

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 28th July 2019

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Northwich flat closed following persistent anti-social behaviour

A Northwich flat plagued by persistent anti-social behaviour has been closed thanks to work by the local policing team.

On Friday 19 July officers from Northwich Local Policing Unit (LPU) secured a closure order for the flat in Brockhurst House, Heber Walk. Officers applied for the order, which was granted by Chester Magistrates' Court under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, after gathering a catalogue of evidence in relation to numerous incidents of anti-social behaviour connected to the property. Following the hearing the tenant, a 54-year-old woman, has been removed from the address and the flat has been boarded up for a period of up to three months.

Police Constable Alasdair Bett said: "Over the past six months there have been multiple reports of anti-social behaviour connected to the apartment. This has included comings and goings at all hours and numerous reports of arguments and disturbances within the flat. The behaviour of the tenant and her numerous visitors was totally unacceptable and had a significant detrimental impact on the quality of life for other residents living in the area. We want people to be able to live in their homes without having to endure this sort of behaviour and the closure order that has been secured represents another example of our commitment to targeting those who undermine our communities and bring misery to residents. This order comes less than two weeks after we closed a bungalow on Malpas Road and I hope that these orders act as a warning to other people who are complacent in allowing their properties to be used for anti-social or criminal activity. I want to thank the local residents for their support. Officers will continue to monitor the property over the coming months to ensure that there are no breaches of the closure order."

Over the next three months regular checks of the flat will be conducted. If anyone is found to have breached the order they are liable to be arrested and face up to six months in prison or a £5,000 fine, or both.

Anyone who is concerned about anti-social behaviour in their community is urged to call Cheshire Constabulary on 101 or provide the details via <https://cheshire.police.uk/contact/general-enquiries>. Alternatively residents can report information anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Three people charged with class A drugs offences following raid in Crewe

Three people have been charged with class A drug offences after officers raided a property in Crewe.

The warrant was executed in Brooklyn Street at around 11am yesterday, Thursday 25 July. Quantities of what are believed to be class A drugs and cash were seized during the raid. Twenty-year-old man Jamie Taggart and 37-year-old woman Corrine Hudson were arrested at the address. Forty two-year-old man Craig Bennett was arrested a short distance away in Brooklyn Street. They have all subsequently been charged with Conspiracy to supply class A drugs. Liverpool man Taggart, of no fixed address, has also been charged

with possession of criminal property. Taggert; Hudson, of Oldfield Avenue, Wrenbury, Nantwich; and Bennett, of Brooklyn Street, Crewe; have all been remanded in custody. The trio are set to appear at Crewe Magistrates' Court today, Friday 26 July. The warrant was executed by officers investigating the supply of class A drugs in Crewe that are suspected to have originated from Liverpool.

Week-long enforcement campaign highlights the importance of transporting goods safely

Vehicle operators and drivers of goods vehicles are being reminded of the importance of transporting dangerous goods safely and load security in a week-long national enforcement campaign which started on 22nd July.

Co-ordinated by the National Police Chiefs' Council, the campaign aims to highlight the risks both to drivers and other road users if goods aren't transported properly. Cheshire Police will be carrying out proactive enforcement to identify unsafe vehicles and take appropriate action to keep the roads safe. Dangerous goods are items or material that can pose a risk to people, animals, or the environment if not properly handled in use or during transport. They include goods that can easily catch fire, are corrosive, or are radioactive. It's very important that dangerous goods are packaged properly, loaded and secured to stop them moving around inside the vehicle, and that the vehicle carries safety equipment, has identifying markings to show that it is carrying dangerous goods, and is driven by a driver trained to deal with dangerous goods. It is essential that, whatever load is being carried, it is secured properly on the vehicle. If loads are not secured, they can fall from the vehicle on the road, or move so much they make the vehicle unstable. Unstable loads can also fall out of or off the vehicle when it arrives for unloading. While drivers are responsible for the safety of their vehicle on the road, consignors and vehicle operators are also responsible for ensuring that the load a vehicle carries is safe and secure from the point of loading right through to unloading.

