

You can [register now](#) to receive messages of local crime alerts, witness appeals and information to the area in which you live or work.

HOME SECURITY GUIDE

You can reduce the risk of becoming a victim by looking at your home security through the eyes of a burglar. Think about how you would break in if you locked yourself out. You may be surprised at how easy it would be.

To get started [download our Home Security Guide](#) which contains a range of physical and digital security measures to protect your home. There is also advice on how to avoid invalidating your home insurance through poor security and a handy checklist when going away.

You can find more crime prevention advice on our [Residential Burglary](#) pages.

JOIN US - TVP CAREERS

Protecting our communities. This is our mission.

Policing is fundamentally about working with people. Ensuring we treat everyone with fairness and respect, in every interaction, both within our communities and our organisation is one of our core values.

Preventing and thoroughly investigating crime, supporting victims and bringing offenders to justice. These commitments require us all to be courageous and do the right thing and cannot be achieved by any one person alone; it relies upon a team of over 8,500 staff, officers and volunteers, working alongside partner agencies and the public.

Policing evolves along with the challenges we face and we strive to improve every day. New digital technologies and ways of working are transforming the way we deliver our service and to do so at the highest standard, means we require the very best talent to join our TVP family.

Policing is a unique and rewarding career. Take on a role with pride and confidence, inspiring change so we can become an excellent police force trusted by all our communities. We are proud to be Thames Valley Police and you will be too.

