

Community Beat Officer Report & Neighbourhood Watch Bulletin

October 2005

New Milton and surrounding area

It became apparent throughout September that increased drinking was occurring amongst youths in the town, so we stepped up our patrols (particularly at weekends) to counter it and to tackle the anti-social behaviour that so often accompanies underage drinking. Over three consecutive weekends large quantities of alcohol were seized from youths and from adults (in circumstances where those underage were thought likely to be sharing it). In addition, off-licences throughout the town were approached and asked to adopt a more robust policy toward the sale of alcohol to under 21s. This policy, which limits the amount that persons under 21 can buy, is now in force.

Counterfeit Currency

Counterfeit money has started to circulate in our area. The £20 notes involved are of good quality but the hologram is not convincing if inspected closely and the 'feel' of the note gives away clues that it is not genuine. The numbers on recovered counterfeit notes have been – DR64 765924 or BA65 169344.

Operation 'Safer Streets'

This operation is ongoing and we are continuing to allocate officers to problem areas to tackle anti-social behaviour and to seize alcohol. The funding is there for this operation to continue for at least another month and possibly longer if needs be.

'Positive' action

Often the number of arrests carried out by officers in the New Forest does not in itself tell the whole story of what the force are doing in response to crime. However, arresting people is in our 'tool box' of positive actions that we can use to deal with offenders. Members of the public, understandably, see it as positive action. The number of arrests for the (Lymington & New Milton) area in Aug and Sept were 75 and 73 (Figures for 2004 being 55 and 65). It is interesting to note that with fewer officers than we had last year and with lower crime rates than we had last year, we have arrested more people.

Town centre – PC Steve Jennings

Reported incidents of crime for the town centre area during September totalled 42 - this compares with 61 in September last year. Already we have seen a surge in the amount of underage drinking and the town's recreation ground is one of the problem areas. However, the additional 'Safer Streets' patrols do dedicate a lot of their time to this and the surrounding area.

Non-dwelling Burglary

There were two overnight burglaries reported where bicycles were stolen. On the night of the 12/09 'Biking Mad' in Station Road, was broken into and a high value 'Giant' Faith cycle was stolen. On the 16/09 two cycles were taken from an insecure garage in Aspen Place.

Theft

Two arrests were made in September following a number of thefts in the area. Five of the reported thefts were shoplifting incidents carried out by one man who is currently circulated as 'wanted.'

Milford and Barton – PC Del Jones

I am happy to report another drop in reported crime figures in September, with 32 crimes being reported across the two areas. This compares with 55 last month and 55 at the same time last year.

Burglary

Only one reported burglary last month. However, we have received several telephone calls about suspicious persons seen in the area. If you have any concerns about someone who appears to be out of place or acting in an unusual manner, please give us a call. If they are genuine they will be more than happy to account for their presence. Contact PC Del Jones on 0845 045 45 45.

Vehicle Crime

One of my colleagues from Lymington is currently investigating the theft of a Silver Vauxhall Astra from Milford on Sea on September 8. The registration number of the vehicle is HF52 XPU. Anyone with information about this crime is asked to contact PC Robert Cohen at Lymington Police Station or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Criminal Damage

I have spoken to residents about the number of youths drinking and acting anti-socially on the sea front in Milford and particularly along Sea Road. Several accounts of damage have been reported, including gates being removed and thrown into gardens. We are actively targeting this anti-social behaviour by dealing with the youths directly and indirectly by liaising with local shops that sell alcohol and asking them to agree to an under 21's policy, where they will not sell alcohol to anyone who is, or appears to be under 21.

Beach Huts

Those of you lucky enough to own a beach hut should by now have received a newsletter about our proposed "Beach Hut Watch". The response so far has been a little disappointing with 15 positive responses and only one negative. If you are interested in becoming part of the watch, please return your forms as soon as possible so we can get the scheme off the ground. If you have not yet received your letter, please feel free to contact me at New Milton police station on 0845 045 45 45 and I will be happy to discuss the project with you.

Other Matters

Once again residents in the beat are being visited by bogus callers. Some state that they are antiques dealers offering cash for household items, others claim to be ex-offenders trying to make a living. In either case we have received several reports both in Milford and Barton of high pressure sales techniques. Please be aware of these people and report their presence to the police immediately on 0845 045 45 45 so we can check their authenticity IF IN DOUBT DON'T LET THEM IN! Door stickers are available from New Forest District Council and Trading Standards stating "We do not buy or sell at the door".

