

Police Report – General Overview: 18/11/22

Data over the last 12 weeks:

Over the last 12 week period there have been 2,263 incidents reported to police in the Ashington area. There have been 898 crimes recorded from these incidents, the majority being in relation to violent crime (without injury), so this is typically threats of violence. Theft makes up the second largest portion of crime followed by criminal damage.

Issues of note

- Shoplifting – a high percentage of our theft crime is in relation to shoplifting. I know this issue has caused some debate so I will explain our stance in more detail.
- We have seen an increase in theft from motor vehicle offences and burglary type offences (this is made up of garages and sheds).
- Speeding is regularly reported as an issue – again, I will give a further update in relation to this, and I have a proposal to put forward for some assistance. I would like to run an operation in Ashington in our hotspot areas for speeding motorists. As part of the operation, I would like to drug test the drivers at the roadside. Unfortunately, we do not have many of these tests available but if there was any money available from councillors who would be interested in tackling the issue then I would be grateful for their assistance. Speeding isn't restricted to one ward in Ashington, it's across the whole area.

Other Items of Note & Good Work

- I have been working with some of the councillors and other partners regarding the Hirst area. We're currently trying to work towards a plan for the area which will also affect the rest of Ashington in the long term – I will explain more in person
- The CCTV that was put in place to overlook the Community Woods had an immediate impact regarding the fires. We were able to identify some kids who were caught setting fires, they were spoken to in front of their parents and referred into the extinguish programme. The issues significantly reduced and we've only had one recent report but again the camera footage was excellent.
- We have recently made some excellent arrests in relation to some of our sector targets, who had committed burglaries, theft from motor vehicle and shoplifting offences between them. All of which are now serving prison sentences.
- We have now moved into our Winter Initiative phase where we will be focusing on violent crime and anti-social behaviour in particular. We will be carrying out extra patrols in our hotspot areas in the early evenings and then concentrate on our night-time economy later on the evenings. This will be taking place every Friday and Saturday from this weekend until the 18th December and also include the nights of the England football matches.
- I will also talk about social media and reporting incidents to police.