

REPORTED CRIMES OF INTEREST FOR THE BASSETLAW EAST CLAYWORTH/STURTON BEAT AREA – MARCH 2019.

The Clayworth/ Sturton beat area includes the following villages and hamlets – Drakeholes, Wiseton, Clayworth, Hayton, Clarborough, Welham, Tiln, North Leverton with Habbleshthorpe, North Wheatley, South Wheatley, Sturton le Steeple, Bole, West Burton, Littleborough, Coates and Fenton.

The crimes of interest – incidents of burglary, criminal damage and thefts – reported for the beat area between 01/03/2019 and 31/03/2019 were –

Burglary Dwelling – 1 (Hayton).
Burglary Other – 2 (Sturton le Steeple, North Wheatley).
Criminal Damage to a Motor Vehicle – 1 (Sturton le Steeple).
Theft Other – 3 (Hayton, North Wheatley, Clarborough).

This month there have been seven reported crimes of interest across the whole beat area. This compares with seven crimes reported throughout February 2019, and three crimes reported over the same period last year.

From 01/04/2018, over the year period, there have been seventy eight crimes of interest reported across the beat area. This compares with sixty six reported in the same period last year. As such, over the course of the full year, these figures equate to an increase in reported crime in that period of twelve crimes.

This month there has been five reported incidents of anti-social behaviour across the whole beat area. This compares with four reported incidents for February 2019 and four reported for the same month in 2018. The anti-social behaviour umbrella covers a wide range of incident types including hoax calls to the emergency services, found/ abandoned vehicles and wildlife/ animal issues.

It has become noticeable to me, and I am sure to most of you too, that there would seem to be an increase in the number of vehicles driving around the area where the occupants are looking for scrap metal. I have been advised that the price of scrap metal is still quite low, but this does not seem to have prevented an increase in this type of activity. Many of these drivers do tend to have the appropriate documentation to carry out this activity – however, some don't. Please continue to report this type of activity to the control room and, a polite reminder, to ensure that any metal items of value are, where possible, not visible from the public highway or secured accordingly.

The Police continue to receive calls from farmers, landowners and members of the public in relation to vehicles, and their occupants, being involved in wildlife crime. These calls are encouraged. A few years ago, now, Operation Bifocal was introduced by Nottinghamshire Police to target this type of activity and behaviour. As part of the operation, the local beat teams now have access to an unmarked vehicle, which is suitable for use off road, and a quad bike. In the past, a neighbouring forces drone has been used to identify potential offenders. Some Nottinghamshire officers have now been trained in the use of drones. Whilst committing these wildlife crimes, offenders have been causing damage, also, to farmers and landowners fields, crops and perimeter gates and hedging.

At this time of the year, there is always an increase in the number of uninvited callers to residents' properties. Usually these calls are in relation to having work completed at the property, usually on the outside, or in the garden areas.

The Trading Standards department advise local residents to search the www.checkatrade.com website for reputable trades persons, and to always get three quotes prior to allowing work to

commence. The Trading Standards team continually review this site and vet those companies which are registered.

Any queries or concerns around work carried out and/ or workers concerned should be firstly addressed to Consumer Direct.

There are, however, some tradesmen who travel the country attempting to exploit the vulnerability, and generosity, of some of our local residents.

These persons will attempt to negotiate a cost as soon as possible for work to be completed. They might also try to eliminate the period that a prospective customer has, legally, to change their mind in having work completed. This can easily be done by covering up that part of the contract document and getting the customer to sign which, in effect, overrides that part of the agreement.

Over the last few years the trading standards department have shown an interest in a number of tradesmen where contract irregularities have been identified.

Trading Standards said it would never recommend employing a trader based on a cold call. They also suggest :

- **Don't be lured in by the promise of discounts, one day only offers and "this deal is only available now".**
- **Don't believe the scare stories a seller may tell you – they are rarely true.**
- **Don't believe genuine companies have lots of left over products or cancelled orders.**
- **Don't leave large sums of money in the home.**

The control room continue to receive reports from community members of sightings of suspicious persons, vehicles and activity across the beat area. These calls are important to us all and do help in keeping reported crime figures relatively low across the beat area.

My contact number is 07525 226838 and my E mail address is david.airey@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk PC 3258 Jason FELLOWS is the beat manager for the beat area, has a contact number of 07525 226893, and his E mail address is jason.fellows@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk

Please do not use these telephone numbers to report incidents and/ or crimes. Our works numbers should only be used for non-urgent matters – including seeking advice and/ or information.

Thanks, as ever, for your continued help and support – it is very much appreciated.
Best Regards.

PCSO 8139 Dave Airey.