

Alvechurch and Wythall SNT

Quarterly Newsletter – Covering the period of: April, May & June 2026

Welcome to the Alvechurch and Wythall Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) quarterly newsletter

Each yearly quarter, we'll share brief updates on our recent work over the past 3 months, try to explain how we're addressing local concerns, and highlight ways you can get involved in keeping our community safe and thriving.

This newsletter is designed to help keep you informed about the team's actions, initiatives, and community engagement efforts. We as an SNT cover everything from tackling anti-social behaviour and addressing speeding concerns, to supporting vulnerable residents and attending local community events — all in direct response to issues raised by the public and your local Parish Councils.

The SNT plays a vital role in maintaining safety and building trust within the community. By sharing updates and outcomes, the newsletter helps residents understand how their concerns are being addressed and what steps are being taken to try and resolve them. We want people to feel confident that their voices are being heard. This newsletter is about transparency, accountability, and celebrating the positive impact of community policing.

What's in this quarter's newsletter

- About West Mercia Police
- Updates on local concerns, issues and actions taken
- General SNT news and information
- Useful crime prevention information and security advice

Get Involved

Under our Local Policing Charter, residents are encouraged to share community concerns with their Parish Council. Your Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) works closely with Parish Councils to stay informed about local priorities and community concerns. These concerns help shape the focus of our policing efforts, ensuring we tackle the issues that matter most to you!

Team contacts

- **SNT Team email:** aw.snt@westmercia.police.uk
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Sign up to Neighbourhood Matters ...



Neighbourhood Matters enables residents, businesses and community groups to keep in touch with local policing teams. You can choose exactly what type of alert you wish to receive and how you receive them; whether that be by email, text or telephone. Sign up now at: www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk

About West Mercia Police

West Mercia Police is the territorial police force for Herefordshire, Shropshire, and Worcestershire, serving over 1.3 million people across England's fourth-largest police area, providing 24/7 service with a focus on community safety, diversity, and tackling crime through various teams, digital tech, and partnerships. They operate from headquarters at Hindlip Hall and are overseen by a Police and Crime Commissioner, employing officers and staff to cover urban centres like Telford and rural landscapes, aiming to make communities safer through proactive policing and community engagement.

The role of 'Patrol' and 'Response Officers'

West Mercia Police's Response & Patrol units keep communities safe by responding to 999/101 calls, tackling crime (violent, anti-social, public disorder), protecting vulnerable people, administering first aid, gathering evidence, and proactively patrolling to deter crime and manage demand, focusing on safer homes, roads, and people across Herefordshire, Shropshire, and Worcestershire.

In essence, Response & Patrol officers are the visible, frontline force, dealing with immediate threats and underlying issues to ensure public safety, often under unpredictable and demanding circumstance.

The role of 'Safer Neighbourhood Teams' (SNT)

The role of a West Mercia Police Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) is to provide visible, accessible, and community-focused policing dedicated to solving local problems and reducing crime. SNTs work closely with residents and partner organisations to identify and tackle issues that matter most to the community.

In essence, SNTs are the local face of West Mercia Police, dedicated to creating resilient, safer neighbourhoods through hands-on, community-focused policing.

The role of the 'Criminal Investigation Department' (CID)

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) investigates serious and complex crimes like homicide, fraud, and serious assaults, focusing on uncovering the truth, analysing evidence, and securing justice for victims, managing high-risk cases beyond standard patrol response, and often dealing with vulnerable people and dangerous offenders, requiring detailed investigative skills to bring offenders to justice.

Unlike uniformed response officers who handle immediate emergencies, CID detectives focus on long-term investigations to bring offenders to justice.

The role of 'Road Policing'

The Road Policing aims to reduce casualties and crime on roads in Herefordshire, Shropshire, and Worcestershire through Education, Engineering, and Enforcement, focusing on dangerous driving like speeding, drug driving, and mobile phone use, while also tackling serious/organised crime and supporting victims, using a proactive, partnership-based approach.

In essence, they are the frontline officers ensuring road laws are followed, making roads safer, and preventing serious harm by targeting the main causes of road deaths and injuries.

West Mercia Police 'Scenes of Crime Officers' (SOCOs)

SOCO officers analyse crime scenes to collect forensic evidence. They prioritize scenes based on threat, risk, and harm, supporting investigations across Herefordshire, Worcestershire, and Shropshire. Attendance is based on a THRIVE assessment (Threat, Harm, Risk, Investigation, Vulnerability, Engagement), meaning they may not attend every scene immediately. They Specialise in identifying and recovering various types of forensic evidence, including fingerprints, DNA, and any other physical traces.