PC Martyn Campbell, of the Constabulary's commercial vehicle unit, said: "We are targeting commercial vehicles which could be dangerously transporting hazardous materials on our roads. This week of action aims to drive home the message that not complying with legislation is potentially dangerous to other road users and completely unacceptable. Drivers of suspect vehicles will be checked to ensure they have the appropriate paperwork and equipment to deal with any issues. We will also ensure drivers are complying with the drivers' hours legislation and that they are taking suitable breaks."

Lee Webb, Driver & Vehicles Standards Agency National Enforcement Delivery Manager said: "DVSA's priority is to protect everyone from unsafe drivers and vehicles. Load security is vitally important. An insecure load can affect a vehicle's stability and in severe cases a shifting load can put lives at risk. Working with the police and other partner agencies like this is an efficient use of public funds which will make Britain's roads even safer."

For more information on load security, please go to <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/load-securing-vehicle-operator-guidance/load-securing-vehicle-operator-guidance>

Men jailed after using Chester restaurant as a base to deal drugs

Two men who used a restaurant in Chester as a base to run their drug deals have been sentenced.

Jaher Ahmed, aged 28, of Linden Grove in Chester received five years and Imran Hussain, aged 26, of Ullswater Crescent in Chester was sentenced to four years and six months for conspiracy to supply cocaine, cannabis and MDMA. Both men pleaded guilty and were sentenced at Chester Crown Court

on Tuesday 23 July. Ahmed would collect cocaine, cannabis and MDMA from a house on Cross Street in Sale, travel back to Chester and supply the drugs on to the city's streets. While Ahmed ran Spice Balti on Brook Street Chester, he would also use the restaurant as a meeting place to arrange drug deals. Hussain was a family friend of Ahmed and would regularly meet him at the restaurant. His role was to deal the drugs through the use of mobile phones.



Jaher Ahmed

Imran Hussain

On 11 October 2018 Ahmed and Hussain were stopped by police as they drove through Chester in the early hours of the morning. Cash was found within pockets of Hussain's clothing totalling £1,500 and cocaine along with two mobile phones were also seized. Inside the BMW police also recovered a mobile phone and car keys to a Mercedes Benz. Ahmed told police the car he was driving was a rented car and he was delivering food for the restaurant. A search of the Mercedes Benz on Brook Street in Chester saw police seize more cash and cannabis. At Hussain's house in Upton, officers found money he said was 'from the restaurant' and bags of cocaine and MDMA, which he claimed were for his own personal use. The arrests sparked a covert seven month operation by Chester Local Policing Unit with support from the Serious and Organised Crime Unit.

In January 2019 police searched Spice Balti, Flavours restaurant on Commonhall Street in Chester, one house on Ullswater Crescent in Chester and a house on Cross Street in Sale. MDMA with a street value of £31,000 was recovered from the address on Cross Street and in the boot of a VW Golf at Winchester House along with around £45,000 worth of cocaine. At an address on Winchester House police seized £9,000 of cannabis. In total £33,000 worth of cash was recovered as part of the investigation.

Chief Inspector Carlos Brunes, of Chester Local Policing Unit, said: "Ahmed and Hussain were part of an organised crime group who tried to conceal their drug dealing through the restaurant. Our suspicions began when they were arrested in October which sparked several months of covert surveillance to fully uncover their criminal acts. Often organised criminals will try to conceal their drug dealing through a business and more often than not are living well above their means. I would encourage the public to come forward if they have any suspicions of drug activity similar to the ones carried out by these two men. The local community are our eyes and ears and you can have confidence in us that we will take action when information is passed to us."

Information can be provided by calling Cheshire Police on 101, Crimestoppers anonymously by calling 0800 555 111 or by email <https://cheshire.police.uk/contact/general-enquiries> To find out more about serious and organised crime please [visit our website](#) .

Police cyber safety messages welcomed by RHS Tatton visitors

The Cheshire Constabulary Cyber Crime garden attracted thousands of visitors over the five days of the RHS Tatton flower show.

