



Towcester Safer Community

Team Update – May 2016

CRIME TRENDS

Tool thefts – We have had some reports of tools, powers tools being stolen from outbuildings and sheds across the area. Seasonally, now is the time of year we invest in new equipment for gardens and homes so please take the time to protect what you have invested to buy.

Litchborough – In March and May we have had a spate of burglaries at the industrial estate. Our Crime Prevention Officer is looking into this series and recommending what can be done to deter thieves again. Please be mindful if you are in the area and report any suspicious activities.

Blisworth – Early May we have had a spate of lights being stolen from caravans. This also occurred last year. PCSO's have been working in the area specifically around this.

OP Marrow – A rural crime operation which has been successfully piloted in other areas of the county. We work with local farmers with support on the NFU around crime prevention, mapping their farm boundaries and getting those urgent messages out to farmers about suspicious circumstances and crimes in their area. We have a team of Police volunteers arranging visits by the local Community Team to all the farms

on the Towcester area. If you are a farmer and would like to arrange your own appointment please contact us via the SCT email address below. If you would like to volunteer to be a part of this project please email in to us.

SCTTowcester@northants.police.uk

DOG SAFETY

Throughout the year we get numerous reports of dog bites whether on children, adults or other dogs.

Points to consider if you own a dog:

- When in a public place please keep your dog on a lead
- When at home please make sure your dog is secured within your boundaries and is not likely to cause issues for anyone coming onto your property eg post or couriers.

The RSPCA offers common sense advice to dog and non-dog owners and is a really useful site to find more info. Below is an extract of what to do if you meet an unfamiliar dog.

Meeting an unfamiliar dog - Many dogs will be friendly towards unfamiliar people and will not show any signs of aggression when approached, but there may be some who will behave aggressively if someone approaches too closely.

What should I do when an unfamiliar dog approaches?

Stop moving towards the dog:

- If you are visiting a house or out walking, jogging or cycling and a dog approaches, you have probably inadvertently entered what the dog considers to be his/her territory. If the dog runs towards you but is not barking or growling, he/she may just be checking you out and, after a quick sniff to determine you are no threat, may leave you alone.
- Don't try to touch the dog, or make sudden movements. If you speak reassuringly and keep standing still, he/she may lose interest and leave. If the dog is barking or growling, you are considered to be a threat that must be dealt with so he/she is unlikely to leave.

Stay Calm:

- Stand still and face the dog, slightly angling your body away from him/her.
- Keep your body relaxed and on your back foot. You want to give the impression you are leaving calmly.
- Do not try to shoo away, hit or kick the dog as you will be increasing the threat, and will increase the possibility of a full attack.

Talk to the dog calmly in a pleasant tone of voice:

- Tell the dog you mean him/her no harm and that you are leaving. If you are cycling, dismount and place the bike between you and the dog. This allows you to slowly wheel it far enough away to remount.
- Do not try to outpace the dog as this may encourage him/her to chase you.

Get something as solid as possible between you and the dog:

- If you are delivering something to the house it may be a parcel, a bag or your coat. If you are in the street or park it may be a bench, a lamp post or litter bin. If cycling, use your bicycle as above.

Watch the dog – but do not stare into his/her face:

- Turn your head slightly to one side and downwards. Watch him/her very carefully out of the corner of your eye.

You may need to move, either behind something or to get away from the dog:

- If the dog does not press home an attack, walk slowly backwards or sideways. Do not let the dog get round behind you; keep moving gently so that you continue to present a half side/front view of your body.

Do not make sudden movements or run, just walk slowly away from the dog:

- He/she is not likely to pursue you very far. Keep walking and talking up to the point at which the dog loses interest in you.

SAFEGUARDING WEEK AND MISSING CHILDREN

In Northampton alone we have had 1016 young persons (U18) reported missing in the last year.

In South Northants your local Response and Community Teams on almost a daily basis will be investigating reports of missing adults and children .

Missing People is the only charity in the UK which specialises in, and is dedicated to, bringing missing children and adults back together with their families. They are there for them 24 hours a day, every day of the year, at the end of a phone, text or email, ready to use every means possible to search for and find their missing loved ones and to provide vital on-going support to families where the agonising wait turns into years, not just days.

The **Big Tweet** for missing children is an online event held by Missing People every year on International **Missing Childrens Day - 25 May**. For 24 hours, a different appeal for a missing child is tweeted every half hour from [@missingpeople](https://twitter.com/missingpeople), encouraging [#TeamBigTweet](https://twitter.com/missingpeople) to retweet the appeals. The aim is to bring missing children to safety and end the heartache for families desperate for news of their missing loved one as well as drawing attention to the 140,000 children and young people who go missing every year.

The Big Tweet has a history of building huge momentum throughout the month of May culminating in over 95,000 retweets and over 26 million impressions on Twitter last year.

The Big Tweet 2015, 19 of the children featured in appeals were found.

More info on www.missingpeople.org.uk



TEAM NEWS

PCSOs - Congratulations to PCSO Charlotte Whitehead who has just returned to work from getting married. Charlotte works in Towcester town centre, Greens Norton and Tiffield area. She is now known as PCSO Morris!

Also congratulations to PCSO Jen Harrison who has successfully completed Level 2 Awareness on Mental Health and has now enrolled to do Level 2 Equality and Diversity course.

New team Sergeant - This will be my last newsletter as on 13 June I will be moving into a new post on the Child Protection Team. I will be sorry to leave as I have enjoyed working on the Towcester area and particularly with the many characters we have both in and out of the station! My replacement, Sergeant Claire Paul starts on the 8 June. She is currently a Rural Crimes Officer so has a wealth of knowledge and experience with rural issues and has regularly worked with us on sector.

PS Tania Ash

**Safer Community Team Sergeant
Towcester Sector**