Updates on local concerns, issues and actions taken

Working Together to Tackle Local Priorities

Listening to our communities and responding to their concerns remains at the heart of everything we do.

At the beginning of the last quarter, we reached out to Alvechurch Parish Council and asked them to identify the three issues they felt were having the greatest impact on local residents. The concerns raised were clear: speeding along Callow Hill and Weatheroak Hill, and a recent increase in burglary offences in the Hopwood area.

In response, the Alvechurch and Wythall Safer Neighbourhood Team focused its efforts on addressing these priorities throughout April, May and June.

To tackle speeding concerns, our PCSOs carried out a series of speed monitoring operations using our newly acquired digital TRU-CAM device. This innovative technology allows officers to accurately record vehicles travelling at enforceable speeds while capturing digital video evidence. The move to a digital system has streamlined the enforcement process, reducing both the need to stop every offending driver at the roadside and the amount of paperwork required. This increased efficiency means officers can spend more time where it matters most – out in the community, addressing local concerns and supporting residents.

Alongside our road safety work, we also increased high-visibility patrols in Hopwood following reports of a rise in burglaries. By directing officers to areas identified by residents and the Parish Council, we were able to provide a more visible policing presence, offer reassurance to the community, and deter criminal activity.

We are pleased to report that these efforts appear to have had a positive impact, with reductions in both crime and anti-social behaviour reported in the area. While there is always more work to do, this demonstrates the value of local people, parish councils and neighbourhood policing teams working together to identify issues and find solutions.

Thank you to everyone who continues to share concerns, report issues and engage with us. Your feedback helps us focus our resources where they can make the greatest difference and keep our communities safe places to live, work and visit.

Have Your Say

Residents play a vital role in helping to shape local policing priorities. If there are issues affecting your community, whether that is speeding, anti-social behaviour, crime concerns or other quality-of-life issues, we would encourage you to raise these with Alvechurch Parish Council. As the recognised voice of the community, the Parish Council can help identify recurring themes and emerging concerns and, where appropriate, nominate them as local 'Parish Priorities' for the Safer Neighbourhood Team to address. By sharing your concerns through your Parish Council, you can help ensure that local policing activity remains focused on the issues that matter most to your community.

Community Safety Update: Working Together to Keep Wythall, Hollywood and Majors Green Safe

Keeping our communities safe remains a key priority for the Alvechurch and Wythall Safer Neighbourhood Team. Over recent months, we have continued to focus our attention on issues that have been repeatedly raised by residents, businesses and community partners across Wythall, Hollywood and Majors Green.

Tackling Off-Road Bike Nuisance

We are aware of the ongoing concerns regarding youths riding off-road motorbikes in various locations across Wythall and Hollywood. This behaviour can cause significant nuisance to residents, damage to public spaces and open land, and can place pedestrians, cyclists and other legitimate users of these areas at risk.

We want to reassure the community that this issue remains firmly on our radar. Officers are actively patrolling locations affected by off-road bike activity, with both high-visibility and targeted patrols taking place in identified hotspot areas. By increasing our presence in these locations, we aim to deter offending, gather intelligence, identify those responsible and provide reassurance to local residents.

While off-road bikes can be challenging to deal with, particularly when riders seek to evade police, we remain committed to taking a proactive approach. We are continuing to gather intelligence, work with partner agencies and pursue all available opportunities to identify offenders and take positive action where offences are identified.

Supporting Businesses and Tackling Shop Theft

We are also continuing to receive reports of thefts from stores across Wythall and Hollywood. Shop theft does not only affect businesses financially; it can also have a significant impact on staff who regularly experience this type of offending and on customers who use local shops and services.

The Safer Neighbourhood Team is working closely with local retailers to identify offenders, gather evidence and support crime prevention measures. We recognise that many prolific shoplifters operate across force boundaries and, as a result, we are working closely with our counterparts in West Midlands Police to share intelligence, identify persistent offenders and develop a clearer picture of those responsible for committing offences across the wider area.

To support this work, we have increased patrols in the vicinity of stores most affected by shop theft. These patrols provide a visible deterrent to offenders, offer reassurance to staff and customers, and allow officers to engage directly with businesses to gather intelligence and respond to emerging concerns. By maintaining a regular presence in these locations, we aim to prevent offences before they occur and support those businesses most impacted by repeat offending.