Plant lovers flocked to the garden not only to admire the silver medal-winning 5Cs cyber safety design but also to learn about how to stay safe online as officers sowed the seeds of online safety.



Sponsored by Barclays Bank and designed and created by horticulture students from Reaseheath College, officers from the force's cyber crime unit were able to share, in a unique and colourful setting, safety messages that can increase personal online security by up to 80 per cent. This can be done by following five simple rules, which we have called the 5Cs – Create, Cover, Confidentiality, Clicking and Connection.

Deputy Chief Constable Julie Cooke attended RHS Tatton to meet visitors to the cyber crime garden: "I was delighted to see so many people wanting to engage with us in this unique setting, many of whom had personal experience of unwanted cyber activity. Everyone I spoke to welcomed our 5Cs campaign and was pleased to see positive action being taken to help prevent cyber crime."

The Cyber Crime garden featured on BBC2's coverage of the flower show with both Jo Whiley and Adam Frost presenting pieces in front of the 5Cs steel structures surrounded by a colourful display of flowers and foliage with lighter shades depicting the steps people should take to avoid falling victim to cyber crime and contrasting darker shades showing the criminal aspect.

Officers also welcomed Cheshire's Police and Crime Commissioner David Keane who thanked Barclays Bank for their sponsorship and Reaseheath students for creating such a beautiful garden full of opportunities to educate people about cyber crime.

More information about the 5Cs guide to online safety can be found at [The 5Cs guide to online safety](#)



Man charged following serious assault in Crewe

A 39-year-old man has been charged following a serious assault in Crewe.

Sylvester Aksamit, of no fixed address, was arrested in the Mount Pleasant area of the town shortly after 5pm on Tuesday 23 July. He has subsequently been charged with causing grievous bodily harm with intent. The charge relates to an incident in Mount Pleasant shortly before 5pm on Tuesday 23 July. The victim is a 56-year-old man from Crewe. Following the incident the victim was taken to hospital via an ambulance,

where he remains receiving treatment. Aksamit has been remanded in custody and is set to appear at Crewe Magistrates' Court tomorrow, Friday 26 July.

Fake taxi driver jailed for sexual assault

A fake taxi driver who sexually assaulted a woman on her way home from Chester has been jailed.

Nadeem Sultan, of Stamford Road, Old Trafford, Greater Manchester, appeared at Chester Crown Court today, Wednesday 24 July, where he was sentenced to two years in prison. He was also handed a 10-year Sexual Harm Prevention Order. The 46-year-old had earlier been found guilty of sexual assault by touching following a three-day trial. He had also pleaded guilty to touting a private hire vehicle and driving without insurance.



In the early hours of Sunday 23 December the victim, a 22-year-old woman, had been out in Chester with friends. At around 3.30am she became separated from them and stopped to help a man claiming to be ill at the side of the road near Debenhams. The victim decided that the best thing to do was to take him home. She then proceeded to flag down what she thought was a taxi on Eastgate Street. Once they were in the car, a silver Renault Espace, the victim gave the driver the details of the required drop off points. Unbeknownst to her, the vehicle she had stopped was actually a private car being driven by Sultan, who did not have a licence to operate as a taxi driver and was not insured to drive the car. A short distance into the journey it became clear that the man found near Debenhams was not actually ill but was using the victim to get a free taxi ride home. As a result Sultan ordered the man to leave the car. Alarmed and shocked by Sultan's actions, the victim became visibly upset. Alone with the victim, who was sat on the front passenger seat, Sultan plied her with a constant flow of compliments regarding her looks, telling her that she was perfect and that he 'could never find a woman like her'. He then put his hand on the victim's leg, with his fingers on her inner thigh, and began to stroke her. Frightened by his actions, and concerned that she was in an extremely vulnerable position, the victim immediately pushed Sultan's hand away and asked him to stop. A short time later, when the car was stationary, the victim managed to get out of the vehicle. She fled into a wooded area, from where she called for support.

