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| A white and black logo  Description automatically generated | On the beat in…  North Shropshire  Market Drayton  Wem  Whitchurch  Safer Neighbourhood Team Newsletter | February  2024 |

*Current statistics on calls to police and crime recording for your neighbourhood can be found at* [***www.police.uk***](http://www.police.uk)***.*** *If you wish to discuss further, please contact a member of your Safer Neighbourhood Team.*

**Market Drayton – Team contact details:**

**Team email:** marketdrayton.snt@westmercia.police.uk

**Safer Neighbourhood Officer:** PC Iain McIntosh **Mobile:** 07811 748 732

**Police Community Support Officer:** PCSO Andy King **Mobile:** 07870 163 116

**Police Community Support Officer:** PCSO Tara Carruthers **Mobile:** 07971 050 442

**Police Community Support Officer:** PCSO Richard Parker **Mobile:** 07483 123 858

**Wem – Team contact details:**

**Team email:** wem.snt@westmercia.police.uk

**Safer Neighbourhood Officer:** PC Jack Harper **Mobile:** 07817 885 113

**Police Community support Officer:** PCSO Lizz Walmsley **Mobile:** 07967 303 567

**Police Community support Officer:** PCSO Olly Morris **Mobile:** 07970 879 117

**Whitchurch – Team contact details:**

**Team email:** whitchurch.snt@westmercia.police.uk

**Safer Neighbourhood Officer:** PC Ben Jones **Mobile:** 07973 885 557

**Police Community Support Officer:** PCSO Jamie Robinson **Mobile:** 07967 301 147

**Police Community Support Officer:** PCSO Dave Andrew **Mobile:** 07971 395 050

**Police Community Support Officer:** PCSO Sarah Parker **Mobile:** 07483 121 957

A poster of a driver awareness session

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| **Please** encourage your parishioners to sign up to Neighbourhood Matters…  **Sign up to Neighbourhood Matters…** your brand-new community messaging service | |
| A red and blue square with white text  Description automatically generated | Neighbourhood Matters enables residents, businesses, and community groups to keep in touch with local policing teams. You can choose exactly what type of alert you wish to receive and how you receive them; whether that be by email, text or telephone. Sign up now at:[**www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk**](http://www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk) |



**Reporting A Crime**

**Is it an emergency?**

Call **999** in emergency situations like these:

* there is an immediate danger to life
* someone is using violence or is threatening to be violent
* a crime is happening right now, like a house burglary or a theft
* the suspect is still at the scene

**If it's not an emergency**

If you’ve witnessed or been the victim of crime that isn't an emergency, please report it to us.

Your report will be sent direct to our control room.

Before you give us the details of the crime, we'll ask you a few questions to make sure you go to the right online form. [**www.westmercia.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/**](http://www.westmercia.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/)

**Hello Parish Councils,**

This is your North Shropshire Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) Newsletter for **February 2025**. Please see the link above to **police.co.uk** for crime recording stats for your area, or any other area in the UK should you wish.

Please get in touch if you would like to discuss anything further, if we can provide more information we will, our contact details are above. If there is anything specific that is affecting your parish area above and beyond the three priorities you have nominated, again please let us know and we will endeavour to support you.

The official West Mercia Police website **www.westmercia.police.uk** has a wealth of information and includes dedicated sections in relation to **News, Recruitment, Watch Schemes, Neighbourhood Matters, Crime Prevention Advice, Support For Victims, other Advice and Information and Thanks & Complaints.**

Our North Shropshire SNTs work in a very challenging and varied role and no two days are the same, naturally there are many requests for our time, support and assistance. Obviously, much of what we do we can’t tell you too much about, but rest assured that much of our focus is on the three Parish Council Priorities that you provide us with quarterly.

Much of the good work that SNTs engage with are posted in the following places:

* **Parish Council attendance in person or North Shropshire SNT Newsletters**
* **Neighbourhood Matters –** [**www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk**](http://www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk)
* **Facebook -** [**www.facebook.com/MktDraytonPolice**](http://www.facebook.com/MktDraytonPolice) **(North Shropshire specific)**

[**www.facebook.com/ShrewsburyPolice**](http://www.facebook.com/ShrewsburyPolice)

[**www.facebook.com/westmerciapolice**](http://www.facebook.com/westmerciapolice)

[**www.facebook.com/WMPRuralMatters**](http://www.facebook.com/WMPRuralMatters)

Below is just a small snapshot of the good work North Shropshire SNTs have been involved with recently…

A white and green van with a police car parked on the side of the road

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A hand writing on a calendar

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A collage of a child and police officers

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A screenshot of a computer

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A screenshot of a computer

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A screenshot of a police website

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A close-up of a police car

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A close up of a police officer

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A road closed due to a storm

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A collage of a car on a tow truck

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A car parked on a road

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As part of the monthly Newsletter, we will be adding trending and/or appropriate crime prevention advice and information. Along with any recent updates from our other policing departments and partners.

