



Avon and Somerset Police
NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

Taunton

Policing Newsletter

March 2026

NEWS FROM ACROSS TAUNTON

Hello and welcome to the Taunton Policing Newsletter for the month of March 2026. As always, the newsletters contain a snapshot of some of the work the Taunton Policing Teams have been involved with in the previous month.

Two Years of Our Monthly Newsletter

This month marks two years since we first introduced our monthly newsletter. What began as a simple way to keep our communities updated has grown into a key part of how we share information across the town — from useful links and safety advice to crime statistics for the wider area.

Over time, we've made small improvements here and there (including the occasional help from Microsoft Copilot to tidy up my grammar!). But recently, the newsletters have caught the attention of our Head of Communications, who has shown a real interest in developing this approach further. There is now a genuine ambition to use this style of community update across the whole of Avon and Somerset.

Some of the upcoming changes include making the newsletter easier to read on mobile devices and streamlining the way we present news stories so they're even more engaging and accessible.

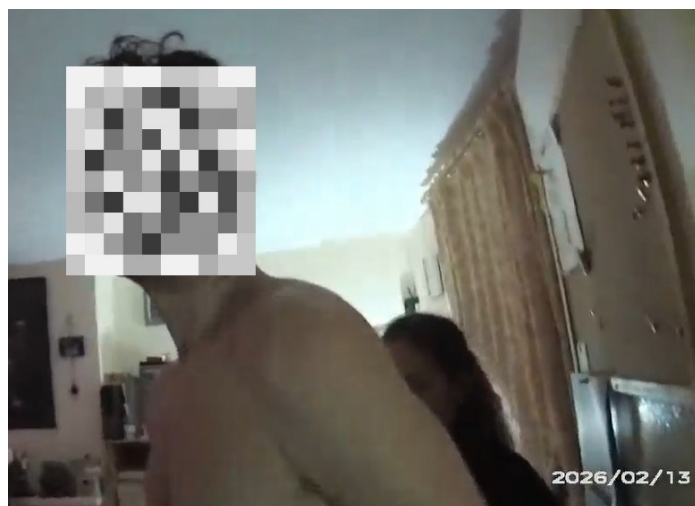
Thank you for continuing to read and support these updates — here's to many more editions ahead!

Robbery Suspect Arrested Following Thorough Neighbourhood Policing Work

Neighbourhood officers arrested a man on Friday 13 February in connection with a robbery that occurred late at night on North Street, Taunton, at the end of January.

After the victim reported the incident, officers carried out extensive enquiries, gathering key evidence from council CCTV and local businesses to build a robust case ahead of the arrest. Once the suspect was in custody, the team continued working well beyond the end of their shift to ensure he was remanded while awaiting trial. The suspect is due to appear in court in mid-March. A great result and fantastic work from the team.

Pictured below is the team arresting the suspect following waking him up!



MEET THE TEAM



OFFICER

Sgt Kat Forrest

POLICING AREA

Taunton

YEARS SERVICE

18 years

HOBBY

Baking

FAVOURITE FOOD

Lamb Roast Dinner

ABOUT ME

This month's 'Meet the Team' is Sgt Kat Forrest

I began my policing career with Avon and Somerset Police in 2007, starting on a patrol team in Bridgwater. From there, I became the Beat Manager for Cheddar before returning to Bridgwater to continue my work in Neighbourhood Policing. Most of my service has been spent across West Somerset, gaining a wide range of skills within both patrol and neighbourhood teams. Alongside my core role, I'm also a Protest Liaison Officer. You'll often spot me in Bristol City Centre wearing a baby-blue tabard, engaging with protest groups to help ensure they can express their views safely and lawfully. It's a challenging but rewarding role — I enjoy meeting passionate people, hearing different perspectives, and strengthening my own empathy and understanding during what can be difficult times for many. I was promoted to Sergeant in 2023 after a period as a Temporary Sergeant, and I've recently returned to the Taunton Neighbourhood Policing Team. It's great to be back. I know the town well and have loved seeing it develop into a vibrant, mini-cosmopolitan hub filled with fantastic independent shops, cafés and eateries. For me, effective neighbourhood policing comes down to two core principles: listening to our communities and solving problems together. Outside of work, I make the most of my downtime by travelling, taking trips in my trusty old T4 camper van, walking my dog on the beach, and baking whenever I can.

