

# Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020

## Cheshire News & Appeals



### Latest Cheshire News

#### Man sentenced following death of Steven Carey in Ellesmere Port

A man has been sentenced following the death of Steven Carey in Ellesmere Port.

Benjamin Wilkinson, of no fixed abode, pleaded guilty to manslaughter and possession of a knife. Today (Friday 27 November), Wilkinson was jailed for 16 years during a hearing at Chester Crown Court. The previous day, the 25-year-old was found not guilty of murder following a trial spanning almost two weeks. The court heard how officers were called just before 8.50pm on Saturday 14 March to Pooltown Road following reports of a disturbance. Wilkinson had been at a former partner's house when Steven came to speak to him regarding a debt. This led to an argument between the pair and a fight broke out between them in the street.



At some point during the disagreement Wilkinson removed a knife from the waistband of his trousers and stabbed Steven three times across the lower and upper back. Steven managed to walk towards Regent Street where he collapsed. Following reports of an incident, officers swiftly attended the scene to find Steven seriously injured – he told them that it was Wilkinson who had stabbed him. Officers tried to help Steven until paramedics arrived. He was then taken to the Countess of Chester Hospital but, despite the best efforts of all involved, he died a short time later.

Following the incident, Wilkinson made his way to a friend's address on Bostock Road where he was found by officers in a shed and subsequently arrested on suspicion of murder. A knife was seized at the property and was later found to have DNA on it from the victim. Detectives questioned Wilkinson and, two days later, he was subsequently charged with murder. Two officers, PC Dave Smith and PC Chris Fry, who went beyond the course of duty in attempting to save Steven's life and comfort him in his last moments were awarded a judge's commendation for their efforts. Two witnesses were also commended for their actions.

DCI Paul Hughes said: *"This was a vicious attack which left Steven with catastrophic injuries. I would like to praise the actions of the officers who were first on scene – who tried to save Steven's life and acted swiftly to apprehend Wilkinson and trace the weapon. I'd also like to thank the team of detectives who worked hard to secure a conviction in this case. Wilkinson's actions have caused devastation to Steven's family and they have had to relive the details of what happened during this 10-day trial. This has been incredibly difficult for them."*

DS Steve McCabe added: *"I'd like to thank everyone who worked on this case to help us secure this conviction. Nothing will bring Steven back and our thoughts remain with his family and friends who have to live with the consequences of Wilkinson's actions."*

PCC David Keane said: *“I would like to commend the swift actions of the officers first in attendance and the work behind the scenes by the investigation team to bring this case before the courts. My thoughts are with Steven’s family and friends at this difficult time. I hope that this conviction will help them come to terms with their loss.”*

## **Operation launched to tackle delivery driver thefts**

Cheshire Constabulary has launched an operation to support delivery drivers and couriers over the festive period.

With Christmas just weeks away and more people than ever before ordering online, officers will be visiting delivery depots across the county to provide reassurance and offer key crime reduction advice. Plans have been put in place, which include both marked and unmarked police vehicles patrolling a number of routes near to distribution depots.

DCI Clare Coleman said: *“This year, many people are choosing to order Christmas presents online, meaning that there will be more delivery vehicles out on our streets than ever before. So far, here in Cheshire we have only seen a small number of incidents involving thefts from couriers and delivery vehicles and we are committed to doing all we can to keep it this way. As part of our work we’re also encouraging couriers to play their part by ensuring they take all the necessary steps to reduce their chances of becoming a victim.”*

Delivery drivers are being urged to help play their part by following a number of simple steps to reduce the chances of falling foul of thieves. The steps include:

- Ensure your vehicle is in proper operating condition.
- If you spot a suspicious vehicle following you, do not exit the vehicle, keep doors locked, keep moving, and call the police.
- Agree a daily delivery plan with employers or, if independent, with a family member and check with them on a regular basis. If possible, when out delivering consider using alternative routes rather than always going the same way.
- Ensure your mobile phone is fully charged.
- If something does not look or feel right, do not make the delivery. Call your employer and explain the circumstances.
- Be aware of your surroundings and avoid areas that are not well lit. Park under a streetlight if possible.
- Carry a torch to illuminate dark areas and walkways.
- If you feel threatened, activate the panic alarm on your vehicle to draw attention to the situation.
- Always lock your vehicle - even if you’re only leaving it for a short period of time. It would take a matter of seconds for a thief to get into your van and make off with something valuable
- If your vehicle has windows consider darkening them to prevent passers-by from seeing what’s inside.
- Make sure that no valuables are left on display when leaving your courier van (for any amount of time), and fully close all of the windows.
- Install a ‘Police follow this van’ sticker on your vehicle to make officers aware of who you are.

