

Police Report July 2023

We received a total of 325 calls this month which was a reduction on the 342 last month and of these calls 104 crimes were recorded which are broken down into offence groups below. For ease of comparison I've included the same period last year:

July 2023 – Total 104

Offence Group	Q	Crime Count
Violence Against The Person		52
Arson and Criminal Damage		15
Public Order Offences		11
Theft		11
Vehicle Offences		5
Sexual Offences		4
Burglary		2
Robbery		2
Drug Offences		1
Possession of Weapons		1

July 2022 – Total 75

Offence Group	Q	Crime Count
Violence Against The Person		36
Public Order Offences		12
Arson and Criminal Damage		8
Theft		8
Sexual Offences		3
Vehicle Offences		3
Burglary		2
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society		1
Possession of Weapons		1

To add some context to the figures, as much as this is a reduction on last month, it is an increase on the same period last year but this is to be expected with our improved crime recording standards under Home Office Counting Rules.

Our main focus throughout July has been to make crime prevention preparations for the school holidays and to put measures in place to tackle and deter anti-social behaviour. At the beginning of the month we suffered a spate of vandalism in the form of broken windows in the town centre along with the damage to Wellington Park in mid-July. The park is the jewel in Wellington's crown and something the town is rightly proud of so this was a shameful, senseless act. Fortunately our team was patrolling that evening and were quickly on scene at the park to gather the relevant evidence and identify those responsible. We now have a small cohort of young people we are routinely targeting and they have been referred for a combination of enforcement sanctions and restorative conditions to prevent further offending behaviour throughout the summer. I was very pleased to see the swift repair work undertaken at the park the following morning and the awarding of Green Flag status once again was the perfect recovery.

A suspect has now been identified and linked to a series of catalytic convertor thefts, some of which occurred in Wellington and that investigation continues. We are able to provide advice and crime prevention marking kits for anyone worried about this type of theft and would urge anyone seeing persons acting suspiciously around or underneath vehicles to call 999 immediately.

I visited Tonedale Mill as part of a group of interested parties to meet with the owner to discuss the security of the site and make some urgent recommendations. Both ourselves and the Fire Service had received numerous calls in recent weeks of persons climbing inside and on some occasions of fires being lit. The hazards and dangers within the site are of such severity that neither of our services would be prepared to enter the buildings. We stressed to the owner the immediate importance of properly securing the site and that there would need to be physical security patrols from now on as this was their responsibility as owner. Not only is this a safety issue but to preserve the integrity of this historical site. To date we have received no further reports of intruders and there will be a further site visit and review in due course to ensure our expectations are met.

We are involved with and supporting a campaign of youth diversion activities over the summer and you will have seen on our Facebook page the success of the free football sessions on Tuesday evenings with over 30 young people attending. A huge thank you to Wellington F.C. and Live West for their support with this project which goes from strength to strength in popularity. We have also just begun our Airsoft project with the first groups attending to prepare the playing area and try out the equipment. Our aim is never to reward poor behaviour, but these initiatives can be used as incentives to encourage or recognise improvements as well as a diversionary activity for those who feel there is nothing available for them to do. If anyone would like their children take part in any of our summer activities then please get in touch with us.

Finally, I am pleased to announce the arrival of a new addition to our team; PCSO Brianna Whelan. Brianna joined us for her first shifts last week and on completion of tutorship she will be joining Simon Bramley and Steve Hill covering the Wellington Town beat. This will bolster our coverage within the town centre and I know Brianna is keen to get out and get stuck in!

If anyone has any questions or enquiries they wish to make with the team, the enquiry office at Wellington Police Station is open from 10am – 2pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. We can be contacted via our social media accounts, the Avon & Somerset Police website or by calling 101. Alternatively, feel free to stop any one of us whilst we're out on patrol and we'll always be happy to speak with you.

Jon O'Connor

Neighbourhood Sergeant for Wellington