



June/July 2024

'A Snapshot of the working life of PCSO Vicky Henderson'

Summer demand

Calls to police during the summer period always increase, this month they have increased by a third. Lighter nights, warmer weather definitely have an effect. People are staying up later, going out more, spending more time in the garden and that can cause issues with noise etc. Noise complaints, smoke from BBQ's etc can be reported to Somerset Council through their website. They can also take reports of problems on the road, litter or drug debris, fly tipping, breach of planning, anti-social behaviour and abandoned vehicles.

Polling day

On polling day officers attend every Polling station on their beat, I think we had somewhere around 20 stations to visit. Thankfully there was only one person who was unhappy due the change in rules, having to have photo ID. The voter and the polling station staff came up with a solution. Older ID left at a relative's address.

Football

Due to the football, there were a few shifts changes from day shifts to late shifts. This is due to needing more officers at different times to usual. Did you know that the risk of domestic violence goes up when someone's team wins rather than loses. I was surprised when I first heard that, I assumed it would be when a team loses.

Crime scenes

This month I have been scene guard over 3 days in Bridgwater and Taunton and conducted reassurance patrols. Unfortunately, serious incidents happened in both areas that required certain areas to be cordoned off to the public. Scenes are needed in order to gather evidence and keep that area protected until that has been done. We don't want to keep a scene on any longer than necessary and don't want to inconvenience people's daily lives, thank you for being understanding. If you do see a scene guard and you are feeling unsettled by what has happened, please feel free to talk to them. They won't be able to discuss a live investigation, but they may be able to help you feel reassured that there will be a larger police presence and they may be able to tell you that this incident won't affect the wider community. I had a few people come up to talk and I was able to help them feel better about the situation and give crime prevention advice.

Missing people

This month I helped search for missing people, all were children and two were vulnerable.

My colleague B and I heard a call come in for a teenager who went missing on the Cothelstone hills. As you can imagine the relatives were distraught. Officers were drafted in from all the surrounding areas. B and I were quite a few miles away, but as this is our patch, we offered up and made our way to the top of the hill. There were officers on every path, a drone, a dog handler and Helicopter were requested. A sergeant came to the RV point to oversee the search. It was such a hot day. Thankfully the missing person was found safe, well and just a little lost.

While getting lunch another call on the radio for a missing child. B and I called up to say we would search, jumped in the car and searched from the missing persons address outwards to places where they might have gone. Officers from

Taunton shouted up that they would join the search, everyone was determined to find this child. The child was found and returned home safe to their worried family.

I assisted B with keeping the traffic away from a child who had been found close to the road. B attended, the child was autistic and had sensory issues and she was concerned they may run into traffic. She secured him as best she could, while trying to slow the traffic down that was coming around the bend. She called me for assistance and as soon as I completed the job I was doing, (more about that further down) I attended and took control of the traffic and blocked the area in front of the child. Thank you to the drivers who noted there was an emergency, noted my blue lights and went around my car. Therefore, keeping the child safe. B opened my car door and thankfully the child was happy to get in. At this point a call came in for a missing child. We were able to tell the parents that the child had been found and was at the police station playing with some toys.

Seized vehicle

There was an email in to say that a SORN vehicle was parked on the Highway. After doing all the checks we called for recovery and had the vehicle removed. While waiting for recovery we took a report of another crime and started to investigate that.

Positive warrant

Wellington Town centre team executed a drugs warrant, there was evidence found and a person was arrested. I was asked to convey the evidence, which took the boot and back seat of my car, to the officer who was booking all the items in. More on this next month as right now the investigation is live, and I am unable to give any more information. I got the call for assistance just as I was unloading the car.

Crime enquiries

Beyond the above I have conducted lots of enquiries, was fortunate to attend the odd community engagement, investigating crime and working with other agencies to try to problem solve issues in my area.

Until next month

Take care.

Vicky

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