

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 22nd November 2020

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

New chief inspector takes the reins at Warrington local Policing Unit

A new temporary chief inspector has taken over the reins at Warrington Local Policing Unit.

Neil Drum took over from Simon Meegan earlier this month after he became the new temporary Superintendent local policing lead for Warrington. Neil originally joined Cheshire Constabulary in 1997. During his career he has worked in a variety of local policing roles across the county. In 2015 Neil took on the role of Warrington's neighbourhood inspector, which involves leading officers in six beat management teams across the town. Since 2019 he has also managed Warrington's problem solving team. Prior to this Neil worked in neighbourhood policing roles and also led incident response teams. He joins a well-established team of officers in Warrington including Insp Ruth Atherton, Insp Oliver Gilmartin, Insp Paul Mace and DInsp Helen Clegg.



Neil said: *"I have served with Cheshire Constabulary for 23 years and I am incredibly proud to have been given the opportunity of Chief Inspector at Warrington where I have spent the majority of my service. Being part of the local policing unit already, I know the team already do a brilliant job protecting the community and I will continue to work alongside them to help make it an even safer place to live, work and visit. I will ensure we maintain an effective service during these current challenging times and going forward. We will continue to target those that cause our communities harm and prey upon the vulnerable and do our utmost to make Warrington a hostile place for those intent on perpetrating crime and anti-social behaviour. It is a privilege to work within the local policing unit and serve with dedicated, professional and hardworking officers and police staff, and I look forward to delivering in this role."*

Neil is married to Jayne, a serving police officer and they have two children aged 12 and 15.

Detectives issue warning following coronavirus scam texts in Cheshire

Detectives are warning the public following reports of coronavirus scam texts being sent to residents purporting to be from the police.

These texts claim to have been sent from Cheshire Constabulary and say that a neighbour has reported a number of people coming in and out of the victim's address during lockdown. The fraudsters then state that the text is the first warning and if anyone else attends their property, police will be dispatched and the victim fined £1,000.

DS Chris Jacques, of the Economic Crime Unit, said: *“This is extremely concerning and we are urging everyone to remain vigilant if they receive a text of this nature. These scams do not discriminate and could affect anyone. It is a desperately uncertain time and fraudsters are playing on this to benefit in any way that they can. No police force would send messages such as this. If you do receive texts along the lines of this scam, please do not be alarmed. Do not respond to the texts and report it to us by calling 101 or call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.”*

PCC for Cheshire, David Keane said: *“Being the recipient of scams such as this can be extremely alarming. These opportunist scammers will stop at nothing to target innocent, law-abiding victims by inciting fear. I would urge the residents of Cheshire to stay vigilant and to tell others about this scam so that no-one falls foul to these heartless criminals.”*

Key advice:

- Always take a moment to think before parting with information or money when receiving messages as this as only criminals will rush or panic you
- Once you have reported the text to Action Fraud, ignore and delete the message
- Always avoid clicking on links on suspected spam text messages

If you think you have fallen for a scam report it to Cheshire Constabulary on 101. Alternatively, you can contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or via the [Action Fraud website](#). You can report suspicious texts by forwarding the original message to 7726, which spells SPAM on your keypad.

Stolen remembrance projector recovered in Northwich

A stolen projector being used as part of Remembrance Day commemorations has been recovered.

On Monday 16 November Northwich Town Council reported that the projector had been stolen from outside St Helens Church on Church Road. After receiving the report detectives from Northwich Beat Team launched an investigation. A number of lines of enquiry were followed and a number of addresses across the town were visited. Following relentless investigative activity by the investigation team an anonymous member of the public reported that the projector had been dumped near Roker Park.

CI Gary Smith, of Northwich Local Policing Unit, said: *“I would like to say a huge thank you to all of the detectives and officers involved in this case and everyone who came forward with information to aid their investigation. The projection of the poppy onto the church tower acted as a poignant reminder of what our parents and grandparents went through during the two world wars and it’s pleasing to see that it has now been returned and can be used by future generations. While no arrests have been made at this time, our investigation remains ongoing and I urge anyone with any information in relation to the theft the contact the team here at Northwich on 101.”*

The projector is set to be returned to the Town Council on Monday.