This month’s Newsletter contains sections on ‘Neighbourhood Watch’, ‘Mental Health Services in Shropshire’ and ‘Burglary Crime Prevention Advice’.

**Neighbourhood Watch**

Neighbourhood Watch is about people getting together with their neighbours to take action to reduce crime.

They're community initiatives owned and run by their members which are supported by the police but not owned by them, although we sometimes run them.

They work by developing a close relationship between community members and the local police.

Neighbourhood Watch schemes can:

* cut crime and the opportunities for crime
* help and reassure those who live in the area
* encourage neighbourliness and closer communities
* How to join a Watch scheme

Go to **Neighbourhood Watch (https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/)** to find out what groups are active in your area and to register to join.

You can visit **West Mercia Neighbourhood Watch (https://westmercianw.org.uk/)** for more local information and advice.

You can also find and contact your local Neighbourhood Watch Association or Scheme Coordinator via the same website for:

* more information on how the scheme works
* the benefits of the scheme
* advice on running a scheme in your local area

**Mental Health Services in Shropshire**

**Crisis**

If you are experiencing significant emotional or mental distress, call **NHS 111** and select the mental health option.

The services offers 24/7 advice and support if you are:

* Experiencing worry, anxiety or fear that you can’t control
* Hearing voices and seeing things that others can’t
* Considering harming yourself
* Find yourself withdrawing from your friends and family

Alternatively you can contact our Freephone 24/7 urgent NHS Mental Health Helpline. For Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin residents call 0808 196 4501 or email access.shropshire@mpft.nhs.uk

**If someone’s life is at risk, call 999 or go to A&E.**

If you are worried about your own, or someone else's immediate safety, have thoughts about hurting yourself or other people, or do not feel you can keep yourself or someone else safe, you should call 999 immediately.

**Other urgent mental health support**

**SANEline** – This is a national out of hours mental health helpline. It offers specialist emotional support, guidance, and information to anyone affected by mental illness, including family, friends and carers. They are open every day from 4pm – 10pm on 0300 304 7000. They can also be contacted via email support@sane.org.uk; however, there is normally a 72-hour turnaround time for replies.

**Samaritans** – Available 24 hours a day 365 days a year by calling 116 123 (free from any phone)

**National Suicide Prevention Helpline UK** – Available on 0800 689 5652 (6pm – midnight every day)

**CALM** – Available on 0800 58 58 58 (5pm – midnight every day). They also have a webchat service

**Shout** – Available via text, if you message SHOUT to 85258. Shout offers a confidential 24/7 text service if you are in a crisis and need immediate help.

**Papyrus Hopeline UK** – Available to under 35 year olds, struggling with suicidal feelings or concerns about a young person who might be struggling, on 0800 068 4141 (24 hours, 7 days a week) or text 07786 209 697.

**Nightline** - Students can look on the Nightline website to see if their university or college offers a night-time listening service. Nightline phone operators are all students too.

**Switchboard** - Available to people who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender, on 0300 330 0630 (10am–10pm every day) or via their webchat service. Phone operators all identify as LGBT+.

**Cruse** - the UK’s leading bereavement charity; provides a helpline run by trained bereavement volunteers, who offer emotional support to anyone affected by grief. Call 0808 808 1677 (Monday to Friday, 9.30am-3pm).

**Childline** - a free, private, and confidential service where young people can talk about anything. Calls are free and confidential. Calls are not recorded, and their number won't show up on any phone bills. Call 0800 1111 (24 hours a day, every day).

Already in contact with mental health services

If you are already receiving mental health support from our services, the first point of contact should be your named worker. Your care plan and any clinical letters will contain information on how to contact them. If they are not available, ask to speak to the clinician on duty.

Alternatively, you can also seek support from your GP.

Other non-urgent mental health support

**Safe Haven out-of-hours Crisis Cafe** - Located at Scared Hearts Church in Silver Link Road, Tamworth, B77 2EA, the café supports people living in Tamworth, Lichfield and East Staffordshire who are experiencing severe mental distress or crisis. It is operated by Burton Mind in partnership with MPFT and is open weekdays 5pm-11pm; 9am-5pm on Saturday and Sunday; and 10am-2pm on bank holidays.

**Calmer Cafes** (Shropshire) - Mental health cafe drop-in service run by Shropshire Mental Health Support, located in Shrewsbury, Oswestry and Church Stretton. Click on the link for full details.

**Calm Cafe** (Telford and Wrekin) - Mental health cafe drop-in service run by Telford Mind, located in various locations in Telford and Wrekin. Click on the link for full details.

**BeeU** (Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin) - Provides emotional wellbeing and mental health services for Children and Young People (0-25). Call the BeeU Access Team on 0300 124 0093.

