

Bracebridge Heath Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT)

Your Local Neighbourhood Policing Team



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Quarterly NPT Priorities

Every three months your local NPT listens to your concerns and looks at recent crime statistics to shape the things we will concentrate on for the next three months. Our priority for the forthcoming quarter (Jan/Feb/March) will be;

1. **Misuse of Drugs and Drug Dealing**

Illegal drugs are the driving factor behind most acquisitive crime, shop theft, burglary and robberies. It is one of the most destructive things to our society and young people with involvement are often set back, and their future opportunities limited. For this reason we will be focusing upon targeting drug dealers and drug supply for the in order to disrupt the supply of drugs.

Connected directly to drug abuse is acquisitive crime. Shops all around Lincoln including Co-op and Tesco stores in Branston and Bracebridge Heath were repeatedly being targeted by a professional shoplifter who was targeting stores, sometimes twice a day in rotation visiting them around the city to the tune of £200 - £400 worth of goods per visit. This was amounting to up to £2000 of stolen goods per day. The driving force behind this offender's crimes was heroin addiction. The male responsible was then selling his stolen goods door to door on estates in Lincoln to fund his significant addiction. The Bracebridge NPT targeted this offender who was hitting our local stores several times a day, impacting heavily on their profitability and their staff morale. Paul Bedford (43) was arrested in the act of bulk shop theft. He had £120 worth of goods concealed within less than a minute of being within store when he was detained. BEDFORD was charged with numerous shop theft offences and received a four month prison sentence and a Criminal Behaviour Order to address his offending upon his release as well as a £1500 fine.

PCSO Numbers to be halved

You may well have seen in the media that an announcement has been made that Lincolnshire Police Community Support Officer numbers are to be halved. This is a very concerning development for Neighbourhood Policing, one which the community might not immediately recognise. Our Beat Team is made up of three, a Police Constable and two PCSO's. The utility they provide our Team is far reaching. The duties they undertake are broad and diverse. They may be the only resource available to attend any incident due to Police Officer numbers being overstretched by demand. Typical work undertaken by PCSO's can include, and the list is not exhaustive, reassurance visits to the old and vulnerable who have been victims of burglary or online scams. In 2022 for example there were 654 vulnerable people across the county identified as being at risk of fraud or scam. Each one of those was assigned to be visited by our PCSOS, with follow up care to make sure they were given support and wraparound care to protect them from loss. The loss of half of our PCSOs means that is just one area of responsibility that we can't yet know will continue after the redundancies. Equally, we have a strong presence in primary schools with the delivery of the Mini Police programmes to our youngest members of our communities. How that valuable work can continue is hard to imagine at this stage, and will yet be determined. Our PCSO's regularly attend concerns for welfare and concerns about mental health. They attend RTC's to control traffic. Topically, PCSO Jones from our NPT received a Chief Constable's Commendation for his actions at an RTC where his actions contributed to maintaining life of a critically injured motorist. PCSO's are clearly visible and attend public engagements & events to provide reassurance and are often the only resources available to provide a visible presence in areas where ASB is prevalent. House to house enquiries, the locating and collection of CCTV evidence following offences such as thefts of motor vehicles, burglaries, damages, harassment etc as well as the engagement with youths, clubs and other organisations where street level intelligence is readily gained. School and youth group engagement is typically undertaken by PCSO's – ten years ago a Police Constable might attend school and other groups as a Beat Manager, but current demand for attending incidents and crime enquiries makes this an unachievable luxury, one which the PCSO's can gap. PCSO's assist with Missing Person enquiries – you may not realise that missing people, both adults and missing children is common place and a huge draw on time and resources. PCSO's can gap and reduce many calls for service by early attendance when contacted on their NPT mobile phone. The PCSO's

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are often the conduit of communication in person at Parish Council meetings following the reduction in rural Community Beat Managers some years ago. It is very concerning that on paper as a team we will stand to lose a third of our staff at a time when the physical presence of our Response Officers has already been drawn to the city through demand for service.

We do not envy the Chief Constable of the difficult financial decisions he has to make but the implications for rural police cover looks extremely grim. There is only so much juice to be squeezed from the lemon and we have been squeezed hard for a very long time. Engagement & representation from the community to show support for the role of our PCSO's that readily support the communities they serve has never been more relevant. The reduction or even total loss of PCSO's in our rural areas will have significant negative effect on our communities.

In Other News.....

Internet and telephone enabled frauds remain prevalent with victims on our area being defrauded with what is believed to have been facilitated through information gained over the telephone from the victim. It is easy to negatively judge the victim and apportion an element of blame. The truth is there is a scam for everyone. Please be cautious of emails, texts and telephone calls. They may be purporting to be from genuine companies or even the Government offering deals to entice you into clicking on the link.....the link may contain malicious software that enables the criminal to browse your PC and access your bank accounts or be a link to make payment for something minor such as a parcel delivery fee which will require input of your bank details.....and they then empty your account. Be aware - if its unexpected, not requested or you are simply unsure, don't engage with it.

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 and a good route into a career as a full time Police Officer. Search our website for information about joining as a Special Constable at www.lincs.police.uk

Join Nextdoor for Lincs Police Updates

Nextdoor is a free, social networking platform where residents can get in touch with their neighbours and local police officers to help keep their neighbourhood safe. Communities across the country have been using Nextdoor for several years and over 80,000 people in Lincolnshire are already registered. You can receive safety advice, urgent alerts, appeals and messages from Lincolnshire 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.

More information about fraud & scams can be found at www.lincs.police.uk

For reporting fraud or attempts at fraud and cyber crime call 0300 123 2040 which is the Action Fraud Line. Always be aware that incoming phone numbers and emails/websites can be cloned by the fraudster, a technique known as "Spoofing". Connect with Lincolnshire Police on "Nextdoor"

Crime Statistics

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/>

Twitter - @BBHPolice
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