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Sun 14th March 2021

1. I'd like to thank the Parish Council for their continued support. Also for their Annual donation in supporting SNAST, which serves to help and support NHW Groups in the South Northants Area.
2. The last year has been an unprecedented year due to the Covid-19 pandemic causing numerous restrictions and lockdowns but even under these very difficult circumstances village life carries on. I've kept The Parish Council updated monthly by Email. I still keep the Village updated with issues via the Old Mail throughout the year on topical / seasonal issues, which remind us all too be vigilant when we are all out and about or at home.
3. We have a Dedicated Facebook Page for Potterspury, to keep people updated with recent / relevant crimes in our area, which also includes relevant Crime prevention Posters and advice.

4. I receive updates from The Police, Action for Fraud, The NCA (National Crime Agency) and other Agencies via Facebook & Twitter. Neighbourhood Alert helps me keep informed on Local issues including Crime Prevention matters but some messages cover other areas, this is because the Crime in question could easily be repeated where we live by the same criminal(s) on the same day. A good example of this is a distraction burglary.... Criminals quickly move around and it is useful to know who and what to look out for to prevent further incidents occurring elsewhere in the county.

We still have an extensive Police Website that contains a variety of useful information, both specific to our area and also of general interest, aiding interaction between the public and the Police. You can use the website (www.northants.police.uk) to report Crime, which can be quicker than ringing 101.

5. Fraud still continues to be a serious issue for us all. Scams to do with undelivered Parcel cards being left to Emails about renewing your TV License / Amazon Prime or Netflix accounts to Doorstep distraction burglaries. Criminals are also ringing people purporting to be from either their Bank, The Police or HMRC to obtain peoples Bank details.

We've seen an increase over the last year, where Criminals are using The Pandemic by sending a Txt's in regards to the Covid-19 Vaccine asking people to click on fake NHS looking links to obtain payment and provide Bank details, the NHS would never ask for payment and especially as the Vaccine is Free.

The advice is never click on any link contained in a Txt or E-mail, unless you are absolutely confident it's from who they say they are, always ring the relevant phone number for the company you hold the account with or from a reliable source.

6. Our yearly Crime figures are showing a downward trend and in the last year we've had no Alert messages concerning our lovely village, although we have still had suspicious vehicles driving around both day and night on occasions and suspicious persons wandering about, this still impacts on residents and the local community, which can be un-nerving leaving people feeling frustrated and Vulnerable, when this happens Potterspurry shows it still has a strong sense of community spirit with some residents

using various social media sites to convey information of concern or partake in vehicle patrols.

I still contact The Police directly to report Crime and also to seek information for the benefit of the village.

We saw an increase in persons breaking lockdown rules by gaining unauthorised access to The Skate Park in the Meadow View play area, which were reported to The Police.

It is important to report each incident at the time if possible by ringing 999 as it is a “crime in progress”, especially if there is additional issues like verbal abuse, ASB or a related vehicle registration number, The Police control room will then Triage the call and decide if it requires a 999 response. Alternatively it can be reported by ringing 101 or by going online to the Northants Police website.

It helps to report all incidents of Crime (even suspicions) as this in turn will help The Police to build up a picture of what is happening in our area.

7. Our CCTV cameras in Meadow View continue to help and are a great asset to the Village. I’ve helped local residents with advice concerning Crime prevention and referred them to the relevant bodies for further assistance if and where needed.

8. Northamptonshire Police has a Policing plan which puts the Public and Communities they serve at the heart of all they do.

A major new focus on local policing in Northamptonshire will more than double the number of neighbourhood police constables. Police officers in neighbourhood teams across rural and urban communities will be doubled, growing from 50 to 100 over the next 18 months, with an aim to add a further 60 in coming years. These will be additional officers to add to the neighbourhood police and PCSOs already working across the county. Neighbourhood policing will now be at the heart of our fight against crime, with visible, locally accountable policing to tackle the problems that matter to people. This new focus has been made possible by the increased number of police officers in the Force. Northamptonshire Police now has 1367 police officers compared with 1170 four years ago. This means that they can now strengthen the neighbourhood teams without taking resources from emergency response or other specialist areas of crime fighting. Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Stephen Mold said: “I know how much value people place on knowing that they have a local, neighbourhood policing team dedicated to

tackling problems in their area. “As our plans develop, we will make sure that every neighbourhood has a dedicated, named local team dealing with the issues that matter to them at the earliest opportunity.” We are also investing in two mobile police stations to give more visible and accessible local policing in our more remote and rural communities.

9. I have a stock of Crime Prevention items from our local SNAST Team which can be purchased by residents at cost price, these vary from Shed Alarms to mini personal alarms and also Smartwater kits for their properties and an array of leaflets / Stickers to give out. I hope to purchase more NHW signs for the Village this year, which I hope go some way to deter Criminals.

10. Our strong Community Spirit proves that we all wish the best for our village and there is a desire to look out for one another and keep it as safe as possible and not just in terms of Crime, The Village Volunteer Group still offers a support network for Vulnerable Residents.

11. Our Watch still moves forward for the future of our Community. I still strongly feel that what we are doing and should continue as the link between the local Community and the Police, is as vital as ever, especially in these uncertain times.

As your NHW Coordinator, I've recently agreed to take on the role of Police Liaison Representative (PLR) for Potterspurry Parish Council.

Be aware that the Biggest Crime we face is still the fear of Crime.

Craig Coppin

NHW Coordinator

Enc:

- South Northants Neighbourhood Teams Annual Report
- The Little Book of Big Scams
- 2020 Breakdown of Crimes for Potterspury
- Yrly Comparison of Crime Figures
- Northamptonshire Police Statement Re: Praise from HMICFRS