



Avon and Somerset Police
NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

Taunton

Policing Newsletter

JUNE 2026

NEWS FROM ACROSS TAUNTON

MEET THE TEAM

Hello and welcome to the Taunton Policing Newsletter for the month of June 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.

Neighbourhood Team Success : Arrest Made in Series of Commercial Burglaries

During April, officers arrested a male suspected of being responsible for a series of commercial burglaries committed across the Taunton area. Each offence followed a clear and consistent modus operandi (MO) — a term used to describe an individual’s typical pattern or method of offending.

In every incident, businesses were deliberately targeted outside of opening hours. Entry was forced by smashing windows, allowing quick access to the premises. Once inside, the offender focused on tills and storage areas, stealing cash and alcohol before making a rapid departure. The recurring nature of the offences raised concern among local business owners and the wider community.

The Neighbourhood Policing Team worked tirelessly to progress the investigations. Officers carried out detailed enquiries, gathering and reviewing CCTV footage not only from the affected premises but also from neighbouring businesses, nearby properties, and surrounding streets. This thorough and time-consuming work was key to building a clear picture of the suspect’s movements and ultimately identifying the individual believed to be responsible.

In the early hours of Monday 20 April, officers attended an address where the suspect was believed to be staying. Following a dynamic entry, the male was successfully located and arrested. The male was then bailed at Court, before going on to commit a further offences. Following weeks of this male avoiding capture, on the 22nd May 2026 the male was arrested at an address in the Halcon area. The male has been remanded into custody awaiting sentencing. The arrest marked a significant step forward in bringing this offending spree to an end and providing reassurance to those affected.

This operation was an excellent example of effective teamwork and determination, demonstrating the Neighbourhood Team’s commitment to supporting local businesses, preventing further crime, and tackling repeat offending. Outstanding work by everyone involved.

Eat Festival Returns to Taunton - A Tasty Success!



On Saturday 9th May 2026, the much-loved Eat Festival made its return to Taunton, bringing with it a vibrant atmosphere and an incredible selection of food vendors from both local producers and across the country. The town centre was buzzing with visitors, and the array of delicious aromas created an exciting and



OFFICER
PCSO Harvey
Shaw
POLICING AREA
Taunton Central
YEARS SERVICE
6 Months
HOBBY
Football
FAVOURITE FOOD
Pizza

ABOUT ME

This month’s ‘Meet the Team’ is PCSO Harvey Shaw.

Hello my name is Harvey and I’m a PCSO in he Taunton Central Team. I joined the policing family because I’m passionate about making a positive difference in the community and helping people feel safe, supported, and heard.

Being in the Police has been the goal from an early age and I never really saw myself doing anything different. As I am one of the youngest at Taunton Police Station, I am constantly learning from my colleagues who all have tons of experience in this job and have been very welcoming and are always happy to help me grow into a better PCSO every day! I previously worked various hospitality jobs where I learned many things about service quality, communication skills and a good work ethic.

Outside of work, I am a massive football fan (unfortunately Tottenham) and I also play for my local team on a Saturday.

No two days in this job are the same, and that’s what makes it so rewarding. From supporting vulnerable individuals to tackling anti-social behaviour, I’m committed to doing my part to keep our neighbourhoods safe and welcoming for everyone. I’m pleased to be part of such a dedicated team and look forward to continuing our work together to make a difference.

welcoming environment for all. Among those enjoying the event was one of our new recruits, **PCSO Andru Debbarman**, who is currently undertaking his tutoring period in Taunton before transferring to Chard. It's great to see our new team members getting involved in community events and gaining valuable experience. We're pleased to report that the festival ran smoothly, with a fantastic turnout and excellent behaviour from members of the public throughout the day. A big thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the event such a success!

Community Engagement at Blagdon Village Fete



PCSO Tony Wearmouth (too shy for a proper photo this time!) represented the team at the Blagdon Village Fete on Saturday 30th May, during what proved to be an exceptionally hot day.

Tony brought along one of our police vehicles, along with a range of equipment, giving attendees a hands-on look at some of the tools we use in our daily work. The event provided a great opportunity to engage with members of the community, discuss ongoing efforts to reduce crime, and address concerns around the fear of crime locally.

We're pleased to share that there will be plenty more opportunities to meet the team over the summer months at various events across the town. Keep an eye on the upcoming events section (see page 4 of this newsletter) and our social media channels for details—we look forward to seeing you there!

Taxi Licensing Checks in Taunton

On Friday 29th May, the Neighbourhood Policing Team, working in partnership with Somerset Council Licensing, carried out a series of proactive spot checks on taxis in Taunton. This activity followed intelligence suggesting that unlicensed taxis may have been operating in the area.

