

A message from PCSO 14916 TOWLER

Greetings!

I have recently replaced PCSO Owen REEVES as PCSO beat officer for your area and have, in the past, worked closely with him on issues that affect Newtown and Soberton Heath. I like to take an old-fashioned, no-nonsense, hands-on approach and this has proved popular with residents and parish councils on my other beats, if not popular to those on the receiving end of it! I am here to respond to community concerns, prevent crime and disorder and offer reassurance. I am not necessarily here to be popular. Dedicated to my role and what it entails, I can tell you that if an issue matters to you then it definitely matters to me. Day-to-day quality of life issues are very important and if your quality of life is being affected by another then I need to know about it.

I am aware of issues that have affected your community in recent months such as theft of heating oil and metal, and my beat surgeries at Rookesbury Hall have allowed me to meet a number of residents and gauge feelings about local issues. Predominantly, speeding through the village is the greatest cause of concern and Speed Watch campaigns I have undertaken along Church Road have resulted in over HALF of all vehicles passing through breaking the speed limit. The owners of these vehicles have been written to, gently reminding them of their obligations. An official Speed Watch is in the process of being set up and when it is operational, repeat offenders will be written to, spoken to and visited regarding their speed.

A recent example being anti-social behaviour with vehicles. Issues around scrambler bikes in the woods have been drawn to my attention and information given to me via Parish Council has resulted in the owner of a van being visited and warned about transporting vehicles to the area to drive in a reckless, inconsiderate manner. Without this kind of information given to the police I cannot carry out the job to ensure that this sort of activity is reduced or stopped.

Policing today has to involve a two-way dialogue between ourselves and the public. Personally, I like to think of it as an unofficial contract. As a beat officer covering a large area I cannot be everywhere at once. Nor can I favour one area over another. The police, in part, relies on information from the public about what is happening. On this I am clear: If I do not know about something, then I cannot do anything about it. Reporting offences to parish council members - often days after the incident - is not useful and, in the vast majority of cases, pointless. I am a strong believer in reporting anything that concerns you to the proper authorities. This is simply done by calling 101 for non-emergencies and 999 for emergencies. The more I hear about activity in an area, the more of a picture I build up and better targeting of resources on these issues will result.

I am more than happy to drop in and visit any parishioner and hear what they have to say. I look forward to hearing from you!

Kind regards,
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