

APRIL 2025

THAMES VALLEY POLICE

READING NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM



NEWSLETTER

**Tackling E-Bike
Related ASB**

**Neighbourhood
Round Up**

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Statements**

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Woody**



Tackling E-Bike and Surrón-Related Anti-Social Behaviour in Thames Valley:

In recent years, the popularity of e-bikes and high-powered electric motorbikes like Surrón has surged. Whilst these vehicles offer an eco-friendly and efficient mode of transport, their misuse has led to a rise in anti-social behaviour (ASB) and crime within the Thames Valley area.

E-bikes and Surrón motorbikes have become increasingly popular, especially among younger riders. These vehicles are often marketed as a fun and convenient way to travel, but their high speeds and powerful motors can pose significant risks when used irresponsibly. Surrón motorbikes, in particular, can reach speeds much higher than legal limits for e-bikes, making them a concern for public safety.

Dangers and ASB Issues relating to the use:

Speed and Safety Concerns: Surrón motorbikes and similar high-powered e-bikes can reach speeds of up to 50 mph, far exceeding the legal limit for e-bikes. This makes them dangerous when ridden on public roads and bike paths, where they can cause accidents and endanger pedestrians.

Illegal Use: Many riders are unaware that Surrón and certain high-powered e-bikes are not legal for use on public roads without proper registration and safety equipment. This has led to an increase in traffic offences and accidents.

Noise and Disturbance: The high speeds and off-road capabilities of these vehicles often lead to their use in residential areas, parks, and other inappropriate locations, causing noise and disturbance to local communities.

Impact of riding on the pavements: Pavements are designed for pedestrians, not high-speed vehicles. When e-bikes and Surrón motorbikes are ridden on pavements, they can cause accidents and injuries to pedestrians. These vehicles can reach speeds that make it difficult for riders to stop quickly, increasing the risk of collisions. In the UK, it is illegal to ride an e-bike which exceeds legal criteria and motorbikes on pavements. This law is in place to protect pedestrians and ensure that pavements remain safe for walking. Violating this law not only endangers others but also leads to legal consequences for the riders.

Advice for Parents of Children with Surrón or E-Bikes

It's important to ensure your child's safety and responsible use of their Surrón or e-bike. Start by educating them about the legal requirements and safety regulations for riding these vehicles. Make sure they understand that high-powered e-bikes and Surrón motorbikes are not permitted on pavements and must adhere to road traffic laws. Encourage them to wear appropriate safety gear, including helmets, and to avoid reckless riding or stunts that could endanger themselves and others. It's also beneficial to set boundaries on where and when they can ride, emphasizing the importance of respecting public spaces and community members. Regularly check the condition of their bike to ensure it is well-maintained and safe to use. By fostering a sense of responsibility and awareness, you can help your child enjoy their e-bike or Surrón motorbike safely, responsibly and legally.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Issues

Intimidation and Fear: The presence of fast-moving e-bikes and Surrón motorbikes on pavements can be intimidating for pedestrians, particularly the elderly and young children. This fear can deter people from using public spaces and negatively impact community cohesion.

Vandalism and Reckless Riding: Some riders engage in reckless behaviour, such as performing stunts or riding aggressively on pavements. This not only endangers pedestrians but also leads to property damage and vandalism.

In the past three months the NHPT teams have seized 17 E-Bikes / Surrón bikes and 6 Scooters.

While e-bikes and Surrón motorbikes offer many benefits, their misuse poses significant risks to public safety and community well-being. It is crucial for riders to understand the legal requirements and safety measures associated with these vehicles. Thames Valley Police are committed to addressing these issues through increased enforcement and community awareness initiatives. Together, we can ensure that they are used responsibly and safely.

The Abbey and Battle Neighbourhood Team has been actively working to ensure the safety and well-being of our community with recent operations and collaborations that have yielded positive results. Our team has been running a targeted operation on Western Elm's Avenue in Reading, focusing on men who use the services of sex workers. This initiative has led to numerous arrests, with a positive outcome rate of 100%. We recently had the pleasure of hosting colleagues from the Met's Brixton NHPT. Their visit provided valuable insights into our work and helped us develop our skills and build stronger partnerships.

Our team has been working closely with CID on a serious sexual assault case involving vulnerable females from Oxford Road. We have provided support to the victims, building a strong rapport with them and strengthening our community ties. Our efforts are focused on ensuring justice and offering the necessary support to those affected.

We have successfully obtained a closure order on a property on Oxford Road.

This action is part of our ongoing efforts to address anti-social behaviour and improve the quality of life for residents in the area. Our team seized a cat that had been abandoned by its owner. The cat has since given birth to kittens, who are now thriving.

We have been working closely with our partner agencies to provide housing and safety for vulnerable homeless individuals. Our collaborative efforts aim to ensure that these individuals receive the support they need to transition into stable and secure living conditions.

Abbey and Battle



Caversham



April has been an exciting month for the Caversham team. PCs Bilanksa and Ammundsen have been catching shoplifters, conducting plain clothes operations, resulting in the successful apprehension of a pair of thieves caught in the act filling their pockets and promptly arrested. Both offenders have now been charged with multiple offences, one being sent to prison from a warrant outstanding for his arrest.