Chris Shaw, Northwich Town Clerk said: *“I am so glad the projector has been found and can now be used once again to light up St Helens Church. A big thank you must go out to the amazing community of Northwich and to our local Police Officers who have worked so hard in retrieving this equipment.”*

Mayor of Northwich, Cllr Kevin Rimmer, added: *"It gives me great delight to hear that the Projector for the Church has been recovered by the Police. I very much look forward to seeing it shine brightly again on St Helens Church in Northwich."*

The projector was being hired as part of a joint initiative between Northwich Town Council and St Helens church, with the potential for inspiring projections to come in the future.

Reverend Andrew Ridley, the vicar of St Helens Parish Church, said: *"I am extremely pleased and relieved that that the projector has now been recovered and I would like to thank everyone who has helped with the investigation. The support and generosity that we have seen from the local community has been outstanding and it demonstrates the importance that the projector has to local residents. Following its recovery I look forward to working with the town council to use the projector as part of our Christmas celebrations."*

Anyone with any information in relation to the theft is asked to call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 853003, or visit <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/tua/tell-us-about/>. Information can also be reported anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Man jailed for sexually assaulting teenage girl in Ellesmere Port

A man who repeatedly raped a teenage girl in Ellesmere Port has been jailed.

Wayne Huckle was found guilty of four counts of rape, one count of sexual assault and one count of sexual activity with a child following a four-day trial at Chester Crown Court. The 34-year-old, of Downside, Widnes, returned to the court to be sentenced on Tuesday 17 November where he was sentenced to a 15 years in prison. Huckle's offending took place when Huckle was a young adult and his victim was just 13-years-old.

Judge Nicholas Woodward said the victim was "extremely vulnerable" and Huckle had "groomed" her. He took advantage of his victim, using her to fulfil his own sexual gratification.

Following the sentencing, DC Joanne Wilkinson, from Cheshire Constabulary, said: *"Huckle is a very dangerous individual, and what he put the victim through was truly horrific. The fact that he made her endure a trial and recount what he did to her was extremely distressing for the victim, but thanks to the bravery and courage that she has shown Huckle is now behind bars facing the consequences of his actions. The sentence handed to him reflects the severity of his crimes and I hope that this conviction sends a clear message to other victims that Cheshire Constabulary takes all reports of historic sexual offences seriously and will do all that we can to bring offenders to justice."*

David Keane, PCC for Cheshire, added: *"It is vitally important that victims of sexual abuse come forward and talk about what happened to them so that justice can be served on perpetrators of sexual abuse. Anyone who has been a victim of sexual abuse – no matter how long ago the incident took place – is urged to come forward and report it. I will continue to work with victims to ensure that they are listened to and are provided with the relevant specialist support that they need."*

Three men charged following catalytic converter thefts in Warrington

Three men have been charged in connection with the thefts of catalytic converters from cars in Warrington.

Seamus Maughan, Terence Mongan and Francis Mongan, all of Mere Lane, Bitteswell, Lutterworth, Leicestershire, were arrested shortly after a car was stopped by officers in the Gemini Retail Park area of Warrington at around 8.30pm on Friday 16 October. The trio have all subsequently been charged with two counts of theft from a motor vehicle. These charges relate to the thefts of catalytic converters from two cars in Warrington earlier that day, on Station Road and Knutsford Road in Grappenhall. Maughan, 38, Terence Mongan, 45, and Francis Mongan, 19, have also been charged with going equipped for theft. Maughan has been charged with driving whilst disqualified as well. The trio appeared at Crewe Magistrates' Court on Monday 26 October, via video link. Maughan and Terence Mongan were remanded in custody and Francis Mongan was released on conditional bail. They are all set to appear at Chester Crown Court on Monday 23 November.

HGV driver issued with seven points following near miss on Mersey Gateway

The driver of a chemical tanker that overturned in Widnes and narrowly avoided spilling its hazardous contents onto the road has been issued with seven penalty points.