Over the course of several hours, officers engaged with a number of taxi operators, carefully checking both driver licences and vehicle taxi licences.

We are pleased to report that all drivers and vehicles inspected were fully compliant and operating legitimately. It was particularly encouraging to see the positive response from drivers, who welcomed these checks as an important step in ensuring the safety and integrity of Taunton's night-time economy.

These efforts help to maintain a safe environment for residents and visitors alike, reinforcing confidence in local transport services.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

In May, the team were invited to the recently refurbished YMCA on Lisieux Way. It was great to see the new facilities that support the wide variety of communities members. PCSOs Sean, Will, Andru alongside PC Bella were more than happy for a photo!



POLICE EARLY INTERVENTION TEAM

Early Warning Signs of Child Criminal Exploitation

Child Criminal Exploitation can affect any young person, regardless of background. Offenders often use grooming tactics; building trust, offering gifts or attention to gradually pull a child into situations that become risky or criminal. Many young people don't realise they are being exploited, which makes early awareness essential.

Recognising the Signs

While every child is different, certain changes may indicate they are being groomed or exploited. These can include unexplained items or gifts, going missing or staying out late, regularly missing school, or losing interest in activities they once enjoyed. For more information on signs of exploitation, please visit [Protecting children from child criminal exploitation | NSPCC Learning](#)

What You Can Do as a Parent or Carer

Parents can feel powerless when something doesn't feel right, but there are practical steps you can take that will make a difference.

Keep Communication Open

Start conversations gently and avoid blame or confrontation. Approaching a young person in this way helps them feel listened to and safe, which can make them more willing to open up. Keeping communication open also gives you the opportunity to support them and help them navigate the situation.

Strengthen Digital Safety

Grooming is increasingly happening online, making digital safety an important protective factor. You can support your child by:

- Enabling built in phone safety features, including location tracking (Find My iPhone, Google Family Link).
- Setting screen time limits and content filters using parental control settings.
- Using reputable monitoring tools that help identify concerning patterns such as messages from strangers, explicit content, or manipulative behaviour.
- Reviewing social media privacy settings to ensure they only communicate with people they know.

For more digital safety guidance, visit: [Use Parental Controls to Keep Your Child Safe | NSPCC](#)

Trust Your Instincts

If something doesn't feel right, trust your instincts. You know your child better than anyone. Try to keep communication open and keep a note of any signs that concern you. Over time, these small details can help safeguarding professionals build a clearer understanding of what may be happening. If you are worried, please reach out for help early. Early intervention can make a huge difference.

You can contact:

- Police (non-emergency 101) or report online via [Report a crime or incident | Avon and Somerset Police](#).
- Children Social Care, information can be found here [Report a Concern - Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)
- Your child's school safeguarding lead and charities such as the NSPCC, who offer confidential advice and guidance.

FRAUD AWARENESS

Beware of phishing texts and emails

HMRC: you are eligible for a **£202.62** tax refund due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Please visit <https://ukgov-claim-refund.com>

ROYAL MAIL: Your parcel has a £2.99 shipping fee. Please pay this now via: <https://tracking-royalmail.com> or the parcel will be returned to sender.



Dear PayPal customer,

Your PayPal account is limited. You have 24 hours to solve the problem or your account will be permanently disabled.

We are sorry to inform you that you no longer have all of PayPal's advantages like purchasing, and sending a money.

Why is my PayPal account limited?

We believe that your account is in danger from unauthorised access.

What can I do to resolve the problem?

You have to confirm all of your account details on our secured server by clicking the link below and following the steps.

[Confirm Your Information](#)

GOV.UK

HM Revenue Customs

Income Tax rates and Personal Allowance

Dear Taxpayer,

You are eligible to receive a refund of up to 425.58 GBP. In order to do so, you are required to submit an official claim application information you have registered with us.

[Claim your tax](#)

Note: If you will not complete the refund form now, you will not be able to claim your refund online.

HMRC Customer - Secured E-mail -

Best Regards, Luke Sullivan.

Why you got this email

You registered for a refund Government Gateway.

From HMRC Government Gateway

This month, Fraud Protect Officers from Avon and Somerset Police want to make people aware of phishing texts and emails. Fraudsters can pretend to be anyone over text or email and they are often influenced by current affairs, such as government announcements and the cost of living crisis. Here are some text message examples below where we have removed the links, but these could also come through via email.

When the victim follows the link, they will be asked for personal details such as bank/card information and passwords. However, just clicking on the link alone can result in malicious spyware or viruses being downloaded onto the victim's device.