Increased Focus on Burglary Prevention in Majors Green

Following an increase in reports of burglaries within the Majors Green area, the Safer Neighbourhood Team has also stepped-up activity to support residents and reduce opportunities for offenders.

In addition to increasing patrols within the affected neighbourhoods, officers have been holding crime prevention drop-in sessions on the streets where incidents have occurred. These sessions provide residents with an opportunity to speak directly with local officers, raise concerns, receive practical crime prevention advice and learn about simple measures that can help make their homes less attractive to offenders.

By carrying out these drop-in events within the communities affected, we are able to build stronger relationships with residents, gather valuable local information and provide visible reassurance at a time when communities may be feeling concerned. We know that engagement and prevention are just as important as enforcement when it comes to reducing crime and keeping neighbourhoods safe.

Whilst we will never be complacent, the increased patrols, community engagement and crime prevention activity have been well received by residents, and we are encouraged by the intelligence and community support generated through this work. We remain committed to maintaining this focus and continuing to work alongside local communities to address concerns and reduce opportunities for offending.

How You Can Help

Community information is often crucial in helping us identify offenders and take action. Whether the issue is off-road bikes, shop theft or burglary, information provided by residents and businesses can help us build a more complete picture of what is happening in our communities.

If you have information about those involved in any of these issues, please report it to the police. Details such as descriptions, locations, vehicle information, photographs, video footage or information about where offenders may be meeting, living or storing property can all assist our enquiries.

Alternatively, if you wish to remain anonymous, you can provide information through the independent charity Crimestoppers by calling **0800 555 111** or by visiting the [Crimestoppers website](#).

By working together, we can continue to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour, protect local businesses and help ensure that Wythall, Hollywood and Majors Green remain safe, welcoming places to live, work and visit. We would like to thank all residents and businesses for their continued support and for the information they continue to share with us.

Community Safety and Reassurance Update: Beoley and Portway

The Beoley and Portway area continues to be one of the safest parts of our Safer Neighbourhood Team area. While reports of crime and anti-social behaviour remain comparatively low, we recognise that local concerns still matter and that visible, proactive policing plays an important role in keeping our communities safe and reassured.

The Safer Neighbourhood Team continues to carry out regular patrols throughout Beoley and Portway, engaging with residents, responding to community concerns and working to address issues before they develop into more significant problems. By maintaining a visible presence and listening to local people, we can focus our resources on the issues that matter most to the community.

Tackling Off-Road Bike Activity

During the last few months, we have continued to receive reports of youths wearing face coverings and riding off-road motorbikes along rural lanes and surrounding areas in Beoley. Understandably, these incidents can cause concern for residents and can present a danger to other road users, walkers, cyclists and equestrians who enjoy the area's rural roads, footpaths and bridleways.

In response, we increased patrols in the locations where sightings were reported, with the aim of identifying both the riders and the vehicles involved. Officers have been conducting patrols at various times throughout the day and evening, focusing on routes and locations highlighted by members of the public.

Whilst we continue to encourage residents to report any sightings, we believe that our increased police presence has helped contribute to a reduction in these incidents. Patrols in the identified areas will continue, and we remain committed to gathering intelligence, identifying offenders and taking positive action where opportunities arise.

Promoting Road Safety in Beoley Village

Concerns have also been raised regarding the speed of traffic travelling through Beoley village, particularly outside Beoley First School.

The safety of children, parents, school staff and other road users remains a priority, and in response our PCSOs have been carrying out speed monitoring operations using the force's digital TRU-CAM speed enforcement device. These operations are intended to both deter speeding and, where necessary, enforce speed limits.

We recognise that there can sometimes be misconceptions about speed enforcement. This is not a money-making exercise. Our objective is to improve road safety, encourage responsible driving and reduce the risk of collisions in areas where pedestrians, families and school children are regularly present. Excessive speed increases both the likelihood and severity of collisions, and our focus is on preventing harm before it occurs.

We are pleased that the majority of motorists travelling through the village do so responsibly and would like to thank those drivers who continue to observe speed limits and help keep Beoley's roads safe.

Have Your Say – Help Shape Local Policing Priorities

Although crime levels remain low, local intelligence and community feedback are vital in helping us identify emerging concerns and direct our patrols to where they are needed most.