David Irvine appeared at Warrington Magistrates' Court on Monday 26 October after pleading guilty to driving without due care and attention. The 30-year-old, of Avonlea Gardens, Newtonabbott, Northern Ireland, was also handed a £660 fine and ordered to pay £100 court costs and a £66 victim surcharge. The court heard that Irvine was driving a HGV tanker off the Mersey Gateway slip road when the incident occurred at around 3pm on Wednesday 6 May. As he drove around the roundabout, he failed to take into account the fact that there were 27,000 litres of a sodium hypochlorite solution in the tanker. As a result of his driving, the vehicle overturned, narrowly missing a number of men who were working on the Bridge Construction site. The incident caused serious damage to the HGV, but fortunately the tanker was not breached and its contents did not spill onto the road.



PC James Shrimpton, of Cheshire Constabulary's Roads Policing Unit, said: *"Thankfully emergency services were able to avert a major chemical incident by co-coordinating the operation between Cheshire Police, Specialist Fire Officers, Recovery Agents and Mersey Gateway staff". However, the incident still resulted in serious delays for local residents, forcing a major route into Widnes to close for several hours, it also caused thousands of pounds worth of damage. This incident highlights the fact that a momentary lapse in attention behind the wheel can have serious consequences. Fortunately, in this case everyone involved was able to escape without suffering any serious injuries."*

Cheshire PCC David Keane said: *"Road safety is one of my top priorities and I know how much it means to local residents. Most people will have been affected at some time by injury or death caused by road traffic collisions. Thankfully, in this case, there were no serious injuries. However, the outcome could have been far*

worse. I would like to thank all of the officers, and other emergency services staff, who attended the collision and put their lives at risk to prevent what could have potentially been a major incident.”

Anti-social behaviour hotspot house in Ellesmere Port closed down

An Ellesmere Port property, which was plagued with anti-social behaviour and drug activity, has been closed down thanks to the work of local officers.

On Friday 13 October officers from Ellesmere Port Local Policing Unit (LPU) were granted a closure order for a property on Briarfield Road at Chester Magistrates Court. The order, which was granted under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, was applied for after officers gathered a catalogue of evidence in relation to anti-social behaviour and drug related activity at the property. All its windows and doors have been boarded up and will remain so for three months. Anyone who enters the address during that time is committing an offence and can be arrested.



PC Paul Barlow, of Ellesmere Port Beat Team said: *“The activities of those living at the address and visiting the property have been of great concern to the community and have blighted their lives. The property has been persistently used by both drug dealers to supply class A drugs, and a base for users to take drugs. This activity has had a profound effect on the local community and eroded the quality of life of those living nearby. This type of activity not only attracts anti-social behaviour, but several serious assaults have taken place. The Ellesmere Port Beat Management team is dedicated in targeting those who present most harm and risk to the local community. We have taken direct intervention to bring an end to the problem and bring respite to the local community. If you are affected by such activity please let us know so that we can help you and your neighbours reclaim your neighbourhood.”*

PCC for Cheshire, David Keane said: *“This is an excellent result for Ellesmere Port and I would like to praise officers for their work in getting this order to the courts. This closure order is a great example of how officers are working with the concerns of the community to ensure a positive response. I hope that this result provides reassurance to the local community and shows that officers will do all they can to make Cheshire a safer place to live, work and visit.”*

Local residents are encouraged to report any concerns to Cheshire Constabulary on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Police appeal to trace wanted man from Winsford

Police are asking the public to help them trace a wanted man from Winsford.

Jason McQuoid, 36, is wanted in connection with shoplifting and burglary offences in the town. McQuoid is around 6'1" tall, of a medium build with black hair and green eyes. Anyone with information regarding McQuoid's whereabouts is advised to contact Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 823863 or report it via the [Cheshire Police website](#). Information can also be reported anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or via the [Crimestoppers website](#).



Appeal for witnesses following fatal collision in Siddington

Officers are appealing for witnesses and dashcam footage following a fatal collision in Siddington.

At 2.05am on Thursday 19 November police were called to reports of a collision on Congleton Road. Officers attended the scene and found there had been a single vehicle collision involving a black Audi just south of the Monks Heath crossroads. Sadly the driver of the vehicle, 26-year-old Aiden Robinson from Wythenshawe, died at the scene. Two women, aged 42 and 17, along with a 25-year old man, all of whom are from the Manchester area, were also taken to hospital. Two of them are believed to have sustained serious injuries. An investigation into the collision has been launched and anyone with information or dashcam footage which may aid the investigation is asked to contact Cheshire Police on 101, quoting IML 854836, or visit www.cheshire.police.uk.