- If you have a keyless van consider using a key blocking pouch to prevent other people from accessing your vehicle while you are handing over parcels
- Consider installing a tracker – if the worst were to occur and your vehicle were to be stolen, a tracker would enable officers to quickly locate it.
- Install additional security features – Doors are one of the most vulnerable areas on delivery vans and they can sometimes be forced open, so consider installing a stoplock or a slam lock to help make it harder for criminals to get inside your vehicle.
- If an emergency occurs, remain at the scene only if it is safe. Dial 999 and wait for the police to arrive at the scene.

DCI Coleman added: *“Local residents also have a role to play by reporting any suspicious activity to police and always ensuring that somebody is at home when any parcels are delivered. By working together we can all help to reduce the chances of falling victim to these unscrupulous thieves, and help ensure everyone gets their deliveries this Christmas.”*

Cheshire PCC David Keane added: *“Delivery drivers have provided an invaluable role throughout the coronavirus pandemic, helping to deliver vital supplies to some of the most vulnerable people in the community, so it’s great to see some of the proactive work that is being done to support and protect them.”*

Anyone looking to report any suspicious activity is urged to contact Cheshire Police on 101. Information can also be reported online at <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/tua/>. In an emergency always dial 999.

## **Call for vigilance following reports of rogue traders in Ellesmere Port**

Police are urging people to be vigilant after vulnerable residents were conned out of thousands of pounds by rogue traders in Ellesmere Port.

Over recent weeks officers have been contacted by a number of residents who have paid extortionate prices for work on their homes – some of which was never completed. In one case a disabled pensioner was charged £66,000 to have a modest sized driveway replaced with block paving. Meanwhile, in another case the victim paid more than £50,000 for basic maintenance work, much of which was never completed and the work which was done was to a very poor standard.

CI Catherine Pritchard, of Ellesmere Port Local Policing Unit, said: *“Unfortunately incidents such as this are still happening, with rogue traders targeting vulnerable people and trying to get as much money from them as possible. Rogue traders often appear to be highly professional. They can have printed leaflets and vehicles branded with their company name, making people think they are legitimate. They often use highly pressurised selling techniques to convince victims to use their services and charge exorbitant prices for work of a poor standard, or work that is never carried out. Enquiries in relation to these incidents are ongoing and we are committed to doing all we can to identify the people responsible. I also want to take this opportunity to urge people living in Ellesmere Port or anywhere else in Cheshire to be vigilant and to contact the police if they believe that a rogue trader is taking advantage of them or someone they know. Call us on 101 or give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report>, and also give the details to the trading standards department at your local council. I ask neighbours and family to look out for any elderly or vulnerable neighbours by checking on their welfare and reporting any suspicious activity to the police. I also encourage people to follow our advice on how to avoid falling victim to a rogue trader.”*

Cheshire PCC David Keane said: *"This kind of activity strikes at the very heart of local communities as those involved tend to target and exploit the most vulnerable in society. The damage and distress caused by rogue traders is despicable. As your Police and Crime Commissioner, I want to make it as difficult as possible for these type of criminals to operate in the county – I want to get the message across loud and clear that anyone who takes advantage of the elderly and vulnerable is not welcome in Cheshire."*

Cheshire Constabulary's advice is:

- Professional looking leaflets or advertisements are not indications of traders being reputable with all the relevant documentation – check whether traders are members of the Local Authority Assured Trader Scheme or the Government's TrustMark scheme
- If you feel that improvement or maintenance work needs carrying out at your property, discuss this with a relative or a friend who can help you find a reputable trader
- Get quotes from a number of traders before agreeing to have work done, to ensure that you are not overcharged
- Ask for quotes in writing
- It is wise to get quotes from around four different traders to check that the prices quoted are fair
- Do not let anyone pressure you into having work done
- Never agree to have work done unless you have seen examples of the trader's work
- Do not pay cash up front and never go to the bank or to a cashpoint with a trader
- Make sure that you get contact details and the address of any business you are considering for work at your property – if possible, visit the premises to check that it exists
- Do not be fooled by someone who says they are just working up the street or that they have done work for your neighbour – ask for specific examples and then follow up to check if what they have said is true
- If someone calls at your home trying to sell you something, do not let them in and ask for ID
- Always check the identity of doorstep callers by telephoning the company they are claiming to be from – use the number listed in your local phonebook or on the company's website, never use a number the doorstep caller gives you.

## **Police in Congleton advise residents to secure their sheds following recent break-ins**

Police in Congleton are advising residents to increase the security of their sheds and valuables following a number of incidents in the area.

Officers are currently investigating four shed breaks in Oak View Marton and one in Newcastle Road Congleton which all occurred overnight on 23 November. In some cases nothing was taken and in others, power tools were taken.