Neighbourhood Inspector Emma Parry, of Chester Local Policing Unit, said: "Sultan subjected his victim to a terrifying ordeal. She was alone, trapped in a vehicle with a man she had never met before who had targeted her to fulfil his own sexual gratification. The victim placed her trust in Sultan, believing that he was a genuine taxi driver. He totally abused this trust. Being inappropriately touched and sexually assaulted by a stranger is the stuff of nightmares and I cannot praise the victim enough for her bravery in reporting her ordeal to the police and giving evidence against Sultan in court."

Police Constable William McMillan, Chester City Centre Beat Manager, added: "I would also like to pay tribute to the victim for the courage that she has shown throughout this investigation. Thanks to her bravery, and the hard work of officers here at Chester, Sultan is now behind bars facing the consequences of his actions. I hope that the custodial sentence that Sultan has been handed will provide reassurance to the victim and deter others from committing similar offences."

Insp Parry said: "We treat all reports of sexual offences extremely seriously and any such allegations will be thoroughly investigated, with the wishes and needs of the victim as our main priority. Victims should never

feel ashamed to talk about what has happened to them. They will receive the help and support they need from our specialist officers, as well as from other support agencies we work alongside.”

To report a sexual offence call Cheshire Constabulary on 101. Information can also be passed anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.

Wilmslow firefighters host multi-agency open day

Wilmslow Community Fire Station is opening its doors to the public this weekend for an event that promises something for all ages.

Held from 10am to 3pm on Saturday 27 July, the free annual open day will be hosted at the station on Altrincham Road in partnership with Cheshire Police and North West Ambulance Service. The event will include a number of safety displays, including height safety and road traffic collision demonstrations conducted by firefighters and police officers. Visitors will also have the chance to look around a variety of fire and rescue vehicles, including vintage fire engines, the technical rescue unit from Lymm and the animal rescue unit from Bollington.

Wilmslow Community Fire Station Manager Lloyd Blower said: “This is a great way for the community to learn more about their local fire station and some of the work we undertake. The crew will be doing operational demonstrations throughout the day, along with a number of other activities to keep visitors entertained. It will be a fun and informative day for all the family and we want as many people to come along as possible. You will learn a lot about the life of a firefighter and the roles that they and the station play in serving the community, and you will also pick up some vital safety messages to keep you and your family safe.”

George Vlastos, Wilmslow Community Sergeant at Cheshire Police, added: “This year will be the first joint open day in Wilmslow and I am really looking forward to meeting local residents and showcasing some of the work we do at Cheshire Police. Residents will also have the opportunity to see some of the vehicles and equipment we use, meet their local officers and speak to them about any concerns or issues they may have.”

Refreshments will be available to buy on the day, including ice cream and icy drinks. For more information about the open day call 01606 868700 or visit www.cheshirefire.gov.uk/news-events/events .

Tribute issued following fatal collision in Widnes

The family of a 75-year-old man who died following a collision in Widnes have paid tribute to him.

Owen Batty passed away on Monday 15 July following a collision on Derby Road, near to Mill Lane. The incident involved a grey BMW X1, being driven by Mr Batty, and a silver Nissan Note. Following Mr Batty’s death his family have now issued the following tribute: “Owen was a gentle man with a brilliant sense of humour. He will be truly missed by his family and everyone who ever knew him.” Mr Batty’s funeral will be held at Widnes Crematorium at 12pm on Friday 26 July. Family flowers only and any donations are to be made to North West Air Ambulance.

Anyone with information in relation to the collision is asked to call Cheshire Police on 101, quoting incident number IML 456682, or you can send in information via our website on <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/contact/general-enquiries/>

HGV drivers caught committing 87 driving offences on the motorways

More than 80 driving offences were committed by heavy goods vehicle drivers during a two week road safety operation.

