

READING NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM

»» NEWSLETTER ««



**SPOTLIGHT
ON
E-SCOOTERS**

**NEIGHBOURHOOD
ROUND UP**

**INVITE US TO
YOUR EVENT**

**MEET PCSO
HANNAH ELLIOT**

E-BIKES AND E-SCOOTERS

The police receive many complaints regarding the use of eScooters and illegal eBikes. Many of these are driven very dangerously and with little or no regard to the Highway Code, which puts everyone in danger. The UK road traffic laws on this subject are very clear.



eScooters are in effect motorcycles and therefore are NOT allowed on the roads or pavements, they can only be used on private land with the landowner's permission.

eBike law again is very clear. These electric bikes are known as 'electrically assisted pedal cycles' (EAPCs). You do not need a licence to ride one and it does not need to be registered, taxed or insured. An EAPC must have pedals that can be used to propel it, and the electric motor must have a maximum power output of 250 watts, and must not be able to propel the bike when it's travelling more than 15.5mph.

If your pedal cycle is fitted with a motor over 250 watts, and or has a throttle fitted to it enabling it to be used to propel the cycle without pedalling, once again it cannot be used on the roads or pavements.

We are seizing these illegal motorbikes on a regular basis under section 165 of the road traffic act 1988 and they are being disposed of to prevent any further offences.

The neighbourhood team recently carried out an operation in the town centre to address the issue and a number of eBikes were seized. We are planning on repeating this across other areas of Reading.



Of course as a method of transport legal e-bikes when used in a compliant way present an environmentally sustainable method of individual transport.

We are actively looking into e-bikes to assist the team in extending the possible range for patrols within a day. We are a key part of a group looking at using them in Thames Valley Police and are likely to be the pilot area.

Keep your eyes peeled, you may see us able to do the things we do in the near future with electrical assistance to our pedal power. Next time this little chihuahua goes missing he might be returned even faster.

[TVP ESCOOTER PAGE](#)

<<< Picture taken at Reading Festival of a Tactical cycle team officer

An infographic with a white background and a blue border. At the top, the text reads: 'Did you know it's illegal to ride a privately owned electric scooter (e-scooter) in public?' followed by a black warning triangle with a white exclamation mark. Below this, there are several paragraphs of text explaining the legal status of e-scooters. At the bottom right, there are two logos: the Hampshire Constabulary logo and the Thames Valley Police logo. The background features a pattern of small yellow lightning bolts.

Did you know it's illegal to ride a privately owned electric scooter (e-scooter) in public?

That's because e-scooters are classed as motor vehicles in law. So, in theory, this means that you need an MOT, road tax and insurance to use one, however it isn't currently possible to register e-scooters in this way.

Privately owned e-scooters can only be used on private land, with the permission of the landowner.

You cannot use a privately owned e-scooter on the road, pavement or in a public space. If you do then you risk receiving a large fine, points on your driving licence and your e-scooter could be seized.

Some parts of the UK are running government trials of rental e-scooters. If you're over 16 and have a full or provisional driving licence, then you can use these on public roads and cycle paths.

Just check that your driving licence covers categories AM, A or B.



MEET PCSO HANNAH ELLIOT (POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER)

Length of service: 2 years

What attracted to you policing, specifically as a PCSO?

I wanted to work in policing, and becoming a PCSO is a great way to do this! I knew I wouldn't enjoy an office based job as I get bored quite quickly, so the fact that the role is people facing and involved being out and about in the community was a huge attraction.

What did you do prior to joining TVP?

I was a Teaching Assistant at a secondary school for three years. This mostly involved working with children with autism and other learning difficulties, which fed well into the PCSO role.

What surprised you about the world of policing?

I didn't expect the role to be so 'free' in the respect that you have a lot of freedom over your day. Sometimes you get specific direction, but other times I can use my initiative and focus my efforts on areas within my community that I believe need the most attention. I feel as though I am respected and valued as someone who understands the needs of their community.

This has extended beyond my day-to-day and I've now completed a course to become a Dyslexia Workplace Needs Assessor. This is something I wouldn't have had the opportunity to do had I not become a PCSO in the first place.

What does your day-to-day look like as a PCSO?

Each day is very different and really varies, but are usually dictated by our patrols. Sometimes we have specific areas that we need to visit, e.g. if there are particular problems, antisocial behaviour or vulnerable individuals etc., but other times I find myself at community events, housing visits, school talks etc.

One time, some vulnerable elderly people even invited me to their bingo game after I'd visited them, so you really never know where your day is headed!

What advice would you give to those considering becoming a PCSO?

Don't let anxiety get in your way. Joining the police isn't as terrifying as you may think it is! As long as you can talk to people, have a decent sense of empathy and hard work, you'll make a fantastic PCSO.

If Hannah's story has inspired you to consider a career as a PCSO, visit our [PCSO page](#)



NEIGHBOURHOOD ROUND UP

The neighbourhood team have been busy in recent months dealing with issues specific to each area.

A number of closure orders have been sought in South Reading in order to protect vulnerable people. We have been working with the council to address Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) in Durham Close and the Hexham Road Estate. In the Katesgrove area the team are working with our Stronghold team to tackle drug use and drug dealing in the St Giles Close and Capital point areas.

A boat has been seized and work is ongoing with the environment agency in order to tackle thefts and ASB on the river in Caversham. There has also been an increase in ASB in the Amersham Road area which we are taking a problem solving approach to and speaking with residents and the local schools in order to identify the youths involved.

A number of arrests have been made in Tilehurst and Southcote in relation to the dealing of class A and class B drugs. We are also working with the council to tackle ASB in and around Coronation Square as well as seeking closure orders on problem addresses in the area.

The town centre team have been working with the Business Improvement District in order to identify prolific thieves within the town which has resulted in a number of recent charges for shoplifting. They have also carried out a number of operations including Project Vigilant to make the night time economy safer for everyone.

The Oxford Road team are receiving increasing reports of drug using and taking in and around the Kensington Park area. We have a number of operations planned in the near future to address this matter and are working with the Stronghold team to catch and convict those responsible. We are also addressing the matter of ASB around Western Elms Avenue so residents should notice an increase in police presence in that area

We have attended a number of events including a College Careers fayre, 999 day, family fun day, Reading pride and the cycle festival. Keep an eye on our Social media for details of upcoming events and 'Have your Say' meetings where you will have an opportunity to speak with your local team as well as Reading Borough Council.



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 or ongoing incident. 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 this Summers exploits. To those that invited or hosted us, thank you.



Reading Neighbourhood Policing Team Event attendance request



USEFUL LINKS



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

By signing up to Thames Valley Alerts 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.

