

Woodley Neighbourhood Policing Update for March from PCSO David Bradbrook

Anti-Social Behaviour

We have seen a sharp increase in anti-social behaviour within Woodley during the first half of February. This was mainly relating to young people in and around the Woodley Precinct. In order to tackle this issue we have utilised Officers and PCSOs from some of the neighbouring teams including the Twyford, Earley and Fields NHPTs over the half term period. During this time Inspector AL LLOYD authorised a number of dispersal orders for the Woodley area, allowing us to disperse any person causing anti-social behaviour. During this month a total of eight dispersal notices were issued. One to an adult male for causing issues in the Precinct, and seven to a group of young people involved in an incident outside the Hong Kong Chinese restaurant.

In the last week of the month we have seen a near 50% reduction in the number of ASB related calls, bring us back in line with other areas in the Wokingham Borough.

PCSO Danni FRY has been actively working with a number of the younger members of the group involved in the anti-social behaviour and one has agreed to sign an acceptable behaviour contract which will be monitored in the coming months.

We have had a number of positive results whilst investigating issues caused by the group of young people. One 15 year old male has been arrested in connection with a theft of push bike from Goals in Woodley, and another 16 year old male has been arrested for assault and possession of an offensive weapon after an incident in the Precinct.

Contact us

As stated in the last update I wrote, we still believe issues are being under reported to us. Again, it may seem obvious to many, but we need to be made aware of issues in order to deal with them!

We want to reiterate that we need members of the public to contact us so we can help you.

If you have a non-urgent request then please contact 101. Alternatively you can email us directly by sending an email to WoodleyNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk.

Social media platforms should not be used to report issues, as they are not routinely monitored. If you do have a question you can tweet us at @TVP_Wokingham however, we cannot guarantee you will receive an answer quickly.

Increasingly, closed Facebook groups are being used to discuss issues in the Woodley area. Whilst this is a fantastic way to pass information around the community, the issues raised still need to be brought to our attention in order for us to be able to deal with it.

In recent months we have been made aware of a number of occasions where pictures of young people have been posted on these Facebook groups after allegedly being involved in anti-social behaviour. This has caused issues when parents or friends have seen the pictures and so we need to encourage people not to post pictures of young people onto social media without permission from the parents of the people. If pictures of perpetrators of anti-social behaviour are taken, then the pictures should only be shown to Police after making contact with us via 101 or the email address above.

Precinct

This month we have seen a series of thefts of charity boxes from within the shops. At the time of writing, the offenders have not been identified and enquiries are ongoing.

One male was detained by staff and PCSOs following a shoplifting at Lidl. The male was then arrested for the offence as well as a burglary in a Woodley Church last year.

Another male, who was a prolific shoplifting offender last year, was stopped in the Precinct by PCSO David ALLEN and then arrested for a failure to appear warrant issued by the courts, as well as being further arrested for going equipped for theft.

We have seen a large increase in reported cases of begging within the precinct and surrounded areas. This seems to be due to a small number of people coming across into Woodley from Wokingham/Reading and taking advantage of the generosity of the Woodley people. There were two homeless persons who had been in Woodley for some time, one of these has now been housed within Woodley, and the other is awaiting housing.

Theft from Vehicles

This month we have seen ten theft from vehicles in the Woodley area. These have targeted works vans and other insecure vehicles. Offenders remain unidentified for these offences. These are possibly linked to a larger number of similar offences across the west side of the Wokingham area.

Woodford Park

This month the Woodley NHPT have worked alongside the Just Around the Corner team and a number of local young people in the rebuilding of the wooden shelter next to the skate park.