From the 7 to 17 July officers from the North West Regional Commercial Vehicle Unit dealt with 72 drivers for various offences including driving while using a mobile phone, not wearing a seat belt and parking on the hard shoulder. In total 87 offences from 69 lorry drivers were detected during the operation as officers patrolled the motorway. These offences included 10 drivers found to be using a mobile phone, 23 drivers found not to be in proper control of the vehicle, 36 driving without wearing a seatbelt, two who were found parking on the hard shoulder and 16 various other offences. Officers used an unmarked heavy goods vehicle supplied by Highways England to gather video evidence and monitor driver behaviour.



PC Chris Buckley, of the North West Commercial Vehicle Unit, said: “While this was a successful operation it is disappointing that some lorry drivers are still committing driving offences. Lorry drivers should know that the law is in place to ensure the safety of not only themselves but other road users too. I hope drivers will see this operation as a warning and that officers up and down the country may be patrolling in an unmarked HGV and monitoring your driver behaviour.”

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Appeal for witnesses following two robberies in Northwich

Detectives from Northwich CID are appealing for information from the public following two separate robberies in the Middlewich Road area.

The first incident occurred at approximately 7pm on Thursday 25 July , when a 16-year-old local boy was approached by two unknown men in Griffiths Park. The men assaulted him and rifled through his belongings before fleeing the scene empty handed, running onto Middlewich Road near to the Co-Op. The victim, who sustained minor injuries as a result of the incident, could only describe the suspects as being men - one was black and one was white. A short time later, between 7.15pm and 7.30pm, two men, age 17 and 18 from Manchester, were walking on Middlewich Road, near to the ARC car wash, when a white car pulled up at the side of the road. Three unknown men then got out of the car and began to assault the victims and stole a Gucci bag one of the men was carrying. As the incident was ongoing a good Samaritan stopped at the scene and offered the victims a lift in her car. They were then taken to a safe location. One of the men sustained serious injuries as result of the incident and is currently being treated in hospital; the second man suffered minor injuries.

Detective Constable Paul Cundy said: “Incidents of this nature are rare in the Northwich area and we are committed to doing all that we can to trace the people responsible and bring them to justice. The investigations into these incidents are in their early stages and we are currently following a number of lines of enquiry. At the current time we are keeping an open mind as to whether the two incidents are linked. As

part of our investigations we are keen to hear from anyone who was in the Middlewich Road area between 6.45pm and 7.30pm and believes they may have witnessed something which may assist our investigations. The same goes for anyone who believes they may have CCTV or dashcam footage that could aid our investigations.”

Anyone with information or CCTV footage regarding either of the incidents is asked to contact Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 467239, or via our website, at www.cheshire.police.uk/contact/general-enquiries. Dashcam footage can be submitted online at www.cheshire.police.uk/advice-and-support/roads-and-vehicle-safety/submit-dashcam-footage.

Appeal to trace three men following town centre incident in Warrington

Police have released CCTV images of three men they are looking to speak to in connection with an incident in Warrington Town Centre.

Detectives believe that the men may be able to assist with an investigation into an incident that occurred on Bridge Street between 12.30pm and 4pm on Thursday 2 May. Officers are urging anyone who recognises them or thinks they may know who the men are to get in touch.



Detective Sergeant Alison McLoughlin, of Warrington CID, said: “Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and we believe that the men in the CCTV may be able to assist with our investigation. If you think you recognise the men in the CCTV images or know who they are please call the team here at Warrington on 101, quoting IML 390092, give us the details via <https://cheshire.police.uk/contact/general-enquiries> or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. I would also like to appeal directly to the men in the CCTV images to get in touch.”

CCTV image released following vehicle theft in Warrington

Police have released a CCTV image of a man they are looking to speak to in connection with the theft of a motor vehicle from a garage in Warrington.

Sometime between 2.30pm and 3.30pm on Saturday 25 May an unknown man entered the office of a garage on Milner Street and stole the keys to a white VW Golf GTI before driving off from the forecourt. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and as part of the investigation officers are keen to speak to the man in the CCTV images as they believe he may be able to assist.