**Burglary Crime Prevention Advice**

**Popping out of the house?**

* Close and lock all your doors and windows, even if you’re only going out for a few minutes!
* Double-lock any door
* Make sure that any valuables are out of sight – this includes leaving packaging from outside of your house
* Keep handbags away from the letterbox or cat flap and hide all keys including car keys, as a thief could hook keys or valuables through even a small opening
* Never leave car documents or ID in obvious places such as kitchens or hallways
* In the evening, shut the curtains and leave lights on
* If you’re out all day, then it’s advisable to use a timer device to automatically turn lights and a radio on at night
* Set your burglar alarm
* Make sure the side gate is locked
* Lock your shed or garage
* Lock your bike inside a secure shed or garage, to a robust fitting bolted to the ground or wall, like a ground anchor

**Going away?**

* If you’re off on holiday and wish to post anything on social media, make sure your posts aren’t public and that they’re only seen by your friends – you don’t want potential burglars to know your house will be unattended!
* Leave lights and a radio on a timer to make your house appears occupied
* Ask a trusted neighbour to keep an eye on your property, or you could join a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme to keep in touch with those in your street
* Consider asking your neighbours to close curtains after dark
* If your driveway will be empty – you could also ask a neighbour to park on there to deter burglars from breaking in
* Remember to cancel newspaper and milk deliveries – you don’t want these piling up on your doorstep!

**Are you aware of Community Speed Watch, and is it relevant to your parish?**

With Community Speed Watch now in its eighth year of operation within West Mercia, local communities are being reminded about the scheme and how volunteers can get involved in speed monitoring and improve the quality of life in their area if speeding traffic is causing concern.

Community Speed Watch is a community driven road safety initiative, coordinated by West Mercia Police but managed and run by volunteers in the community. It involves trained volunteers from the community monitoring the speeds of vehicles with approved, hand-held speed measurement devices. Where vehicle speeds are found to be inappropriate, a letter is sent to the registered keeper by the police with the aim of encouraging them to reduce their speed when driving in the future.

The scheme was introduced within West Mercia in 2014 and has gone from strength to strength over the last 8 years with over 40 active sites currently operating. It was introduced to enhance the force’s speed enforcement strategy, by addressing community concerns in areas that do not meet either speed or collision criteria for police-led enforcement.

A Community Speed Watch scheme is initiated when ‘speeding traffic’ has been identified as a community road safety concern by a parish council or Safer Neighbourhood Team. However, several criteria must be met before a scheme can be established:

* The area must have a 30mph or 40mph speed restriction.
* Speed data collected by West Mercia Police must show that speed levels in the area do not meet the national industry requirements for police enforcement.
* No other enforcement activity is currently in place.
* There must be at least six volunteers in each Community Speed Watch scheme.
* Speed checks must be conducted by at least three volunteers at any one time.

A group of people in reflective vests standing on the side of a road

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As part of Operation Snap, members of the public can report and submit digital footage showing potential traffic offences via a secure online form.

[**https://secureform.nextbase.co.uk/**](https://secureform.nextbase.co.uk/)

This can range from driving dangerously or carelessly to overtaking on solid white lines, using a mobile phone while driving, ignoring traffic lights or dangerous driving around other road users, such as horse riders and cyclists.

Please note; issues with number plates, windscreens and minor traffic offences are unable to be dealt with via Op Snap.

General parking complaints (other than illegal parking on zig zags) should be raised with the relevant local authority. Notification of untaxed vehicles can be reported directly to DVLA, reports of no MOT or no insurance should be logged to 101, not via the Op Snap portal.

Your submission will be sent to West Mercia Police where the evidence will be reviewed by one of our road traffic police officers.

One statement is required for each submission/offending vehicle. We are unable to process multiple offences sent as one submission.

We will strive to update each submitter regarding the outcome of their allegation. All submissions are dealt with pro-actively to help reduce risk taking and poor driving on our counties roads.

Any footage submitted through the portal can be used by us to help educate other road users and to advise on case results.

Please note - if you operate a recording device in a public place, you may have obligations under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). It is in your interest to familiarise yourself, and comply with, any such obligations as apply to you. If you are in any doubt as to your obligations, please obtain independent legal advice to ensure you do not put yourself at risk of prosecution. By submitting footage you acknowledge you have read and understood this before proceeding.

For more information, please see the Frequently Asked Questions section or email [OpSnap@westmercia.police.uk](mailto:OpSnap@westmercia.police.uk)

**The contacts below may be of interest to those in the parish who may be more comfortable reporting crime or giving information to the police, anonymously:**

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**Are your parishioners aware of Action Fraud?**

If you’ve been the victim of a scam, fraud or online crime (cybercrime) you can report it to Action Fraud:

* Action Fraud website
* on [**0300 123 2040**](tel:03001232040) (Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm).

Action Fraud is the national reporting centre for fraud and cybercrime. It collects reports about fraud on behalf of the police in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. For fraud in Scotland please report it directly to Police Scotland.

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A poster of a smart water device

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A poster of a smart water security pack

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