PCSO Mellor has attended 2 different have your say meetings on St Martins Precinct and Co-op Supermarket, listening to residents concerns and making himself available to any issues members of the public want to raise. If you see him then by all means let us know what is on your mind or if there is anything we can help with.

The team have arranged a football event of TVP vs local residents at the Amersham Road Recreation Ground which has been a success, with locals coming out for a game in the sunshine, giving TVP officers some challenging tackles and scoring some fantastic goals!!

As one of the priorities for the area the team have been compiling reports of motorcycles on footpaths causing ASB and visiting relevant addresses, as well as conducted targeted visible patrols in areas where we have had lots of reports. This is no doubt going to continue into the summer as reports of motorcycles inevitably increase. Any information residents have please contact your local NHPT team to let them know.

Tilehurst and Southcote

The Tilehurst and Southcote Neighbourhood Team has been actively addressing community concerns through various initiatives. The team has been conducting plain clothes operations to combat the illegal use of e-bikes and Surrón bikes, a primary concern highlighted by residents. They continue to enforce traffic and ASB laws related to e-bikes, ensuring safer streets for everyone. Completing patrols in Mcillroy park, Prospect, Kensington, Arthur Newbury. We have also been joined by the mounted section for additional patrols.

The team executed a warrant that led to the recovery of a large quantity of drugs and cash, marking a substantial impact on local crime.

The team has also made strides in tackling targeted ASB issues. Through diligent efforts, they have successfully identified offenders and halted disruptive behaviours, greatly improving the welfare of affected victims. One notable operation involved the use of a drone to identify a male in possession of cannabis, showcasing their innovative approach to law enforcement.

Shoplifting remains a focus for the team, with robust measures in place to address this persistent issue. Additionally, they have issued Community Protection Warnings to individuals acting in an anti-social manner, further safeguarding the community's well-being.

The team has recently welcomed new members, including two Police Constables (PCs) and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), bolstering their capacity to serve and protect the neighbourhood.



East End



Our team was out in full force to ensure the safety and security of participants and spectators at the Reading Half Marathon. It was a fantastic event, and we're proud to have played a part in its success.

We had the pleasure of attending the Visakhi festival at the local Gurdwara. It was a wonderful opportunity to engage with the community and celebrate this important cultural event.

In collaboration with the RSPCA, we assisted in rescuing a pup and a dog in need. We're always happy to support animal welfare and contribute to the safety of our furry friends.

We held "Have Your Say" sessions at a supported living place for the elderly. These sessions are crucial for understanding the needs and concerns of our senior residents and ensuring their voices are heard.

Following reports of anti-social behaviour (ASB), our team conducted patrols in affected areas and successfully identified some individuals involved. We're committed to maintaining a safe and peaceful community for everyone.

PC Najayi has also successfully obtained a closure order for an address on Sun Street, and in doing so the team has protected a vulnerable resident.

The team recently conducted a successful investigation, resulting in the seizure of a large quantity of cash and drugs from a property. This operation is a testament to our ongoing efforts to combat crime and protect our community.

South Reading

The team have been busy over the last couple of months, these are some of the projects and activities they have been completing:

Two full closure orders have been issued for Hadrians Walk East and Chudley Gardens due to persistent anti-social behavior (ASB) and drug use, which have been negatively impacting neighbors. These measures are aimed at restoring peace and improving the quality of life for residents.

We continue to issue CPWs and CPNs to individuals committing shoplifting in the area. These notices ban offenders from entering stores, helping to reduce theft and maintain a safe shopping environment. We are actively working to secure CBOs for persistent offenders. These orders will impose stricter conditions on those who repeatedly engage in criminal activities, further enhancing community safety.

Our team was present at the Reading Half Marathon to ensure the event ran smoothly and safely for all participants and spectators.

PCSO Gray attended a coffee morning at Cedar Court, providing residents with an opportunity to discuss their concerns and receive support. These events are crucial for fostering open communication and building trust within the community



Katesgrove and Coley



The team continue to take action on the reports of ASB (Anti-Social Behaviour) on Whitley Street. CPW's (Community Protection Warning) and CPN's (Community Protection Notice) have been issued to individuals in the area by Street Drinking and Begging with their Housing Providers also being made aware of our actions. Officers are also dealing with the issues with Double Parking & Cycling on the pavements.

The team are also checking blocks of apartments following reports of unknown persons gaining access to sleep, take drugs or in some case steal parcels from doorsteps. As a reminder, please ensure that the door is fully closed before you leave, do not 'buzz' persons in if you do not know who they are or you are not expecting. If the door is faulty, please report this to your management company requesting them to resolve the issue.

Patrols are continuing around the shops on Wensley Road and the area of Lower Brook Street, Brook Street West and Dover Street to disrupt reports of ASB in the area.

An input on knife crime was presented to the Katesgrove School Mini Police who are now able to pass on their newly gained knowledge onto their peers. As well as this they also received a visit from the TVP Mounted Section where they met PH (Police Horse) Oden and PH Harper and asked lots of really good questions (to the police Officers).

