Newsletter



The Rural Beat

South Worcestershire Police

Rural and Business Crime Team

John Campion
Police and Crime Commissioner
West Mercia

Summer 2022

The Rural Beat' is a publication from the Police in South Worcestershire for the benefit of the people who live, work and visit South Worcestershire. The aim is to provide information, advice and contact details to assist the community. We will welcome your feedback.



West Mercia
POLICE

URGENT ALERT



We have received several reports of Trailers being stolen Please be aware if you own/use a trailer remember to <u>secure it at all times</u>

<u>If you have any information regarding any crime you can contact police on 101, or https://www.westmercia.police.uk/.</u>

<u>in an emergency please dial 999.</u>

You can also contact Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111** to report any crime or criminal activity anonymously.



Recent issues



We are still receiving reports of Catalytic Converter Thefts from vehicles parked in car parks and home driveways



We are seeing an increase in
Theft of Tools from Commercial Vehicles

Please click on this link for crime prevention advice regarding Theft from Vehicles
https://intranet.westmerpolice01.local/smii/doclib/4544.pdf

If you have any information in elation to these offences you can contact police on 101, or https://www.westmercia.police.uk/.

In an emergency please dial 999.



We Don't Buy Crime is West Mercia Police's response to acquisitive crime – crimes such as burglary and theft – and the associated harm it causes. These crimes can have a long lasting impact on victims, it can often leave someone feeling unsafe in their own home, and where possessions that have emotional attachment are stolen it can be heart-breaking.

We Don't Buy Crime has five key strands along with our **towns and villages**, we work with **second hand stores** and **fuel stations**, **deploy covert tactics**, and more recently look at ways our local communities can help tackle associated harm including **criminal exploitation and vulnerability.**

We currently have over 20 Towns & Villages signed up to the We Don't Buy crime Smart Water scheme in South Worcestershire and we are currently looking to sign up more!

Please encourage your local Town or Parish Council to contact us to arrange a meeting (Covid 19 Secure) so we can explain how the process could work

Calling All Farmers

Please contact us if you want to receive a FREE Farm security survey together with Smartwater marking solution and signage

Meet the Rural & Business Crime Team

Pc Nigel Bolton, Pc Pete Meredith and Rural & Business Crime Officer (RABO) Mick Simpson work across South Worcestershire, as part of a larger dedicated problem solving team and are supported by Special Constables, police volunteers and members of the public.

If you would like to help with reducing crime in your area, contact Mick Simpson on
michael.simpson@westmercia.police.uk or call 07773050803



So, what are we up to?

Pc Nige Bolton at the Worcestershire Young Farmers Show





Mick Simpson at Bredon Tythe Barn offering crime prevention advice to the National Trust following damage to the windows

Visiting a Community Transport company to help protect their Catalytic Converters





Pc Nige Bolton at the scene of a Rural Arson

Mick Simpson offering advice to a farm where a trailer was stolen



STOP PRESS ANNOUNCEMENTS



Neighbourhood Matters is the new West Mercia Police community messaging service
Sign-up NOW

Home Page - Neighbourhood Matters

Contact your Local Policing Team for more information

Some of the team's other recent activities

19 farms across South Worcestershire having been subject to crime were visited and crime prevention advice given

29 rural businesses across South Worcestershire subject to crime were visited and provide with crime prevention advice

1 covert asset deployed in rural areas

9 Joint operation with local officers to patrol rural areas for wildlife crime and metal theft

22 Posting out Catalytic Converter marking kits to victims of those types of theft

17 bikes were marked with Smartwater

28 Tyre Garages visited and presented with Smartwater Tyre Tag to mark their recycled tyres

Working with Platform Housing to Smartwater tools in their fleet of vans

Each edition will feature a crime that occurs in our Community with Crime Prevention advice



Oil Theft Prevention

A rise in the price of fuel at service stations inevitably leads to a rise in the cost of heating oil. This makes oil a more attractive proposition for the thief. A domestic oil tank can contain many hundreds of pounds worth of oil and it is therefore it makes good sense to take a few precautions to protect it.