Whether your concerns relate to speeding, anti-social behaviour, suspicious activity, rural crime, off-road bikes or any other issue affecting your community, we encourage you to report them to the police and discuss them with your local Parish Council. Parish Councils play an important role as the voice of the community and help ensure that local concerns are raised with partner agencies, including the police.

Even if an issue may seem minor, information from residents often helps us identify patterns and emerging trends before they become larger problems. By reporting concerns and sharing information, you help us build a clearer picture of what is happening locally and ensure that policing activity remains focused on the issues that matter most to residents.

While Beoley and Portway remain low-crime areas, the Safer Neighbourhood Team remains committed to proactive policing across the whole SNT area, visible patrols and meaningful engagement with the community. The reduction in reports of off-road bike activity, alongside our ongoing work to address speeding concerns around Beoley First School, demonstrates the positive impact that can be achieved when local residents and neighbourhood officers work together.

We would like to thank residents for their continued support and encourage everyone to continue reporting concerns, no matter how small they may seem, so that together we can keep our communities safe, welcoming and enjoyable places to live, work and visit.

General SNT news and information

Our PCSOs have been continuing to hold regular drop-in sessions and crime-prevention events across the SNT area, giving residents the opportunity to talk through any issues, raise concerns, and receive practical advice on safety and security.

Vehicle Security Advice

If you own a vehicle with a keyless entry system, please consider using extra security measures such as a steering wheel lock or storing your key fob in a Faraday pouch when not in use.

Keyless vehicles continue to be one of the main targets for vehicle thieves, who can use specialist equipment to exploit the signal from keys left inside the home. Taking simple precautions can significantly reduce the risk of theft and make your vehicle a less attractive target.

A small investment in additional security can go a long way in protecting your vehicle and helping to keep our communities safe.

We Don't Buy Crime – Protecting Our Communities

As part of West Mercia Police's **We Don't Buy Crime** initiative, PCSOs across Alvechurch, Beoley and Wythall are continuing to support victims of burglary by providing **SmartWater property-marking kits** alongside practical crime prevention advice.

SmartWater is a forensic marking solution that allows valuable items such as jewellery, tools, bicycles and electronic devices to be uniquely linked to their owner. If stolen property is later recovered, it can be traced back to the rightful owner, helping police identify victims and link offenders to crime.

Following burglary reports, PCSOs have been visiting affected residents to offer reassurance, provide SmartWater kits where appropriate, and discuss simple measures that can help improve home security.

The initiative is designed to benefit our local communities by making stolen property harder to sell, increasing the chances of recovering stolen items, and helping to deter offenders from targeting homes in the first place. Combined with our increased patrols and ongoing crime prevention work, it forms part of our wider effort to reduce burglary and keep our communities safe.

If you would like crime prevention advice or would like to learn more about the We Don't Buy Crime initiative, please speak to a member of the Safer Neighbourhood Team at one of our community events or while we're out on patrol.

Your local Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) are holding a number of 1-2-1 drop-in sessions over this coming quarter. If you have any concerns, need some crime prevention advice, or just want a chat with an SNT officer, please feel free to attend one of the sessions listed below.

POLICE 'DROP IN' SESSIONS

Alvechurch

Café Morso

The Square, Alvechurch

(Held on every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month)

Tuesday 14th July 26: 11am-12pm

Tuesday 28th July 26: 11am-12pm

*Tuesday 18th August 26: 11am-12pm

Tuesday 8th September 26: 11am-12pm

Tuesday 22nd September 26: 11am-12pm

Tuesday 13th October 26: 11am-12pm

Tuesday 27th October 26: 11am-12pm

Tuesday 10th November 26: 11am-12pm

Tuesday 24th November 26: 11am-12pm

****Please Note: The August session will be on the 3rd Tuesday of the month***

Wythall

Hollywood Christian Life Centre

Simms Lane, Hollywood

(Held on every 3rd Thursday of the month)

Thursday 16th July 26: 11am-12pm

Thursday 20th August 26: 11am-12pm

Thursday 17th September 26: 11am-12pm

Thursday 15th October 26: 11am-12pm

Thursday 19th November 26: 11am-12pm

Can't make it? Email us at aw.snt@westmercia.police.uk and we will try to arrange a convenient time to come out and visit you!