New Milton West – PC Chrissie BENFIELD

Davis Field and North Milton Estate

Again another month has passed without any reports of anti-social behaviour or criminal damage in or around the area of the Davis Field Bridge. I am fully aware that there may be issues or incidents that are going un-reported that may be causing some concern to local residents. If this is the case, I would urge you to contact me, in full confidence, at New Milton Police Station so that any issues can be tackled promptly on 0845 045 45 45.

Burglary

Only one burglary was reported this month. Ballard School was targeted on the 04/09/05. It is suspected that the persons responsible were youths, as entry was only gained to the swimming pool area. Nothing was stolen but a vast amount of damage was caused. Anyone who heard or saw

anything suspicious that evening can contact PC Chrissie Benfield in confidence at New Milton Police station on 0845 045 45 45.

Criminal Damage

The number of criminal damage reports have remained the same this month totalling six. Half of these reports occurred over a three-day period from the 07/09/05 - 09/09/05. All of which related to damage to motor vehicles. Several wing mirrors and doors were damaged in the area of Compton Road, Gore Road and Stem Lane in the early hours of the morning. Having made enquiries three youths were seen running from Compton Road after damaging a vehicle. Anyone with information should contact PC Chrissie Benfield at New Milton police station on 0845 045 45 45.

New Milton East – PC Sam BLAKE-WATKINS

There were 25 reported crimes for the Beat in September and that compares with 48 for the same period in 2004. The level of reported crime remains low.

Ashley Recreation ground

Last month police received a couple of calls concerning the recreation ground. Rugby posts were removed and damaged. The ground continues to be quieter than in past years thanks to the new play area and problems have been few. But please continue to report any anti-social behaviour you may witness.

Burglary

There was only one burglary reported during September when a property in Fernhill Lane was broken into and a Sony Playstation and a number of games were stolen. A number of youths are currently being investigated.

Criminal Damage

In Oakwood Avenue a juvenile caused damage to a public waste bin and was arrested and charged in September.

Vehicle Crime

In Franklin Road a passenger door lock was forced and a car stereo and CD's stolen. In Litchford Road a vehicle window was smashed and a disc cutter stolen. There were two incidents in Park Close, Ashley, where a disc cutter was stolen from one vehicle and power tools from another. In Ashley Lane a wallet was stolen from a vehicle after entry was gained by smashing a window. As always, the police advice is to always remove any valuable items from your vehicle including power tools.

HORDLE & SWAY – incorporating: EVERTON, BASHLEY, TIPTOE and HINTON - PC Dave WOOLFREY

This month the number of reported crimes for this area totalled 21. This is a drop in comparison with September last year.

Burglary

There were three reported burglaries. Two caravans were entered on a caravan site in Silver Street and items taken. Also, an insecure garage was entered in Barrow's Lane where wine and a drill were stolen.

Damage

A barbed wire fence in a Sway field containing horses was cut, allowing the horses to get out. Also in the Gordleton area, a stockroom door was damaged, believed overnight by intruders.

Deception

Two men paid for goods at Everton post office using counterfeit £20 notes in September.

Vehicle Crime

There were four reported cases of theft from motor vehicles. Two of these occurred in Burley Road, Wootton, one in the Wilverley Enclosure car park and one in the Wootton Bridge car park. These crimes could have been avoided if valuables had not been left in the cars.

Theft

A box trailer was taken from the front garden of a house in Silver Street, Hordle. An electric fence power pack was stolen from a farm in Sway. Also in Sway, bales of hay were taken from another farm. Everton Nurseries had an undisclosed quantity of goods stolen and at Bashley Caravan Park a bicycle was taken from outside the reception.

School Parking

Just a reminder for motorists to respect the "No Parking" areas near the schools. This enables the free-flow of traffic and more importantly, to ensure the safety of your children.

If you would like to make any comment regarding the content of the Bulletin, or you have information that would enable us to target our patrols to address your local problem, your input would be welcomed.

You can leave a message for either PS Dave TANNER or PC Steve JENNINGS on 0845 045 4545

'Crimestoppers' – 0800 555 111