

# Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT)

## Your Local Neighbourhood Policing Team



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## Quarterly NPT Priorities

Every three months your local NPT listen to your concerns and look at recent crime statistics to shape the things we will concentrate on for the next three months. Our priority is still -

### **1. Anti-Social Behaviour**

This is a priority for the BBH NPT. General Response Policing will routinely target all crime such as burglary, theft from motor vehicles and vehicle theft.

## Anti-Social Behaviour

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) covers a wide range of conduct perpetrated by individuals and groups of people which can be detrimental to both individuals and the wider community. Typically we tend to think of ASB as groups of drunken youths shouting and swearing in the street but it also covers begging, littering, loud music, habitual nuisance vehicle use, the smell of cannabis being smoked emitting from a property, harassment and so on and can include neighbour disputes.

Your NPT has utilised civil legislation to good effect provided called Community Protection Notices (CPN) which is provided by the ASB Act 2014. This notice is served upon persons engaging in ASB and gives them an opportunity to stop that behaviour. The versatility of the legislation allows us to specify the conduct which alone might not constitute a criminal offence. The legislation can be used in conjunction with Criminal Process. This legislation is served in partnership with the North Kesteven District Council ASB Team.

A breach of that condition would constitute a breach of the CPN which in itself is a criminal offence. The offender is then open to arrest and charge for a Breach of CPN which can lead to a court appearance with court costs upon conviction. As well as the criminal courts costs, the civil costs of process can be pursued to recover the costs of the time of NKDC, their solicitors, legal costs etc to ensure the taxpayer is not disadvantaged by those engaging in ASB. The claimed costs alone can amount to thousands of pounds for the offender to repay the courts as well as a Level 4 fine, currently £2500. Tenancy can be brought into question for Council tenants and for homeowners the question of costs to be recovered against their property can be considered via application of court order. The BBH NPT has successfully utilised this legislation nine times in the last twelve months to stop ongoing ASB which has been costly to the taxpayer and taken up a lot of police time. This month the legislation has been served upon a persistent nuisance offender who has repeatedly targeted neighbours and a CPN Warning Notice has been escalated to a full CPN. This civil legislation was used in conjunction with criminal process which saw two offenders arrested for offences of Attempting to Pervert the Course of Justice, Making False Reports to Police and Wasting Police Time. It is strong and versatile legislation that we have seen used to good effect to improve the quality of life for those in the community.

We are still seeing examples of ASB associated to the warmer weather at beauty spots around open water. These have been at Lakeside at Waddington and at the River Witham at Washingborough. These instances have seen teenagers in numbers putting themselves at risk whilst mixing alcohol and cannabis misuse with swimming in the lake and river. Not only does this have the inherent risk of drowning in unsafe water, it also has brought the presence of very loud music disturbing residents nearby, vast amounts of litter and verbal abuse at passers-by and in some instances at Police when attending.

As a Neighbourhood Policing Team we want teens to enjoy the outdoors and appreciate teenagers need to go somewhere to socialise but the noise, foul language, drug abuse, drinking, broken glass and litter that these areas have suffered are attracting Police attention due to multiple complaints from the general public and in some instances this is really impacting upon the quality of life of residents.

My experience as a Police Officer tells me that most teens are okay one on one, but they can start becoming a

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problem in numbers, playing up in front of one another, particularly after a few underage drinks and more worryingly drugs too. I would ask all parents to question who, where and what their teenagers are doing and question when they drop their teenagers off, for example to a house party – who is supervising this? We had disorder this month at Harmston due to a house party in the village involving up to 70 teenagers that parents took no responsibility for which impacted negatively upon residents and Police resources.

### **Motorbike Nuisance.**

There have been reports of youths causing a nuisance on mopeds, riding with no helmets and revving engines etc. This has been in the areas of Bracebridge Heath, Potterhanworth and Waddington. Efforts were made to locate these riders as the reports were made retrospectively. Words of advice have issued regards Section 59 [seizure of vehicle] and our Team will continue to monitor.

### **Motorcycle Theft**

We have experienced some motorcycle thefts this month in the villages on the A607 Corridor. If you own a motorcycle leaving it outside solely with a steering lock on is not enough. Where possible have it gated, inside and at least one Sold Secure or Thatcham graded lock. A sports bike was stolen from a front garden that was secured by only a steering lock. This was recovered after significant investigation and social media campaign. It appears to have been stolen essentially by a joy rider and abandoned when challenged by Police in Newark after Crime Stopper Info. The second theft is more concerning - a burglary to steal two motorcycles, a prized vintage scrambler bike and a specialist off road bike. Again, the options are numerous (and some were in place) – a secure building, garage, block the door with a vehicle, use ground anchored locks, alarms, and CCTV where possible. Approach this issue with this mindset; If they want it, they will take it BUT make it as hard as you for them. It makes the chances of them being heard and disturbed or looking for a softer target all the more probable. The first hurdle for the motorcycle owner is acknowledging the threat and putting strong security in place. Don't let them get it.

### **Vehicle Theft Prevention Advice**

Vans and Land Rover Defenders have continued to be targeted for theft from driveways or roadside parking over this quarter. A number of work vans have been targeted for theft of tools which proves to be very expensive and disruptive to the victim.

Where possible try and reverse vans up to a fixed object to prevent rear entry and if possible, block the van in. Products are available to enhance locks, dead locks down to simple high decibel PIR alarms should the factory alarm be electronically defeated. Consider an old-fashioned steering lock to deter a van thief and if finances allow, a tracker system.

### **Dwelling Burglary Prevention Advice**

Last month we saw some dwelling burglaries in the areas of Bracebridge Heath, Leadenham, Wellingore, Waddington, Branston, Washingborough and Metheringham. Keep valuables out of view, car keys hidden, and doors and windows locked with approved BS locks. Many burglaries are sneak in opportunist thefts that occur whilst you are in. Consider a house alarm and be mindful about what you post on social media in relation to your movements. Doorbell cameras are an excellent deterrent and facilitate police to reviewing movement around properties that have been targeted by burglars. Do not leave your car keys visible in your house – most vehicles are now stolen with keys, often the sole target of a burglary. Keep car keys away from the letter box where they can be “fished” for with an implement similar to a fishing rod. This is what car thieves do.

### **Special Constables in Lincolnshire Police**

Have you considered joining Lincolnshire Police as a Special Constable? You would be trained and operate with full time Police Officers in serving and protecting your community. It is both challenging and rewarding as well as a good foundation and route into a career as a full time Police Officer. Search on our website for information about joining Lincolnshire Police as a Special Constable at [www.lincs.police](http://www.lincs.police)

### **Want to know more?**

If you think there is an issue we should be focusing on, please get in touch at one of our public engagement Events contact us by email, or social media.

Crime statistics for your neighbourhood are available at: <https://www.police.uk/>

Nextdoor is a great way of getting the latest relevant information for your area. Join at: <https://nextdoor.co.uk/find-neighborhood/>



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