Collaboration at the Taunton LCN

PCSO Supervisor Sam Bushen attended the Taunton Local Community Network (LCN) meeting on Monday 23 February, held at Quaker House on Bath Place. The LCN meets every three months and is open to the public, offering an insight into the work taking place across the various organisations operating within the Taunton area.



At this month's meeting, Sam presented crime statistics from the past three months and highlighted some of the ongoing work the Neighbourhood Policing Team has been involved in during that time. Sam highlighted several recent successes, including the closure of businesses linked to anti-social behaviour and crime. He also shared that the team has secured an Anti-Social Behaviour Injunction for a 13-year-old whose persistent offending has been a growing concern.

Alongside these achievements, Sam spoke openly about the challenges the team continues to face. This includes ongoing work to support and manage a persistent caller with complex mental health needs, who has contacted Police more than 3,000 times via 999 in the past year.

Pictured is PCSO Supervisor Sam alongside representatives from Somerset Council and Taunton Town Council.

Suspected Stolen Goods Recovered at Local Car Boot Sales

During the summer of 2025, we received reports that a woman was selling large quantities of brand-new clothing and other items at several car boot sales across Taunton. Members of the public raised concerns because many of the items appeared unused, with tags and price labels still attached, leading to suspicions they may have been stolen.

On a sunny Sunday morning, two of our officers attended in plain clothes to make enquiries. On arrival, they located the individual in question with a significant amount of new, tagged stock for sale — exactly as described in the information we had received.

All items were seized at the scene and a full investigation was launched. Following extensive enquiries, the suspect was subsequently found guilty of handling stolen goods.

Pictured below are some of the recovered items. In total, we were able to return 12 large bags of clothing and goods to multiple businesses across the town.



POLICE EARLY INTERVENTION TEAM

Lots of us, including children and young people have been worried or upset by recent events in the news. It can be difficult to answer children's questions but its important that children feel listened to and that they are able to talk about the things that they see and to process the feelings they are experiencing. The below links offer advice about how to have these conversations;

[Talking about distressing current events with kids \(savethechildren.org.uk\)](https://www.savethechildren.org.uk)

[How to speak to children about trauma and tragedy, Psychologists offer expert advice | BPS](#)

There is a lot of information out there but make sure that you use reliable sources. Recent events have demonstrated how misinformation and untrustworthy sources can cause harm. Encourage your children and young people to speak to you or other trusted adults about the things that the see and help them to understand that not everything they see is the truth. Think before you share online, do you know the information to be true and the source. Use the Share Checklist to help you understand if a story can be trusted.

[Share Checklist | Take care with what you share - Home](#)

When anything is reported to Police, we always encourage people to use the crime reference number. If you aren't sure, don't share it.

[Your Police](#) on Instagram can be a good source of information for teenagers on policing related matters.

A hate crime is when someone commits a crime against you or someone else based on disability, gender identity, race, sexual orientation, religion, sex or other perceived differences. Help your children understand racism by talking about it with them.

[Talking to children about racism | NSPCC](#)

If you or anyone your know is the victim of Hate Crime, please report it

[Report hate crime | Avon and Somerset Police](#)

FRAUD AWARENESS

Safe Account Fraud



'Safe account' frauds occur when a criminal convinces you to move your money to a new bank account. This typically starts with a call out of the blue, where they pretend to be a trustworthy organisation like your bank or the police. They will advise you that there is a problem or suspicious activity on your account and instruct you to move it to a 'safe account'.

Fraudsters may have access to more personal information than you might think. They may be able to identify which bank you are with and even have access to your sort code and account number. You may also hear sounds of a call centre in the background to further convince you that this is a legitimate call.

Courier fraud is a related fraud type where the person on the phone asks you to withdraw your funds and then collect them.

Number Spoofing

Fraudsters can disguise their number to appear as if they are calling from anywhere in the world. Even if the number that displays on your phone matches that of the genuine organisation, it does not mean it is and this is not a verification check.

Complete all verification checks in your own time on a number that you know is genuine, not one that has been provided to you.

Challenge of a call out of the blue claiming to be from your bank or from a position of authority, like the police.

A genuine official from your bank will NEVER call you to ask you to verify your bank details over the phone.

The police, your bank and any other reputable organisation would never set up a 'safe account' and ask you to transfer money. They will never put you under time pressure to move your money. They will never ask you to withdraw funds.

