



Arson attacks in the Welland Valley

We have seen a spree of arson attacks where hay stacks have been targeted and set alight in the Welland Valley area of the Harborough District.

There has been fires in Ashley, Weston by Welland, Hallaton, Cranoe and West Langton, the locations of the fires have been in Leicestershire and across the border in Northamptonshire.

Sadly, the cost of these arson attacks to the farmers can be huge. Not only do they suffer the financial loss of the hay stacks, which can amount to tens of thousands of pounds, but they also have the cost of replacing the lost feed or they may have to reduce the size of their livestock.

Due to the poor harvest last year, hay is in short supply and it's getting to the point where victims of arson attacks cannot replace what is being lost. If farmers then have to reduce the size of their livestock this can have long lasting implications on their farms.

We're heavily patrolling the locations mentioned above and enquiries into the arson attacks are continuing. Crimestoppers have offered a £1000 reward for any information that leads to the conviction of the offender, however, please note the information must be provided to Crimestoppers directly.

If you see any people or vehicles that look suspicious or out of place, please note the details of any vehicles and contact us immediately on 101 or email stephen.winn@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk with any information you think may help. If you see a crime in action, please call 999.



Neighbourhood Beat Surgeries

Due to the latest lockdown measures November's beat surgeries have been cancelled but PCSO Matt Kiff will be at the following location in December, please come and say hello.

- Thursday 17th December, 11am-12PM, Great Easton Village Store

Remember you can always report crime by:

- Reporting online via www.leics.police.uk/report-online
- Calling 101

Neighbourhood Link

A great way of keeping in touch with us is through Neighbourhood Link where you will receive updates from the Market Harborough Team. For more information or to sign up, please visit www.neighbourhoodlink.co.uk.

Each month we have been keeping you updated on what we're doing about the issues you have told us are a priority in the Market Harborough and Market Harborough North areas. The priorities we have been focusing on are:

- ASB
- Drug dealing
- House burglaries

In recent weeks there has been an increase in house burglaries. To combat this issue, we have been conducting reassurance patrols in the local areas and carrying out ANPR (automatic number plate recognition) operations on arterial routes, targeting criminals using the road networks to commit crime. There are also a few simple things you can do to help keep your home safe:

- Make sure you leave your home looking occupied by using timer switches on lights and lamps
- Keep doors and windows locked at all times and don't leave keys cash or valuables on show
- If you're going away, ask a neighbour or friend to open and close your curtains and pick up any post
- If you have a house alarm, make sure you set it before leaving the house
- Check security lighting is in full working order



Over the past month we have also received reports of anti-social behaviour and drug dealing in some parks and public places in Market Harborough and the surrounding villages. We're continuing to patrol these areas and will take action against offenders. We want to make sure our public spaces are safe for everyone to enjoy. If you see ASB or drug dealing taking place, we encourage you to report this to us by speaking with one of your local police officers, or by calling 101. To support our ongoing work, some of our partner agencies will also be speaking with local youths to help reduce the number of incidents.

We're delighted to introduce a new police officer to the Harborough Town and Bowdens Beat.

PC Abbie Noonan brings a wealth of experience to the team having originally joined Leicestershire Police as a special constable in 2012. During this time she has also worked in our control room as both a call taker and a dispatcher, and worked as an investigative support assistant before becoming a police officer in 2018.

