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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 | August  2025 |

*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:** Vacant **Mobile:**

**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

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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 **August 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**](http://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 collage of a person

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

A police car with blue lights

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

A group of people standing in front of a police car

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

A close-up of a hand holding a pen

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

A van full of bags of cigarettes

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Two men standing next to a car

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

A collage of a child in a van

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

A person and person standing on a street with a camera

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

A person standing on a path

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

A person and person sitting at a table

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

A car on a tow truck

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

A motorcycle parked outside a brick building

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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 **‘Report an untaxed vehicle’**, **‘Animal related crime’**, and **‘eScooters & eBikes’.**

**Report an untaxed vehicle**

Does your parish have concerns about untaxed vehicles?

You can [check if a vehicle is taxed online](https://www.gov.uk/check-vehicle-tax).

If you find that it isn’t, you can [report the vehicle online](https://forms.dft.gov.uk/report-an-untaxed-vehicle/).

**Or, contact your local Safer Neighbourhood Team on the contact details listed above and we will look into it.**

You’ll need the:

* vehicle registration number
* make
* model
* colour
* address where the vehicle is parked

**Animal related crime**

Wildlife and animal crime can be a complex area to understand.

To find out what wildlife crime is, go to West Mercia Police’s  [wildlife crime page](https://www.westmercia.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/wc/wildlife-crime/what-is-wildlife-crime/). 

Crimes involving animals that aren’t wildlife crimes, include:

* livestock worrying
* livestock theft
* hunting
* animal cruelty
* dogs being out of control in public places
* banned dogs
* dog theft

**Livestock worrying**

Livestock worrying is a criminal offence and comes under the [Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Eliz2/1-2/28).

‘Worrying’ is where a dog attacks or chases livestock causing injury or suffering.

This isn’t just a threat to a farmer or land owner’s livelihood, it’s also a dangerous situation for the animals involved, and could lead to more risk if the animals get onto the road.

A farmer is allowed to kill the dog if it’s worrying their livestock.

Always keep your dog under control around other animals and if you see a dog on the loose worrying animals, [report it online](https://www.westmercia.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/).

**Livestock theft**

Grazing animals can be an easy target especially in remote rural locations.

* check on your animal(s) regularly
* report any suspicious vehicles
* improve security around the area where the animal(s) graze
* ear tags, horn brands, freeze marking, hoof branding, tattoos and microchips can all help identify your animal(s) if they’re stolen
* in the case of cattle (cattle, bison or buffalo) you will need to report the loss or theft of an animal to the [British Cattle Movement Service](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/british-cattle-movement-service) within seven days
* some areas have Farm Watch or Rural Watch schemes, which you could consider joining

Remember, a horse passport is a legal requirement. You can find out how to [apply for a horse passport.](https://www.gov.uk/horse-passport)

[Report livestock theft online](https://www.westmercia.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/).

**Hunting**

Hunting includes the chasing, capturing or killing of animals and birds.

Not all hunting is a crime, but there are many different laws to protect the different species of animals and birds. These laws cover things like:

* where you can hunt
* when you can hunt
* if you can use dogs or not
* the types of weapons and traps that can be used

Many animals are also protected by law, meaning it’s illegal to hunt them at any time unless you have special exemptions.

If you’re planning to go hunting, it’s important to know what is legal and not.

Find out more:

[Illegal hunting](https://www.westmercia.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/illegal-hunting/illegal-hunting/)  
[Types of illegal hunting](https://www.westmercia.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/illegal-hunting/types-of-illegal-hunting/)

**Animal cruelty**

Animal cruelty is when someone doesn’t care for or deliberately hurts an animal.

It can include anything from physical violence, to deliberate mental distress or neglect, for example not feeding or cleaning an animal.

If you see, or suspect, that a person may be treating an animal badly, whether this is physical violence, neglect or any other form of cruelty, you should report this to the [RSPCA](https://www.rspca.org.uk/utilities/contactus/reportcruelty).

We work with the RSPCA to investigate cases of animal cruelty.

If your partner, ex-partner or a family member has harmed or threatened to harm your pet, this can be a form of domestic abuse. Find out more about [animal cruelty and domestic abuse](https://www.westmercia.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/ac/animal-crime/animal-cruelty-and-domestic-abuse/).

**Dogs out of control in public places**

It’s an offence to let a dog be dangerously out of control whether that’s in public or private.

A dog is considered to be out of control if it:

* injures someone
* makes someone worried that it might injure them

A court could also decide that your dog is dangerously out of control if:

* it attacks someone’s animal
* the owner of an animal thinks they could be injured if they tried to stop your dog attacking their animal

Please note, a farmer is allowed to kill your dog if it’s worrying their livestock.

If you see a dog loose, please [report this online](https://www.westmercia.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/).

If the dog seems to be out of control, let us know by [calling 101](tel:101).