Police Constable Rob Catterall, from Warrington Beat Initiative Team, said: “The investigation into this incident is currently ongoing and as part of my enquiries I’m keen to speak to the man in CCTV images as I believe he may hold vital information. If you think you recognise the man or know who he is please call the team here at Warrington on 101. I would also like to appeal directly to the man in the CCTV image to get in touch.”



Anyone with any information is asked to call Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML42047, give us the details

via <https://cheshire.police.uk/contact/general-enquiries> or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

E-fit released by detectives investigating non-recent sexual offences in Warrington

Detectives have released an e-fit of a man they want to speak to in connection with an investigation into non-recent sexual offences in Warrington.

The female victim was 11 when the offences occurred in the Croft area in the summer of 1998. They were reported to police earlier this year. Enquiries in relation to the offences have been ongoing since then and as part of their investigation detectives want to hear from anyone who recognises the man in the e-fit and believes that they may know who he is. The e-fit depicts how the man looked in 1998.

Detective Constable Gareth French, who is leading the investigating, said: "We think that the man in the e-fit may have vital information in relation to our investigation into serious sexual offences which took place in the Croft area of Warrington in the summer of 1998. We believe that he may have had links to the horse riding community in Croft or the surrounding areas at the time the offences occurred and urge anyone with any information regarding the man to contact the team here at Warrington Police Station. I would also like to appeal directly to the man to get in touch."



The victim has been supported by specialist officers ever since the offences were reported to the police.

DC French added: "Cheshire Constabulary takes all reports of sexual offences extremely seriously, no matter how long ago incidents took place. I encourage anyone who has been a victim, or a witness, of a sexual offence to report it to the police – they should never feel ashamed to talk about what happened."

Anyone who recognises the man in the e-fit or believes that they may know who he is should contact Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting reference number 19000015907, or give the details via <https://cheshire.police.uk/contact/general-enquiries> or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Police re-issue appeal following assault outside Knutsford supermarket

Police investigating an assault in March outside a supermarket in Knutsford have re-issued their appeal for witnesses to come forward.

At 1am on Sunday 10 March a 30-year-old man was walking with a group of people along Princess Street when there was a verbal altercation between him and another group of men. One of the men attacked the victim causing him to fall backwards. At the time he was taken to Salford Royal Hospital with serious injuries to his head and was discharged a few days later.

PC Jackie Cantrell, of Macclesfield Local Policing Unit, said: "This was a serious assault with the victim receiving injuries to his head and although we have made a number of enquiries we are still appealing for witnesses to come forward. If you have any information which could help find the person who caused this attack please do get in touch. Have a look at your dashcam footage from around that time. Do you recall seeing a group of people on or near to Princess Street? Do come forward with any information – no matter how small as it could really help our investigation."

Anyone with any information is asked to contact Cheshire Police on 101 quoting incident number IML 342945 or online at <https://cheshire.police.uk/contact/general-enquiries> . Information can also be passed anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. To submit dashcam footage go to <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/advice-and-support/roads-and-vehicle-safety/submit-dashcam-footage/> .

Appeal after woman sexually assaulted in Congleton

Officers are urging witnesses to come forward after a woman was sexually assaulted in Congleton.

The 26-year-old victim was walking along Mill Street on her own following a night out in the town centre when the incident occurred at around 3.30am on Sunday 21 July. She went past an unknown man walking in the opposite direction to her. The stranger then turned around, caught up to her and touched her inappropriately from behind near the Well Pharmacy. He then ran off towards West Street and Wagg Street. The offender is described as white, around 30 years old and approximately 6' tall. He had a slim build, dark brown medium to short length hair and was wearing a blue T-shirt and dark coloured (possibly grey) bottoms. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and officers are appealing for anyone who was in the area and witness the incident, or anything else that may help the investigation, to get in touch. They also want to speak to anyone who believes that they may know who the offender is, or have CCTV or dashcam footage of him.

