

Knighton On Teme Parish Council Report 2021

It has been without doubt the strangest time for everyone in 2020 to 2021, including Policing.

We have seen many people ill with Covid symptoms, and thankfully recover, and sadly those who have passed from this dreadful disease. We have survived lockdowns, and tiers and are now free to begin to start returning to some sort of normality.

As far as Safer Neighbourhood Policing goes it has had its peaks and troughs of work flow last year and this, with a different type of work to actually police that being Covid concerns and enforcement. Many times it has been a case of explaining the Government Guidelines, sometimes sterner words of advice have been issued to those who have breached guidelines, and last case resort to issue fines.

We have worked with our community partners to provide reassurance and signpost people to services such as food banks, or food deliveries; dropping in on those who are isolated, and need more robust support.

As a result of the first lockdown, many of our highways were virtually empty, and Parishes eerily quiet. The criminal fraternity were scarce, never venturing out it seemed. When life resumed we did see a take up of crime, with criminal damage, and thefts. Also criminal types who tried to scam the elderly into paying for Covid tests.

Due to the lockdown and time spent at home many people have bought puppies/ dogs /cats / kittens into their homes. The cost of purchasing dogs has rocketed. As a result of the uptake, the criminal fraternity, never one to miss an opportunity, have taken to stealing dogs. This may be from gardens, outside shops, or actually snatching the dog leads from the owner. This is a very distressing type of Crime. People have reported wire wrapped around bars or iron work on their gates, or marks left to identify their address. We all need to be vigilant, and remove these markers. **Let your community know what is going on and tell the Police, otherwise we are unaware.**

Crime in general has been low in our area, but we have seen a surge in catalytic convertor thefts recently. This is due to the Palladium metals inside the convertor. There is information on West Mercia Police Website on best practice on how to keep your vehicles safer from this type of theft.

There are also many more items of interest on the site in connection with security, internet safety, and lots more.

In Knighton On Teme I can find one break in to a detached garage, where a property is being developed, and an attempted break in to an outbuilding. However we must not become complacent, and still must remain vigilant, and make sure that adequate security is in place on sheds and garages. Again there is much more information on the Website.

Lastly the team here is PC Jack Sykes , PCSO Ness Snape, and PCSO Teresa Howells Brown. We cover approx. 200 plus square miles, and more than 27 Parish's. With that in mind if you need to contact us, many calls can now be made by online reporting on the West Mercia Website. If you want to contact us directly, you can call, text, email, the details are below.

If you do need an officer to attend however you do need to call 101.

mt.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Ness Snape 07814040307

Lastly here is a list of the scam calls, emails, cards etc. going around at the moment:

There have been many online telephone and email scams, all of which have looked very authentic doing the rounds too:-

1. Hermes email scam

Email stating that you have a missed delivery and in order for Hermes to deliver again, you are asked to provide bank details to pay for the £1.45 fees.

2. Royal Mail email scam

Email stating that Royal Mail has tried to deliver 3 times and ask you to pay £2.50 to arrange another delivery.

3. D P D Couriers email scam

Email stating that you have missed 2 attempted deliveries and you must pay £2.75 to arrange another delivery.

None of the delivery services would ask you to pay for arranging a delivery under normal circumstances. In the case where excess postage is required, the official Post Office Staff in his/her uniforms with Identifications would advise you what to do. If in doubt, please check with the company yourself before handing over any cash or personal and financial information.

4. National Insurance Telephone Scam

An automated voice states that your National Insurance number has been compromised to carry out criminal activities. You are asked to provide personal details to avoid arrests and prosecution.

5. HMRC Telephone Scam

An automated voice states that you have underpaid generally quite a large amount of tax like £2,000 and that you will be prosecuted if you do not pay the outstanding amount immediately.

6. Amazon Telephone Scam

An automated voice states that your Amazon account has been debited £349.95 incorrectly and if you provide the bank details, they will refund it to your account.

7. BT Telephone Scam

An automated voice says that if you do not provide the personal details, your line will be cut off.

All government agencies do not use automated voice services to inform you of a problem. They generally would write to you. If a person actually calls you in an unlikely event, you should always check carefully before divulging any personal information. These scams calls are usually from a mobile number.

Scammers are getting more sophisticated and professional looking and sounding. Please be very careful when providing any information to anyone you are not sure of.