Unfortunately, there is often a secondary part to these phishing texts, which is particularly sophisticated. It is known as "transfer into a safe account" fraud. The victim, maybe even a few days later, might be contacted by a fraudster, purporting to be from their bank. The fraudster will know who they bank with, along with other personal details, from the information harvested from the phishing text. They will claim that there has been fraud on their account and their funds are at risk, often referring to the phishing text. The victim, remembering the recent phishing text, is often convinced by the fraudster, feeling panicked by the thought of their funds being at risk. The fraudster explains that, to protect their funds, they need to transfer them into a "safe account". The bank details provided simply belong to the fraudster.

REMEMBER:

- Stop and think before responding to any email or text message
- Don't click on links unless you can verify where they came from
- Never provide information to anyone who contacts you out of the blue – take time to verify their credentials through a trusted source
- Just because a text or email purports to be from a government agency or organisation doesn't mean it is
- Forward scam text messages to 7726 (SPAM) and emails to report@phishing.gov.uk
- If you are the victim of fraud contact Report Fraud

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

Many of you may have heard of *Community SpeedWatch* (CSW), but for those who are new to the initiative, it's a local volunteer-led effort aimed at improving road safety across our neighbourhoods.

Community SpeedWatch involves trained volunteers from within the community carrying out speed monitoring checks on selected roads. The purpose isn't enforcement, but awareness—encouraging motorists to slow down by highlighting the very real risks and impact of speeding in residential areas. Whether it's the danger posed to pedestrians or the disruption caused to daily life, speeding affects everyone, and addressing it is something we are committed to working on alongside our communities.

Across the Taunton area, there are currently 14 active Community SpeedWatch groups operating in a range of locations. These sites vary significantly:

- **Urban areas** typically experience **higher traffic volumes**, ranging from **500 to 1,400 vehicles per hour**.
- **Rural locations**, while quieter with **50 to 200 vehicles per hour**, tend to see a higher proportion of drivers **exceeding speed limits**.

A key finding across both environments is the ongoing challenge with compliance in 20mph zones, which consistently record a higher proportion of speeding vehicles—regardless of whether the setting is urban or rural.

The insights gathered by CSW volunteers are vital in helping us understand local traffic behaviours and identify areas for improvement. By continuing to support and expand Community SpeedWatch, we can build stronger, safer communities where everyone feels more secure on the roads.

Activity during May

Out of the 14 active Community Speedwatch schemes in the area, **6** schemes were operational, carrying out **19** monitoring sessions across various locations.

During these sessions, volunteers observed an impressive **4,373** vehicles, demonstrating the scale of community engagement and commitment. As a result of these efforts, **137** advisory letters have been issued to drivers who were found to be exceeding the speed limit. If you're interested in getting involved or learning more about Community SpeedWatch in your area, we encourage you to get in touch. Your contribution could make a real difference.

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

CRIME STATISTICS - APRIL 2026

(Latest information available to the public online)

Category	Crimes Recorded
Anti-social behaviour	142
Bicycle Theft	14
Burglary (Including Commercial Burglary)	37
Criminal Damage & Arson	61
Drugs	9
Other theft	44
Possession of weapons	4
Public Order	91
Robbery	25
Shoplifting	126
Theft from the person	0
Vehicle Crime	27
Violent Crime	313
Other Crime	16

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 \(www.police.uk\)](#)

We understand that crime statistics can sometimes be difficult to interpret, and we'd like to take a moment to reassure you about how this information is presented.

When crime data is shared publicly, certain offence types are grouped together into broader categories. While our internal systems allow us to view much more detailed and specific information, what we are permitted to release is simplified to make it accessible for the public.

For example, one of the categories you may have seen is "Violent Crime." This category includes a wide range of incidents, one of the most common being domestic-related incidents. These types of calls make up a significant portion of the incidents we attend as Police.

It's important to understand that not all offences within this category carry the same level of severity, and grouping them together can sometimes give a misleading impression of the overall risk within the community.

If you would like to learn more about what constitutes a domestic relationship, you can find further information here:

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

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**
- **Ark in the Park, Taunton Rugby Club—Saturday 13th June.**
- **Taunton Big Green Week Festival, Goodlands Gardens—Sunday 14th June**
- **Trull Community Centre — Saturday 23rd June 10am—11am.**
- **Beat Surgery — Priorswood Community Centre — 25th June 10am—11am.**

TAUNTON POLICE STATION

The Deane House, Belvedere Road,
Taunton, TA1 1HE

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](#)