PCSO's have been actively visiting our retailers to introduce them to the new DISK system which enables them to report any retail crimes directly via a secure App. A very positive response has been received by all retailers on the initiative launched by the Berkshire West Business Crime Partnership.

APRIL 2025

THAMES VALLEY POLICE

2025 Community Policing Awards

The 2025 Community Policing Awards open for nominations on Monday 2 June! Celebrating 24 years, the annual event honours officers, staff, and volunteers who make outstanding contributions to their communities.

Nominations close on Friday 18 July. Submit your nomination and help us recognise this year's community champions:

<https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/police-forces/thames-valley-police/areas/au/about-us/awards-events/community-policing-awards/>



READING NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAMS



All of the neighbourhood teams have been busy with a whole range of issues over the last three months.

Neighbourhood crime is down by **11%** over the last year compared with the past 12 months.

Knife crime offences are down **18%** for the last 12 months, compared to previous 12 months.

Alongside this we have made **59** arrests in the last 10 weeks, attended **150** incidents and been allocated **221** crimes. We have also had 85 charges and issued 20 out of court disposals.

Meet PD Woody



Biography of Police Dog Woody

Name: Woody
Date of Birth: 6th July 2020
Age: 4 years
Weight: 37kg

Career Highlights:

Woody has been on the streets around Berkshire for just over 3 years now and has had many great results. I would say ones that stick out was when he deployed into the GRAND UNION CANAL after a wanted high risk domestic suspect, detained him in the water and was pulled back to shore. Another great job was when he tracked an offender from a crash and decamp for over 4kms, locating him attempting to hide, the male decided to run and Woody chased him down making sure he was brought to justice.

Skills and Training: Woody is a Firearm Support Dog or FSD for short, which means he has had extra training to work closely with the armed response teams in high risk situations.

He has many skills that he regularly utilises on a day to day bases including but not limited to, tracking suspects, locating discarded property, searching buildings and open areas for persons who are hiding, chasing and detaining fleeing suspects and also Woody can be used in Public Order situations. This could be at football matches, to make sure the crowd are behaving, or at protests/riots where the crowds may be out of control. Woody uses his skills to restore order to the streets.

Personality and Interests: Woody is a fantastic Police Dog and loves what he does. He isn't too bothered about having a fuss, however he loves to play with his ball. He enjoys every aspect of his work including all the training we do as he will always get his reward. Woody is a very good boy and when at home very easily switches off and loves to chill in the garden with his mate Reggie, who is a proactive drugs dog



<https://pensions4paws.com/>

Invite us to your event!

PCSO Mason has been actively engaging with the community through various events. At Park Lane, he conducted a 15-metre bleep test with the Mini Police, taught them fingerprinting techniques, discussed the role of the police, and introduced them to the police horses. The Mini Police is a volunteer engagement scheme for primary school children aged 8 to 11 years old, aimed at fostering positive associations with policing from an early age.

Through activities like these, children learn about police work, develop a sense of community responsibility, and build trust with law enforcement.

Please get in touch via Webform by visiting the TVP website.



Understanding Police Statements: A Guide

A police victim or witness statement is a formal account of events given by a witness or victim in relation to a crime. These statements are crucial for police as they help in the investigation and prosecution of criminal activities. Understanding how police statements are taken and what to expect can help you navigate the process more comfortably.

How Police Statements Are Taken

- The process usually begins when a police officer contacts you to provide a statement. This can happen at the scene of the incident, at a police station, sometimes at your home or workplace and they can be even taken over the phone.
- The officer will choose a quiet and private setting to conduct the interview. This is to ensure that you feel comfortable and can speak freely without interruptions.
- The statement can be recorded in various ways:
 - Written Statement: The officer writes down your account of the events. You will be asked to read it, make any necessary corrections, and then sign it.
 - Audio/Video Recording: In some cases, the interview may be recorded using audio or video equipment. This is often done to ensure accuracy and to have a clear record of the interview.
- The officer will ask you to describe the events in detail. They may ask open-ended questions to encourage you to provide as much information as possible. Follow-up questions may be asked to clarify specific points.
- Once the statement is recorded, you will be given the opportunity to review it. If it is a written statement, you will be asked to sign it to confirm that it is accurate. If it is an audio or video recording, you may be asked to provide a verbal confirmation.

Understanding Police Statements: A Guide

What to Expect

- It is important to be honest and accurate when giving your statement. Providing false information can have serious legal consequences.
- Giving a statement can be stressful, especially if you are a victim or witness to a traumatic event. It is okay to ask for a break if you need one. You can also request the presence of a support person, such as a friend or family member.

Understanding the process of giving a police statement can help you feel more prepared and less anxious. Remember to stay calm and ask the officer any questions you need to.

The statement reflects your words, so if you want to add or remove anything, don't hesitate to let them know. They might have made a mistake or misunderstood what you said.

In the next addition we will be talking about the Charity Victims first and the rights of a victim of crime.

SIGN UP FOR THAMES VALLEY ALERT

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.

www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk



JOIN US

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!