

Thames Valley Police Report from PCSO Jackie Dodson

15th November 2018

In the last few months Edlesborough and the surrounding villages have seen an unprecedented rise in Theft from Motor vehicles (namely tool thefts from vans) and most recently commercial burglaries.

In response to the earlier reports of theft from motor vehicles, increased patrols were made a local neighbourhood priority (on Wing's patrol plan) and then the local policing database. This meant that all departments from Aylesbury were tasked with patrolling (both high visibility and covert) on the Eastern Borders (Edlesborough, Pitstone, Marsworth etc.). These patrols are marked on databases monitored by senior management to ensure they are being conducted. We have used ANPR cameras and intelligence gathering to identify the routes used by suspects to carry out thefts in our area. These show cross border offenders travelling between Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire to commit crimes.

I have attended meetings with Beds Police, Hertfordshire Police and British Transport Police to swap intelligence on the offenders.

Some of the intelligence (not all) has lead us to patrol the traveller sites in the Bedfordshire area. Whilst these are not in the Thames Valley Police area, we patrol these most shifts to prevent and detect crime. **This has led to 13 vehicles suspected of being used in these crimes being recovered in the last 3 months.** Forensic work has been ongoing with many of the vehicles to identify suspects. Several tools have been found in these vehicles, leading to further intelligence to identify suspects.

In September the Wing police team attended one of these sites and located two vehicles recently seen leaving the scene of tool thefts from vans. Whilst arranging recovery for the vehicles the officer encountered violence in the form of a hammer and bricks being thrown to damage the vehicles. **However, they were still recovered and two suspects linked to them arrested at a later date.** A stolen horsebox was recovered at the same time of the arrest. They are still on bail with curfew conditions. The arrests have led to a long list of enquiries, which are still ongoing and cannot be discussed so as to not undermine the case. Most importantly, the arrests led to a dramatic reduction in this type of offending.

In August following a joint operation (OP ALLIANCE) with Milton Keynes and Northants Police **a male was identified for cross border business burglaries, arrested and sent to prison.** This all came from intelligence gathering between the forces, notably from the Wing team. It is believed that this individual and associates were responsible for similar crimes across the area.

In October two males were arrested by the single officer for Wing entering our area, having recently committed a theft of caravan. They are currently on bail,

but all indications suggest a charge is imminent. Also, in this month intelligence gathered from all the above actions lead to a successful bid for trap vans to be deployed. On the back of this **several suspects were arrested in London with three vans full of stolen tools.** Work is still ongoing at this time against these males to secure their charges. We will not publicise when such vans are out in the area, despite seeing frequent comments that we do not use them, as this would render the tactic useless.

OP TORBY is a regular operation we run with Beds Police to disrupt cross border offending. This most recent OP TORBY held in November, which focuses on crime in around the Edlesborough area lead to:-

- **The arrest of a wanted male for crimes in the area.**
- **A blue Astra linked to crimes in the area being pursued and stopped. The driver was arrested for driving whilst disqualified and handling stolen goods due to tools being found in the car. He has been recalled to prison.**
- **Cars seized for no insurance.**

These are some of the more recent good news stories and we are very proactive in stopping vehicles in the area for driving offences. We will not report to the parishes all cars we stopped and seized for these offences, but they go a long way to disrupting other criminality in the area. Sadly, there is no measure for how much crime is prevented per shift.

Work is still ongoing with CID departments to deal with the burglaries at the Post Office in Edlesborough and similar crimes in the nearby villages. The neighbourhood team will not be advised of all the updates on these investigations, as any tactics used to catch the offenders will be kept confidential to prevent cases being hindered. Needless to say, work is still ongoing with other forces and departments.

Being close to the border with different counties and Police forces does mean that more one than crime group are likely to be responsible. It is not a case of stopping one group, which is why we speak so often to these forces.

As a neighbourhood team, the **PCSO's have been focusing hard on crime prevention events around the rural areas. These included several tool marking events, which unfortunately have been poorly attended.** These are advertised on Facebook on the Aylesbury Vale Facebook pages and notifying neighbourhood watch co-ordinators, councillors etc. We cannot stress the importance of people marking their tools and valuables. I have seized so many tools the last few months from seized cars that I cannot find an owner for. This is essential to lead to

convictions. Likewise, emptying tools from vans when unoccupied will deter offenders from our area too.

The **PCSO's** have been doing regular letter drops to houses left in darkness to start making people more aware of securing their homes and making them less of a burglary target. Similarly, they have been doing letter drops and visiting potential vulnerable persons susceptible to scams.

Crime Figures May – Nov 2018

May	Theft from motor vehicles	3
June	Burglary	1
	Theft	1
	Criminal damage	1
July	Theft from motor vehicles	1
	Burglary	1
August	Theft of motor vehicles	1
	Theft from motor vehicles	
	Theft	2
	Criminal damage	1
September	Theft	1
	Burglary	1
	Criminal damage	1
October	Theft	2
	Theft from motor vehicles	2
	Criminal damage	2
	Burglary (Business)	4
November	Theft from motor vehicles	1
	Burglary (flower shop)	1

PCSO Dodson requested that EPC impress upon Parishioners the importance of reporting crime and suspicious activity to Thames Valley Police. **PCSO Dodson stated that if Parishioners see a crime taking place or suspicious activity they must ring 999.**

101 and the online reporting system can be used for non-emergency reports.