**Banned dogs**

In the UK, it's against the law to own certain types of dog. Whether your dog is a banned type depends on what it looks like, rather than its breed or name.

It's a criminal offence to own or possess an XL Bully dog in England and Wales unless you have a valid Certificate of Exemption.

You can find more information about [banned dogs](https://www.westmercia.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/ac/animal-crime/banned-dogs/).

If you think someone has or is breeding dogs, please report it [online](https://www.westmercia.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/).

If you see a banned dog loose or it seems to be out of control, please report it [online](https://www.westmercia.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/) or [call 101](tel:101).

**Dog theft**

Before you report a dog theft to us, please make sure it hasn’t:

* escaped and run away
* been taken for a walk by someone else

If you think your dog has been stolen you can [report it online](https://www.westmercia.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/).

Be ready to give us as much information as you can, including:

* name
* microchip number
* description
* when you last saw them
* what happened when they disappeared
* details of anyone who may have access to your dog
* descriptions of people or vehicles seen acting suspiciously in the area

You should also:

* [tell your local council](https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council) who may have a dog warden responsible for stray dogs
* tell your microchip database your dog is missing
* consider advertising for your dog on websites, at local vet’s and rescue centres, and on park notice boards

**eScooters & eBikes**

**What is an e-scooter?**

Electrical scooters (also known as e-scooters) come under the category of 'powered transporters'. This covers a range of personal transport devices that are powered by a motor.

E-scooters are classed as motor vehicles under the [Road Traffic Act 1988](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1988/52/contents). This means the rules that apply to motor vehicles, also apply to e-scooters including the need to have a licence and insurance.

There are two ways of using an e-scooter:

* by privately owning one
* by renting one through an authorised rental scheme

**Owning your own e-scooter**

It's not currently possible to get insurance for privately owned e-scooters. This means it’s illegal to use them on the road or in public spaces, such as parks, street pavements, and shopping centres.

If you use a privately-owned e-scooter in public, you risk the vehicle being seized under S.165 Road Traffic Act 1988 for having no insurance.

If you cause serious harm to another person whilst riding an e-scooter, the incident will be investigated in the same way it would if you were riding a motorcycle or driving a car.

Where you can use your own e-scooter

If you own an e-scooter, you can only use it in on private land, such as in a garden. But you must have the permission of the landowner to do so.

**Rental e-scooters**

You can rent e-scooters in some parts of the UK through [e-scooter rental trials](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/e-scooter-trials-guidance-for-users).

Where a rental trial scheme is running, rental e-scooters can be used on public roads, some cycle lanes, and other public spaces. But you must follow the relevant [road traffic laws](https://www.gov.uk/browse/driving/highway-code-road-safety). If you don’t, you could face prosecution.

To use a rental e-scooter in an approved area you must:

* hold the correct driving licence ([find out about driving licence categories](https://www.gov.uk/driving-licence-categories))
* have insurance (the rental companies provide this when you hire from them)
* meet the minimum age limit (this can vary depending on the rental company, so please check with them)

When riding an e-scooter, you should always keep to the speed limit. We also always recommend wearing safety protection such as a helmet.

**Penalties and offences for e-scooters**

If you breach the rules when using an e-scooter you could face a fixed penalty notice.

Forces set and enforce penalties differently, so the penalty will vary depending on where the offence is committed.

Devon and Cornwall police will not issue fines, so other forms of penalty will be used if you use an e-scooter in a public place when not part of an approved trial.

For other forces in the UK, the fixed penalty notice could include:

* a £300 fine and six penalty points on your licence for having no insurance
* a £100 fine and three to six penalty points for riding without the correct licence

You could also be committing an offence if you're caught:

* riding on a pavement: fixed penalty notice and possible £50 fine
* using a mobile phone or other handheld mobile device while riding: £200 and six penalty points
* riding through red lights: fixed penalty notice, £100 fine and possible penalty points
* drink driving: the same as if you were driving a car, you could face court imposed fines, a driving ban and possible imprisonment

If you're using an e-scooter in public in an antisocial manner, you can also risk the e-scooter being seized under [section 59 of the Police Reform Act](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2002/30/contents)

**Electric bikes and rules for riding them**

You can ride an electric bike, or an 'electrically assisted pedal cycle' (EAPC), without a license or insurance if you're 14 or over*.*

An electric bike:

* must have pedals that you can use to propel it
* can have more than two wheels, for example a tricycle
* must have an electric motor that can run continuously at a maximum power of no more than 250 watts
* must have no electrical assistance once you reach 15.5 miles per hour (mph)

If your electric bike fails to meet any of these requirements it needs to be taxed and insured as either a motorcycle or a moped.

There is more information on what's required to ride your electric bike legally on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/electric-bike-rules)

**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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A white background with black and white clouds

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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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