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

For those that don't know what 'Community Speedwatch' is, it is where volunteers from the local community carry out speed monitoring checks on specific roads across the community.

The aim of Community SpeedWatch is to make motorists who speed through residential neighbourhoods aware of the impact their actions have on local residents, or the danger they pose to other road users and pedestrians. This is something we are working with communities to address.

The 14 CSW groups in the Taunton area operate in a variety of environments with different speed limits and traffic flows. The urban sites that they operate at have far higher traffic flows with typically 500 to 1400 vehicles per hour whereas the rural sites have approximately 50 to 200 vehicles an hour. However the rural sites have a higher proportion of speeders. Unfortunately the 20mph limits have a higher proportion of speeders whether they are an urban site or rural.

Activity during February

Over the month of February, **3** out of the **14** Community Speedwatch schemes in Taunton have been visibly active across the different communities. From the **7** sessions that took place, **2,597** vehicles have been monitored by our Speedwatch volunteers. From those, a total of **31** letters have been sent out to drivers that have not adhered to the speed limit.

The Community Speedwatch is a great service that greatly assists the Constabulary in reducing speed across the communities. Should you wish to join an existing Speedwatch, or would like to set one up for your area, you can find more information here:

[Community SpeedWatch | Avon and Somerset Police](#)



CRIME STATISTICS - JANUARY 2026

(Latest information available to the public online)

Category	Crimes Recorded
Anti-social behaviour	91
Bicycle Theft	6
Burglary (Including Commercial Burglary)	26
Criminal Damage & Arson	41
Drugs	3
Other theft	46
Possession of weapons	6
Public Order	65
Robbery	21
Shoplifting	92
Theft from the person	3
Vehicle Crime	19
Violent Crime	344
Other Crime	21

You can access and find out more about crime statistics for a specific area by clicking either of these two links:

[Your area | Avon and Somerset Police](#)

[Avon and Somerset Constabulary | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](#)

What I would like to reassure you all with regards to these statistics is that certain crime types are grouped together in one category. On our systems we can see far more detailed information, but for what we are allowed to share with the public, crime types are grouped together.

For example one of the categories above is '**Violent Crime**'. Domestic incidents fall within that category and Domestic incidents are one of the most common type of incidents we as the Police attend. If you would like to know the definition of what a Domestic relationship is, you can find it here:

[Domestic Abuse Act 2021 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

Hopefully this somewhat reassures you of why the number of crimes within that category are high.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming events where you can speak with a member of the Taunton Neighbourhood Policing Team.

- Rural Crime Prevention — First Saturday of the Month 12pm-2pm Unicorn Saddlery in Hatch Beauchamp
- Trull Community Centre—Saturday 28th March 1100—1200hrs.
- Beat Surgery and Bike Marking—Priorswood Community Centre —2nd April 1000—1100

“To recognise always that the test of police efficiency is the absence of crime and disorder, and not the visible evidence of police action in dealing with them.”

TAUNTON POLICE STATION

Opening Times

Monday: 08:30—16:30
 Tuesday: 08:30—16:30
 Wednesday: 08:30—16:30
 Thursday: 08:30—16:30
 Friday: 08:30—16:30
 Saturday: CLOSED
 Sunday: CLOSED

USEFUL LINKS

STREET SAFE

StreetSafe is an online tool that can be used by anyone to anonymously tell us about public places where they have felt or feel unsafe.

You might have felt unsafe in your local area due to anti-social behaviour or environmental factors, such as a lack of street lighting. We encourage you to share your experience using the StreetSafe tool.

The information you provide will be considered alongside evidence already gathered by police forces and will be used to inform policing and local authority safety activities within your community.

Link to Website to report:

[StreetSafe | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](#)

KEEP UP TO DATE



Facebook is a great way to keep up to date with your local Neighbourhood Policing team. Follow us on:

Facebook: [West Somerset and Taunton Neighbourhood Policing](#)

GET IN TOUCH

In an emergency always call 999

For non-emergency matters call us on 101 or report online via

[www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report](#)

Contact the Neighbourhood Team directly:

[SomersetWest-](#)

[NPT@avonandsomerset.police.uk](#)

To report a crime anonymously, contact Crimestoppers on

0800 555 111 or visit

[www.crimestoppers-uk.org](#)