Appeal regarding two cars being overturned in Warrington

Officers are appealing for information from members of the public regarding two cars being overturned in Warrington.

The incidents in the Chapelford area of Great Sankey were reported to the police shortly after 7.30pm on Friday 30 October. Officers swiftly attended and discovered that a small white car had been overturned in Minnesota Drive and a Ford Fiesta had been overturned in Jamestown Avenue. There were no signs of those involved in the incidents. Officers imposed a dispersal order to prevent further incidents from occurring and enquiries in relation to the damaged cars have been ongoing ever since.

Sgt Upile Mtitimila, of Warrington Local Policing Unit, said: *"Anyone would be angry and upset to discover that their parked car had been overturned in the street. Such criminal damage incidents are completely unacceptable and we are determined to discover who overturned the cars and make them face the consequences of their actions. Enquiries in relation to the incidents are continuing and I urge anyone with any information or footage that may aid our endeavours to establish who overturned the cars to come forward."*

Information can be given directly to Cheshire Constabulary by calling 101, quoting IML 840131, or via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report>. Anyone who is not comfortable with communicating with the police can give information to independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Police appeal for witnesses following Northwich armed robbery

Police are appealing for witnesses following an armed robbery at a shop in Chester Road, Castle.

At 9.40pm on Monday 16 November a man entered the Go Local shop with an axe and demanded tobacco and cash. The man escaped with a cigarettes in a large blue bag, making off toward the Blue Barrel pub. The suspect is described as a white male wearing a blue/grey hoody, blue denim jeans and black and white trainers.

DC Stacey Connor said: *"The staff member, who was on his own at the time, was thankfully unharmed during the incident and was able to raise the alarm."*

Officers made a search of the area but the suspect was not located.

"We are continuing to make a number of enquiries to identify this man and would urge you to contact us if you have any information or if you saw suspicious behavior. The same goes for anyone who was passing through the area and has dashcam footage that may help our investigation."

Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via www.cheshire.police.uk quoting IML 853311. Alternatively information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Police in east Cheshire urge dog owners to be vigilant after suspicious activity

Police in east Cheshire are warning dog owners to be vigilant following a number of suspicious incidents.

Over recent months there have been incidents in Brereton, Scholar Green and Leighton which have caused owners to be concerned that someone is attempting to steal their dogs.

Insp Kelly Johnston said: *"We're also seeing some incidents on social media that haven't been reported to police and would really urge anyone who sees suspicious activity to ring us. We need these incidents reporting to us so we can investigate them. We would also urge you to be vigilant and keep an eye out for fellow dog walkers - if you see it, report it. We understand your concerns and would like to reassure you that we are taking this seriously and we are investigating the suspicious incidents reported to us."*

Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via www.cheshire.police.uk.

CCTV image released in connection with serious sexual assault in Alderley Edge

Detectives investigating a serious sexual assault in Alderley Edge have released a CCTV image of a man they would like to speak to in connection with the incident.

It occurred in an alleyway on Stevens Street at around 11pm on Saturday 31 October. The victim, an 18-year-old woman, is being supported by specialist officers. Enquiries in relation to the incident have been ongoing and detectives are urging anyone who recognises the man in the image to get in touch.



DC Jayne Lloyd, from Cheshire Police's Dedicated Rape Unit, said: *"Since the incident was reported a number of lines of enquiry have been conducted and I believe the man in the CCTV image could assist with my investigation. We know the victim left a nightclub on London Road with a group of friends and crossed the road and met a group of men near to McColls. One of the men began speaking to her and they walked towards the alleyway where she was then subjected to a serious sexual assault. Following the incident he left the scene in the direction of Tesco. He is described as aged in his mid-twenties, of mixed race and has a slim build. I also believe him to be from the Manchester area. I am urging anyone who knows the man or has any information to please come forward. I am also appealing to the man in the CCTV image to get in touch. If anyone feels reticent to speak to police then you can contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111."*

Anyone with any information about the incident is urged to contact Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 841468.

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/>