

Police Report for Dunster area Panel meeting.

As PCSO for the **Watchet/Williton & surrounding areas**, one of the most prevalent issues we have to deal with are thefts from outbuildings in some of our most remote & rural areas.

This is a really difficult issue, mainly due to the extreme isolation of these properties. One of the greatest benefits we can offer is really robust crime prevention, property marking, & general awareness of security. For this reason, I organise a Rural Crime Day held just before Christmas, which was held at Exmoor Livestock Auction centre at Wheddon Cross, at their Annual Christmas Faststock show & sale.

This venue offered us the ability to reach a good target audience, & with lots of footfall at the event, we were able to promote signups to Horsecatch/Farmwatch, & offer information on all sorts of farm & rural security, including the use & effectiveness of tracking devices on machinery.

The spate of vile Graffiti in Watchet in the autumn has sadly been unresolved. Unfortunately with no CCTV to assist in our investigations we have been unable to find those responsible.

A recent incident in Watchet involving a small group of youths was however dealt with effectively & robustly, with parents & young people being spoken to by the Neighbourhood Team, & young people starting on the ASB process.

Generally speaking, just the effect of making parents aware, & starting them on this process is enough to curtail their behaviour. We also work closely with Housing Providers who are fully supportive of the ASB process.

Another issue that seems to be constantly evolving is that of Fraud.

Fraud comes in many different guises, but always targets the most vulnerable in our Communities. Victims of fraud are often too embarrassed & ashamed to speak about it, so we need to be very aware of how we deal with potential victims.

A & S have recently published a really useful booklet- "The Little Book of Big Scams" This is an informative booklet, which has been left at most libraries for people to pick up. I have bought some with me this evening, but please let me know if there is anyone you feel may benefit from reading.

On Thursday 23rd January, between 13.30- 16.30 I have organised an event to be held at Maglands Community Hall, Maglands Rd in Watchet.

This is ' Celebrating older persons day'!

Representatives from Magna Housing 'Money matters'

Dementia friends

Fire Service safety.

Neighbourhood Policing Team

Road Safety- Older drivers

Village Agent.

Will all be there on hand, for advice. PLUS a FREE tea is on hand, & FREE raffles of some lovely hampers! Often elderly people are on their own, & are desperately lonely in their own homes, & this makes them more susceptible to respond to fraudulent calls & correspondence.

Please come along & support this event, & if you know anyone who could benefit from an afternoon out, please let me know, as I can arrange transport.

Since the last meeting held in October for the Dunster Beat we had approx. 28 calls specifically for the **Dunster area**.

These consisted of road related issues such as trees down, animals in the road and Road traffic collisions along with other Police related issues.

Some significant calls to note for public interest would be.

*Unfortunately Dunster Beach Holidays were victims again to damage to one of their parking meter where someone took an angle grinder to it, thankfully they didn't get away with anything on this occasion. I have spoken to Steve Pearson the manager and there is going to be a whole new revamp of their security over the coming months so this will at least help us to identify any future issues , and hopefully put people off committing these crimes. Overnight 28th/29th October 2019.

*We received several calls in relation to people knocking on doors posing to be deaf and dumb holding out signs asking for money or to sell items such as photos/paintings. Whilst sometimes these types of sellers can be genuine, on this occasion we feel this was not the case due to members for the public later seeing the same person/s casually walking up the street on a mobile phone. The information was shared on my local facebook page to pre warn people that they were in the area to try and get the message out and shared as much as possible, this occurred in the Williton /Minehead area also. 18th October 2019.

*There was an isolated incident where a 17 year old girl was walking back from her shift in a local hotel in Dunster to her car which was parked up and around the Tithe barn area. She was aware that someone was nearby and he called out to her asking what she was doing and grabbed her hood. She was able to pull free and get to her car. Despite several enquiries in the area such as CCTV enquires the Police were unable to identify who this may have been, she was unable to confirm any descriptions as was dark this happened in the early evening around 6pm in early November. We haven't had any further reports or issues that we are aware of so we are hoping this was just an isolated case. But obviously encourage anyone with any information or any other incidents to be reported to us.

Good news Farm Watch and Horse Watch schemes are going really well with steady sign ups in the area. We had a input on Poaching crime and there will be a launch of Anti-Poaching signs similar to the Farm and Horse watch so when this is live I will be actively getting those signs out to areas.

December saw Dunster by Candlelight which by all accounts went really well again this year. I was working on the Friday and the atmosphere was very nice and festive and people were in good spirits.

I'm often about on foot in the Dunster village and pop into local tearooms and shops for community engagement , this normally works better than having a set session such as a coffee with cops session I feel, I continue to hold the set beat surgeries nearby in Timberscombe monthly and any prior engagements such as this are advertised on my Facebook page.

Please feel free to contact me anytime and I will do my best to return your call as soon as is possible.
Details below.

You can find me on Facebook under PCSO Linda Brooks.