

REPORTED CRIMES OF INTEREST FOR THE BASSETLAW EAST CLAYWORTH/ STURTON BEAT AREA – MARCH 2021.

The Clayworth/ Sturton beat area includes the following villages and hamlets – Drakeholes, Wiseton, Clayworth, Hayton, Clarborough, Welham, Tiln, North Leverton with Habbleshorpe, North Wheatley, South Wheatley, Sturton le Steeple, Bole, West Burton, Littleborough, Coates and Fenton.

The crimes of interest – incidents of burglary, criminal damage and thefts – reported for the beat area between 01/03/2021 and 31/03/2021 were –

Burglary Dwelling – 1 (Bole).

Burglary Other – 2 (Wiseton, North Wheatley).

Theft Other – 2 (North Wheatley x2).

Criminal Damage to a Motor Vehicle – 1 (Bole).

This month there has been six reported crimes of interest across the whole beat area. This compares with seven crimes reported throughout February 2021 and seven crimes in the same month last year.

From 01/04/2020, there have been seventy crimes of interest reported across the beat area. This compares with ninety one reported in the same period last year. As such, at the conclusion of the final month in this tracking year, these figures equate to a decrease in reported crimes of interest of twenty one crimes, which is a reduction of about 23%. For the year prior, ending March 2019, there were seventy eight reported crimes of interest for the beat area.

There has generally been a reduction in the reporting of crimes of interest, across the areas I cover, to our control room. This is likely to have been assisted from the messages given in the Governments briefings, in the pandemic situation we are in, with instructions to stay at home and restrictions on personal movement and travel.

Please continue to report crime - and incidents - through to our control room on 101, or 999 as appropriate. Even in these most difficult of times, where possible, reported crimes will be dealt with in the same way as they have always been recorded, and dealt with. Please remain aware of any suspicious persons, vehicles and activity in the area and continue to report such instances through to our control room, as normal.

It is just over a year now since Nottinghamshire Police started using a new system for recording incidents. As from February 2020, the Police report has included anti-social behaviour incidents only, negating other incident types from this category, such as hoax calls to the emergency services, found/ abandoned vehicles and wildlife/ animal issues. These figures have, therefore, started to decrease but are more accurate in relation to actual anti-social behaviour incidents on the area. This month there have been two reported incidents of anti-social behaviour across the whole beat area. This compares with eight reported incidents for February 2021 and two reported for the same month in 2020.

There was a recent invitation from Nottinghamshire's Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, for community member dog owners to complete an anonymous online survey form, to allow the force to have a better understanding of public views on dog, and pet, theft. This survey comes after a spate of high profile incidents nationally leading experts to believe criminals are exploiting the huge hike in prices and demand for puppies during the Coronavirus lockdown.

Shortly after the survey was launched, Nottinghamshire Police announced that it had appointed a Chief Inspector as the lead to tackle stolen pet crimes in what it believes is the first move of its kind in the country. It is estimated dog thefts have risen by 250% nationwide following increased demand during the pandemic. The force has said there had been "growing alarm" among dog owners over the problem. Following the appointment the force said that it will demand tougher sentences for offenders.

The Police continue to receive calls from farmers, landowners and members of the public in relation to vehicles, and their occupants, being involved in wildlife crime. These calls are encouraged. A few years ago, now, Operation Bifocal was introduced by Nottinghamshire Police to target this type of activity and behaviour. Whilst committing these wildlife crimes, offenders have been causing damage, also, to farmers and landowners fields, crops and perimeter gates and hedging.

At this time of the year, there is always an increase in the number of uninvited callers to residents' properties. Usually these calls are in relation to having work completed at the property, usually on the outside, or in the garden areas. This last month there have been incidents reported of persons selling door to door also. The control room have received calls in relation to this activity, too. Please continue to make these calls so that those individuals can be identified, together with the reason for their activity.

The Trading Standards department advise local residents to search the www.checkatrade.com website for reputable tradespersons, and to always get three quotes prior to allowing work to commence. The Trading Standards team continually review this site and vet those companies which are registered.

Any queries or concerns around work carried out and/ or workers concerned should be firstly addressed to Consumer Direct.

There are, however, some tradesmen who travel the country attempting to exploit the vulnerability, and generosity, of some of our local residents.

These persons will attempt to negotiate a cost as soon as possible for work to be completed. They might also try to eliminate the period that a prospective customer has, legally, to change their mind

in having work competed. This can easily be done by covering up that part of the contract document and getting the customer to sign which, in effect, overrides that part of the agreement.

Over the last few years the trading standards department have shown an interest in a number of tradesmen where contract irregularities have been identified.

Trading Standards said it would never recommend employing a trader based on a cold call. They also suggest –

Don't be lured in by the promise of discounts, one day only offers and this deal is only available now.

Don't believe the scare stories a seller may tell you – they are rarely true.

Don't believe genuine companies have lots of left over products or cancelled orders.

Don't leave large sums of money at home.

As ever, the beat team will keep an eye out to look after you and your homes. The team would like to hear from any community members who would like some crime prevention advice, or even just a reassurance visit.

My contact number is 07525 226838 and my E mail address is david.airey@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk PC 2895 James Pickersgill is the new beat manager for the area. He has a contact number of 07525 226479 and an E mail address of james.pickersgill@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk

Please do not use these telephone numbers to report incidents and/ or crimes. Works numbers should only be used for non-urgent matters – including seeking advice and/ or information.

I continue to receive calls on my works phone from residents wishing to report incidents and crimes. In many cases these calls are received when I am on rest days or annual leave and have not got my works phone to hand. Residents must be comfortable in reporting these occurrences to our control room on 101 in order to receive the best, and real time, service from those officers who are on duty.

When ringing 101 the first item which is asked is which Police force you require. This is because 101 is the non-urgent number for all Police forces throughout the country and the signal is picked up from where you are ringing from. In rural East Bassetlaw many parishes are located close to county boundaries, hence the first question. Then, you are asked if you know the person or extension number of the department you require. At this stage, just hold the line. After this, there are a number of options available. For reporting an incident or crime the option is option 7.

Again, thanks, as always, for your help, interest and support, it is very much appreciated. Take care and best regards.

PCSO 8139 Dave Airey.