Police Constable Emily Mackintosh said: "The incident has understandably left the victim extremely shaken up. I would like to reassure residents that it is believed to be an isolated incident and we are determined to find out who the offender is and make him face the consequences of his actions. Enquiries are ongoing and I urge anyone who thinks that they may have information or footage regarding the incident or the offender to contact us. Perhaps you recognise the description of the offender or believe that you saw him, or have CCTV or dashcam footage of him, in the early hours of Sunday morning. If you think that you can aid the investigation in any way please get in touch."

Information can be given to Cheshire Constabulary by calling 101, quoting IML 462759, or visiting <https://cheshire.police.uk/contact/general-enquiries> . Alternatively you can contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. Dashcam footage can be submitted online at www.cheshire.police.uk/advice-and-support/roads-and-vehicle-safety/submit-dashcam-footage .

Appeal after boy has bicycle stolen in knifepoint robbery in Warrington

Detectives are urging members of the public to come forward with information and footage regarding a knifepoint robbery in Warrington.

Shortly before 7pm on Sunday 21 July a 14-year-old boy was riding his bicycle with friends from the direction of the One Stop store on Callands Road towards the footpath and the park behind the shops. As they approached the park the victim was accosted by two teenage boys on an orange coloured mountain bike –

one of them was riding the bicycle and the other one was sat on the handlebar. The teenager on the handlebar jumped off, pulled out a knife and demanded the victim's black and yellow VooDoo mountain bike. Once he had possession of the bike the offenders road off towards the Gemini Retail Park. Shortly afterwards two bicycles were stolen from outside the McDonald's restaurant at the retail park whilst the owners were inside. The bikes stolen were a red B'Twin with full suspension and a black Giant mountain bike. The incidents are believed to be linked. The teenager who carried out the knifepoint robbery was white, looked around 16 years old and 5' tall and spoke with a Liverpoolian accent. He and the teenager he was with were both wearing dark clothing, including hooded tops with their hoods up to conceal their faces. The offender who carried out the knifepoint robbery had The North Face branding on his hooded top.

Enquiries in relation to the incidents are ongoing and detectives are appealing for anyone who was in the area and witnessed anything that may help the investigation to get in touch. They also want to speak to anyone who believes that they may have information or CCTV or dashcam footage regarding the offenders or the stolen bicycles.

Detective Sergeant Ian McNabb, of Warrington Local Policing Unit (LPU), said: "The 14-year-old boy who had his bike stolen at knifepoint has understandably been left extremely shaken up. He was subjected to a terrifying ordeal. He was not the only person who had their bicycle stolen around or in the Gemini Retail Park area in Warrington in the early evening on Sunday 21 July. We believe that the bicycle thefts are linked and we are determined to establish the identities of the offenders, make them face the consequences of their actions and have the bikes returned to their rightful owners. Enquiries are ongoing and I urge anyone who was in the area and believes that they may have seen the offenders to contact the team here at Warrington Police Station. The same goes for anyone who thinks they may know who the offenders are or have CCTV or dashcam footage of them, or information regarding the whereabouts of the stolen bicycles."

Anyone with information or CCTV footage that may be relevant to the investigation should call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 463005 (the robbery) or IML 463017 (the other bike thefts), give the details via <https://cheshire.police.uk/contact/general-enquiries> or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. Dashcam footage can be submitted online at www.cheshire.police.uk/advice-and-support/roads-and-vehicle-safety/submit-dashcam-footage .

Chief Inspector Simon Meegan, also of Warrington LPU, added: "We are committed to doing all that we can to tackle knife crime in the town. It is an issue that we take extremely seriously and Warrington Local Policing Unit will ensure that anyone found to be carrying a knife or committing a knife related offence in the town is brought to justice. But the police cannot beat knife crime without the help of the local community and we urge anyone with information about people who may be carrying knives to come forward and speak to us or independent charity Crimestoppers."

You can report any type of knife crime by calling Cheshire Constabulary on 101. Dial 999 in an emergency.

Appeal following aggravated burglary in Warrington

Detectives are appealing for information and footage from members of the public following an aggravated burglary in Warrington.

