

Police Report

Dunster Area Panel Meeting

2nd July 2019

Crime figures from last 3 months:

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| Arson/Criminal damage | 16 |
| Burglary | 11 |
| Drug offences | 1 |
| Public Order | 24 |
| Sexual Offences | 10 |
| Theft | 18 |
| Vehicle offences | 5 |
| Violence against person | 66 |

Since the last meeting, there has been another spike in non-dwelling breaks across the area, hence the high number of burglaries. Unfortunately, due to very limited resources, this is becoming a very difficult crime to tackle. The rural locations, vast areas, small numbers of officers and lack of supportive resources (ANPR, CSI, Dog units etc). One of our local beat managers is collating all the crimes to try and identify any trends which will give us something to work with, but the limited information recorded for each incidents makes this task challenging to say the least. Therefore, the best advice that can be given is that prevention is better than cure. Any valuable tools should not be left in easily accessible out buildings, they should be marked and any serial numbers recorded. Anything that is considered too valuable to lose should be kept in a dwelling. Anything suspicious needs to be reported to the police, however minor it seems at the time.

With the summer months upon us, our drink drive campaign, Op Tonic, has restarted. The police will be actively targeting drink driving and you may see check points at times within the area. You may find yourself being stopped as part of the initiative, and clearly the advice is do not drink and drive.

Good news stories:

Firstly, you may be interested to hear that your area currently possesses the best neighbourhood officer in the force. Sue Thompson was awarded neighbourhood officer of the year in a recent awards ceremony. Her nominations come from the community so this is a fantastic reflection on all of her hard work over the year, and her continued dedication to the PCSO role.

We also have a new PCSO in Sue Marks, although she is not 'new' in the sense of her experience, having been a PCSO for a number of years. She was formally a Hinkley Point PCSO but she actually used to patrol this area so brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience.

We have just acquired a new neighbourhood vehicle, a lovely sparkling Ford Ranger. This will provide the PCSOs with the ability to transport their cycles and deploy anywhere on this vast area and provide a visible cycling presence. This is a very positive step in bringing the policing team closer to some of the more rural areas of the community, which until now, would never have seen a PCSO on cycle patrol before!

Finally...

We are very keen to try & establish some Community Speedwatch Schemes within the area, so please, if you have any interest in becoming involved, contact either PCSO Sue Thompson on 07889655209, or PCSO Sue MARKS, on 07889655308.