OFTEC (Oil Firing Technical Association) offer advice on the correct siting of domestic oil tanks Liquid heating fuel tank information | OFTEC guide

Positioning of the tank to prevent theft of oil theft is important. Consider if the tank can be viewed from the road? Can it be seen from a window/house? Don't make it easy for the thief

Locks

A good thief may come equipped with a range of tools to attack your tank so consider using Closed Shackle padlocks



Oil Level Alarms

Remote electronic oil level gauges are now available which will set off an audible alarm if the oil level in the tank suddenly drops or falls below a quarter full.



Security lighting

Security lights can be used to identify the presence of thieves but balance this against 'lighting their way' Passive Infra-Red triggered lights' can alert you to their presence but can be subject of false alarms due to wildlife. Consider other lighting such as 'Dusk to Dawn' or timed lights. LED lamps can be more effective and cheaper to maintain. Solar powered LED lights can be used in areas without power sources



Defensive Planting on boundaries

Can be effective in preventing access to tank areas

Examples include: Berberis, Rosa Rugisa 'Rubra', Pyrancantha, Holly, Hawthorn. Ask your local garden centre for advice.

Fencing

Fences and walls can also make life difficult for the thief. A wooden or metal fence, trellis or wall can give significant protection to the tank but it must be remembered that the oil tanker driver will need access to fill the tank. A metal grill or cage with a lockable access point across the top of this wall or fence can further improve security.

CCTV

Before you consider using CCTV access exactly what you want to achieve from it?

Images to aid prosecutions or being alerted to the presence of thieves

Often offenders will try to remove or damage cameras

Consider their position or using Dome Cameras

How will you use the images that the system provides?

To identify offenders

Is the lighting going to assist your camera functions?

Sometimes lighting can contribute to 'blurred' images so do the cameras have built in supportive lighting?

Will any alerts from the cameras link to your **Smart** or **I phone**?

IP cameras use Wi-Fi to send alerts to phones but 'SIM card enabled cameras can also provide this feature

Online Criminality

At last! There is now one email address you can report suspicious emails too

If you receive an email which you're not quite sure about, forward it to the Suspicious Email: report@phishing.gov.uk

Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS) report@phishing.gov.uk

Please be aware and remain vigilant of phishing emails. One of the many scam emails currently in circulation purports to be from the TV Licensing advising to cancel direct debits. These messages may look like the real thing but are malicious. Once clicked, you are sent to a website which could download viruses onto your computer, or steal your passwords. The criminal's goal is to convince you to click on the links within their scam email or text message, or to give away sensitive information (such as bank details).

For further information and advice please go to:

https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/suspicious-email-actions

https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/about-ncsc/what-is-cyber-security

https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/

https://staysafeonline.org/stay-safe-online/

Stay Safe. Stay Connected. Stay Cyber Aware

A little bit of information goes a long way

Report suspicious activity, people or vehicles. No matter how insignificant you might think it is, if it is suspicious to you, it probably is.

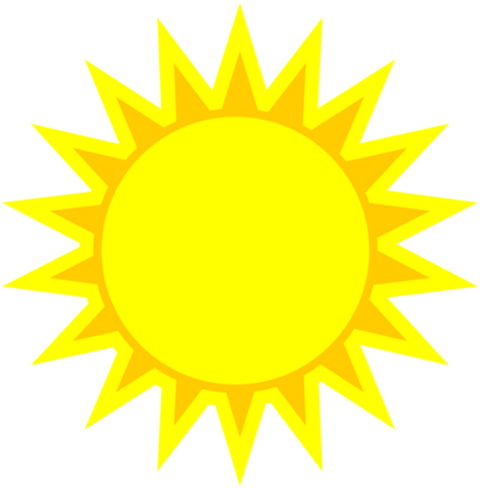
Also, REPORT CRIME! We know not all crime is reported to us, and we know the many reasons for that including frustration.

If you have any information regarding any crime you can contact police on 101,
or https://www.westmercia.police.uk/

in an emergency please dial 999.

You can also contact Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111** to report any crime or criminal activity anonymously.

AND FINALLY



Summer is on its way

Please remember to shut windows and doors when they don't need to be open