Please be aware that due to the unpredictability of policing, sessions and events may be cancelled with little or no warning due to 'unforeseen' operational policing requirements. We would like to apologise in advance should this occur. To receive messages and the latest updates from your SNT, please register online with our community messaging service 'Neighbourhood Matters' by visiting:
www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk

Crime Data and Statistics

You can access 'crime data' and 'police performance' statistics for your area, and all other police forces across England and Wales, including information on 999/101 performance data, 'Stop and Search' statistics, Case lengths, Police workforce diversity, and Police financial reserves online by visiting the government website:
WWW.POLICE.UK

Useful crime prevention information and security advice

Protecting your home from crime

Burglars are often opportunistic thieves who prey on houses and flats. They seek out any opening that they can take advantage of, specifically doors and windows that are left open or unlocked or are easy to force.

Seven facts about residential burglary

- Burglars target homes that they think will contain valuables. A sure giveaway is leaving packaging from expensive items outside your front door
- Burglars often look for homes with windows or doors left open or with vulnerable features that they can exploit.
- Burglars are aware of the times when someone is expected to be away from their house such as during the school run or holidays
- Burglars typically do not want to be seen or heard and if they feel that they would be noticed by a neighbour or passerby then they are more likely to feel exposed and may move on to find somewhere else to burgle
- Burglars often choose a home because they've spotted a specific vehicle, motorcycle or bicycle they want to steal – and the keys are more than likely to be inside the residence
- Sheds and garages are often vulnerable as they are not that secure and contain tools which the burglar can use to assist them to gain entry to a home
- It's a fact that many burglars return to homes that they've previously burgled because the homeowner failed to upgrade security following the first burglary. They sometimes return to an area to try to burgle a nearby home that they spotted while committing a previous break in. Even more reason for you to ensure you keep your home as safe as houses

Door Security

Simply shutting the door won't prevent burglaries. Double-lock the door every single time you leave the house.

Some uPVC doors are fitted with locks that protrude from the frame on the outside (euro profile locks for those in the know). If yours do, then consider getting a locksmith to change the lock to a shorter one that can't be snapped off.

Window Security

Burglars target windows as they can offer easier access than doors. Check how your windows look from the outside, removing potential access points where you can. Sash stops prevent anyone opening the sash window enough to climb through. Remember, window locks are only effective if used, so check that you have locked them before you leave home or go to bed.

Become a creature of habit

Here's what we recommend you do before you go out:

- close and lock all your doors and windows, even if you're only going out for a few minutes
- make sure that any valuables are out of sight
- keep handbags away from the letterbox or cat flap and hide all keys including car keys, as a thief could hook keys or valuables through even a small opening
- never leave car documents or ID in obvious places such as kitchens or hallways
- in the evening, shut the curtains and leave lights on
- if you're out all day, then it's advisable to use a timer device to automatically turn lights and a radio on at night
- set your burglar alarm
- make sure the side gate is locked
- lock your shed or garage
- lock your bike inside a secure shed or garage, to a robust fitting bolted to the ground or wall, like a ground anchor

How protecting your garden makes your home safer

It may not seem obvious, but protecting your garden and outbuildings like sheds not only keeps bikes and other valuables safe, but can also stop burglars accessing tools to get into your home.



1. Low front boundary; keep hedges and walls at the front of your house low (under one metre) so burglars have nowhere to hide.
2. Secure side gate; keep side gates locked at all times. Open gates mean burglars can easily access your home without being seen by passers-by or neighbours.
3. High side and rear boundaries with trellis and spiky defensive planting; keep hedges, walls and fences around your back garden high (over 1.8 metres). Add lightweight trellis to gates and fences and plant some prickly plants to make it harder for burglars to climb over.
4. Gravel driveway and path; gravel driveways and paths make it harder for burglars to go undetected.
5. Security light; install an outside security light so that intruders can't approach without being seen.
6. Intruder alarm system; install a burglar alarm system.
7. Secure your shed; always keep your shed locked and secured, and make sure it is anchored down to prevent it from being lifted in order to gain access. Often sheds contain valuables such as power tools and bicycles.
8. Never leave tools lying around; never leave tools lying around as they can be used as a way of breaking into your home.

Going Away?

Here are five tips to help you keep your home and belongings stay safe while you're away:

1. if you're off on holiday and wish to post anything on social media, make sure your posts aren't public and that they're only seen by your friends
2. leave lights and a radio on a timer to make the property appear occupied
3. get a trusted neighbour to keep an eye on your property or join a Neighbourhood or resident Watch Scheme
4. consider asking your neighbours to close curtains after dark and to park on your drive
5. remember to cancel newspaper and milk deliveries

Report crime online at:
www.westmercia.police.uk/report
For crimes in progress call 999