Shortly before 12 midnight on Friday 19 July three men wearing dark clothing and balaclavas broke into a house in Wiltshire Close, Woolston, via the back door. One of the occupiers fled via the front door without

coming into contact with the offenders. The other occupier was assaulted with a crowbar by one of the burglars. The offenders then made an untidy search of the property before stealing a safe and the keys to a white Volkswagen Scirocco R type car that was parked outside. They then fled in the vehicle, travelling along the A57 Manchester Road. The occupier who was assaulted sustained minor injuries as a result of the incident. He was treated at hospital and has since been discharged. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and detectives are urging anyone with information or footage regarding the offenders or the stolen car to get in touch.

Detective Sergeant Mark Naylor, of Warrington Local Policing Unit, said: "Burglary is a serious crime in which people are targeted in their own home, which is the place they should be able to feel most safe. It is always a deeply upsetting experience being the victim of a burglary, but in this instance it was particularly traumatic as it occurred whilst the homeowners were at home and one of them was assaulted during the frightening incident. Thankfully he only sustained minor injuries and the victims are being supported by specialist officers. Although this was a terrifying ordeal for them I would like to reassure residents that incidents such as this are rare. I would also like to reassure them that it is believed to be an isolated incident and we have stepped up patrols in the area as a precaution. We are doing everything we can to identify the offenders and bring them to justice. We are in the early stages of the investigation and our enquiries are ongoing. As part of our enquiries we are appealing for anyone who was in the area and witnessed anything before, during or after the burglary incident that may help our investigation to come forward. The same goes for anyone who believes that they may know who the offenders are or have CCTV or dashcam footage of them, or have information or footage regarding the car that they stole from the driveway. The white Volkswagen Scirocco R type that was taken had very little fuel in it. If you see, or have seen, a white VW Scirocco R parked in an area in or around Warrington that seems out of place then we want to hear from you."

Anyone with information or CCTV footage that may be relevant to the investigation should call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 461366, give the details via <https://cheshire.police.uk/contact/general-enquiries> or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. Dashcam footage can be submitted online at www.cheshire.police.uk/advice-and-support/roads-and-vehicle-safety/submit-dashcam-footage .

Appeal following convenience store burglary in Winsford

Detectives investigating a convenience store burglary in Winsford are appealing for information and footage from members of the public.

At around 2.15am on Friday 19 July two men equipped with a crowbar, a sledgehammer, a screwdriver and a large light grey plastic bag broke into the McColl's shop in Cheviot Square, activating the store's alarm. As the alarm sounded the offenders stole a quantity of cigarettes and other tobacco products. Both of the men had black balaclavas on their heads to conceal their identities. One of the offenders had a medium build and was wearing a dark coloured hooded jacket, dark bottoms, black shoes and black gloves. The other was slimmer and was wearing a zipped-up black Puffa-style jacket with the hood up, black bottoms and dark-coloured footwear with white soles. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and detectives are urging anyone who was in the area and believes that they may have seen the offenders to come forward. They also want to speak to anyone who thinks they may know who the offenders are or have CCTV or dashcam footage of them.

Detective Constable Tom Leathers said: "The two men were carrying a crowbar, a sledgehammer and a screwdriver as they carried out the burglary. No-one was in the convenience store at the time and I would

like to reassure the community that we are doing all that we can to identify the offenders and bring them to justice. Enquiries are ongoing and as part of our investigation we are appealing for information and footage from members of the public. Perhaps you were in the area and saw the offenders either before or after they had broken into the convenience store, or maybe you have CCTV or dashcam footage of them, or information regarding their identities. If you think you can aid our investigation in any way please get in touch with the team here at Northwich CID on 01606 364287, quoting IML 460417.”

Alternatively, information can be given via <https://cheshire.police.uk/contact/general-enquiries> or by calling Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. Dashcam footage can be submitted online at www.cheshire.police.uk/advice-and-support/roads-and-vehicle-safety/submit-dashcam-footage .

To find out further information about the Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association, to log into your account or for Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Literature please visit our website: <http://cheshire.ourwatch.org.uk/>