



Avon and Somerset Police **NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING**

Parish & Town Councils **Burglary Briefing Document & Crime Prevention Advice** **December 2023**

We currently have a series of dwelling burglaries across Nailsea, Backwell, Long Ashton and Failand, some of which are targeting high value cars on driveways. Other areas are affected but not to the same extent.

To tackle these burglaries, we have put plans in place to target offenders utilising our dedicated burglary team.

We are doing leaflet drops to neighbouring properties, involving our crime prevention officers, arranging safer homes visits and carrying out patrols of the crime hotspots with hi-visibility foot and vehicle patrols and engaging with residents and offering crime prevention advice.

Officers are attending all burglaries utilising forensic opportunities, doing house to house enquiries, utilising ANPR (automatic number plate recognition) and viewing CCTV and Video doorbell footage.

We also have additional overnight patrols from 1am to 5am.

If residents have any information about individuals involved in criminality, or they have any concerns about someone who is vulnerable in their community, they can contact the Nailsea & Villages NPT by emailing them directly at: SomNorthNPTNailsea@avonandsomerset.police.uk by ringing 101 or using the police online reporting system at: <https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report>

People can also visit their local Neighbourhood Policing Team Webpage, which includes information about the officers who cover their area, see what policing priorities have been set, get crime stats, see any events the team are attending and there is a form to make contact with them at: <https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/your-area>

We also have a dedicated crime prevention website at: www.aspolicestaysafe.co.uk which has lots of information about how to keep yourself and your property safe.

We have publicised these issues through our Facebook Page and shared to the relevant Facebook Groups but we recognise that not everyone is online, so we are asking Parish and Town Councils to make this information available in printed form as well as putting out on their own communication channels.

The following pages provide some guidance on crime prevention how to reduce being a victim of crime.



General Crime Prevention Advice

As the nights are starting to draw-in, the most important thing to prevent burglary is to make the home look as if it's occupied. The use of lights on timer switches is recommended, and if you can also put one on a radio tuned to a talk station that will also make it sound like someone is in and having a conversation. Fake TV lights are now available, which gives the impression that someone is watching television, and these can work well if you have them in an upstairs bedroom.

Ensure that all doors and windows are closed and properly locked – use a key, don't just lift the door handle. Take the keys out of the door when it's locked and put them somewhere out of sight and reach, but make sure all the residents know where they are kept in case of emergency.

Sheds, garages, and outbuildings are popular targets for burglars, so increase the security to these whenever possible. Check that the contents of these places are included on our home and contents insurance.

Register your belongings on the Immobilise property register. If anything lost or stolen is handed to the police you have a good chance of getting your property returned.

Restrict access to the rear of your property wherever possible – lock any side gates leading to the rear – as the back or patio doors are the most popular site of forced entry. Think about growing some thorny bushes along the garden fencing.

Lock away ladders or any tools that could help a burglar and secure any garden furniture or wheelie bins that can be moved to help gain access to an extension or first floor window.

If you're taking the car with you, ask a neighbour to use your driveway while you are away to make the home look occupied.

Cut the lawn and keep the garden tidy. Long grass suggests that the house is empty, or the occupant is unable to look after the garden.

Consider installing a burglar alarm – they are a real deterrent – but get an approved or recommended model, as the cheap ones aren't really that reliable and if the alarm keeps going off your neighbours will soon lose interest and may ignore a real activation.

Don't forget to cancel any milk or newspaper deliveries and postpone ordering anything that may arrive while you're away.



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Secure Patio Doors

Patio doors are a common point of entry for burglars, as 95% of the glass fitted to the doors is toughened rather than laminated which is far more secure.

There are a number of steps you can take to help secure your patio doors. Fitting stronger, reinforced door handles prevents the handles being broken off to access the lock cylinder. Fitting a "Patlock" or similar device between both handles on the inside of French doors can help to strengthen the locking mechanism.

For a visual deterrent, fitting a glass shock alarm (about £5 each) to the glass makes burglars think that an alarm will sound when the glass is smashed, or the door lock/handle is attacked forcefully.

You should always take steps to prevent intruders getting to the rear of your property by locking any side gates. Deter people climbing over fences/walls by growing thorny plants such as pyracantha. Simply fitting a length of 3"x2" wood that lies on the floor can prevent the attacked door from sliding open in some circumstances (if it's the inner door that slides across and not the outer one)



Personal Safety

With all the distractions in the run up to Christmas or any holiday, it's easy to forget about your own safety.

Protect your personal possessions

- Keep your bags/purses/wallets/iPods/cameras out of sight – don't advertise your stuff.
- Don't leave your phones or wallet/purses on a table. They could be snatched by a passer-by.
- Register your property on the Immobilise website.
- Visit the police Protect Your Property from Thieves page.

In pubs and clubs

- Look after your friends. Don't let them go off on their own if they're worse for wear.
- Plan your journey home. Pre-book a taxi or arrange a lift with a designated driver. Let someone know about your plans – and tell them if they change. Never accept a lift from a stranger or a taxi that pulls up without a plate showing their taxi licence number and their licensing area.
- Never leave your drink unattended. Be wary if it looks or tastes different. Tell someone if you suddenly feel unwell.
- If you see any trouble or suspect that it might be about to start, keep clear. Alert the police.

On foot

- Stay alert and be aware of your surroundings. Look and act confidently.
- Avoid walking alone if possible.
- Cover up jewellery, mobile phones and iPods and keep your bag close to your body.
- Never hitchhike.
- Stick to well-lit busy streets and be vigilant. Plan your route ahead.
- Walk facing oncoming traffic so a car cannot pull up behind you.
- If you regularly go walking or jogging, vary your route and avoid wearing headphones.
- When going to your car or home, have your keys ready at hand.
- If you think you're being followed, go to the busiest place you can find or knock on a door. Then call the police.
- If you are attacked, shout for help as loudly as you can or shout for someone to contact the police. Use your personal attack alarm. Try to get to a safe place and call the police.
- If someone attempts to take something from you, consider letting them have it rather than risk being hurt.