Sgt Paul Brunton said: *"While we continue investigate these burglaries we would urge residents to think about their security and review how they can improve it. In these instances, the locks were forced in order to break into the sheds so if you do have valuable such as bikes in outbuildings or sheds you may want to think about extra ways to secure them - and with Christmas round the corner, it's particularly important not to give thieves the chance. You can help us make it difficult for thieves by following a number of steps and denying them the opportunity to steal your hard earned property."*

Tips on preventing shed or outbuilding burglaries:

- Check outbuildings, sheds and garages are locked and secure
- Keep windows shut when unoccupied
- Keep personal items such as bikes and gardening tools stored away and out of sight
- Invest in strong padlocks to fit to sheds and/or garages or have them fitted with an alarm
- CCTV is also an option to consider, or security lights which come on when someone walks toward it
- Look out for yourself and neighbours by reporting suspicious activity to police.

More advice can be found by visiting our website <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/residential-burglary/> If you see suspicious activity contact police on 101, or 999 in an emergency, or if a crime is in progress.

## **Runcorn police remind residents to lock up their sheds following bike thefts**

Police in Runcorn are reminding residents to lock up their sheds and valuables following a number of thefts of bikes in the area.

Officers are continuing to investigate the burglaries and have put one man before the courts for a burglary in Norton Village. The man appeared at North Cheshire Magistrates on Tuesday 24 November where he pleaded guilty to stealing a mountain bike from a brick outhouse in Norton Village on 14 November. Lewis Dutton, 27, of Clapgate Crescent in Widnes was handed a 18 week prison sentence suspended for 12 months.

PC Dawn Taylor said: *“While we continue to arrest and charge those who commit thefts and burglaries we would urge residents to think about their security and review how they can improve it. Often doors are unlocked and bikes aren’t secure, giving opportunistic thieves the chance to steal a bike or other valuable items from outbuildings or sheds- and with Christmas round the corner, it’s particularly important not to give them the chance. You can help us make it difficult for thieves by following a number of steps and denying them the opportunity to steal your hard earned property.”*

Tips on preventing shed or outbuilding burglaries:

- Check outbuildings, sheds and garages are locked and secure
- Keep windows shut when unoccupied
- Keep personal items such as bikes and gardening tools stored away and out of sight
- Invest in strong padlocks to fit to sheds and/or garages or have them fitted with an alarm
- CCTV is also an option to consider or security lights which come on when someone walks up it
- Look out for yourself and neighbours by reporting suspicious activity to police.

More advice can be found by visiting our website <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/residential-burglary/>

## **Man charged following robbery incident in Widnes**

A 56-year-old man from Widnes has been charged following a robbery incident in the town.

Stephen Murphy, of Halebank Road, was arrested in the Halebank area of Widnes at around 9am on Tuesday 3 November. He has subsequently been charged with robbery and possession of an imitation firearm. The charges relate to an incident that occurred on Hale Road in Widnes at around 8pm on Friday 10 October. It involved a 37-year-old woman from Widnes, who did not sustain any injuries as a result of the incident. Murphy appeared at Warrington Magistrates' Court on Wednesday 4 November, via a video link. He was remanded in custody and is set to appear at Liverpool Crown Court on Wednesday 2 December.

### **Fifth man charged in connection with a series of high value thefts across the UK**

Detectives from Cheshire Police have charged a fifth man in connection with a series of high value thefts across the country.

Alin Malai was arrested at Luton Airport on Sunday 22 November as part of an ongoing investigation into a series of thefts at supermarkets across the UK. The 27-year-old, of Belvidere Road, Liverpool, has since been charged with conspiracy to steal from a shop. He appeared at Warrington Magistrates Court on Tuesday 24 November where he was remanded in custody. Malai is the fifth person to be charged as part of the investigation which is being led by officers from Northwich CID. The other four defendants, Forin Costea (51) of Darwin Street, Oldham, Stefan Florin (31) of HMP Risley, Marius Meiosu (25) of Darwin Street, Oldham and Mocanu (36) of Darwin Street, Oldham, have also been charged with conspiracy to steal from a shop. The charges relate to a series of thefts at supermarkets across the UK, including stores in Cheshire, Lancashire, Manchester, Birmingham, Wales, West Yorkshire, Scotland and Derbyshire. The total value of the items stolen during the thefts is believed to be in the region of £200,000, which occurred between 20 March 2020 and 3 September 2020. All five defendants have been remanded in custody and are set to stand trial at Chester Crown Court in March 2021.

### **Man charged following robbery at Widnes supermarket**

A 22-year-old man from Widnes has been charged following a robbery at a supermarket in the town.

Daniel Flanagan, of Rivenmill Way, was arrested in Mill Lane, Widnes, at around 8.30pm on Monday 23 November. He has subsequently been charged with robbery and possession of a class B drug (cannabis). The charges relate to an incident at a supermarket off Derby Road that occurred shortly before 8.30pm that night. Flanagan appeared at Warrington Magistrates' Court, via a video link, on Wednesday 25 November. He was remanded in custody and is set to appear at Liverpool Crown Court on Monday 21 December.

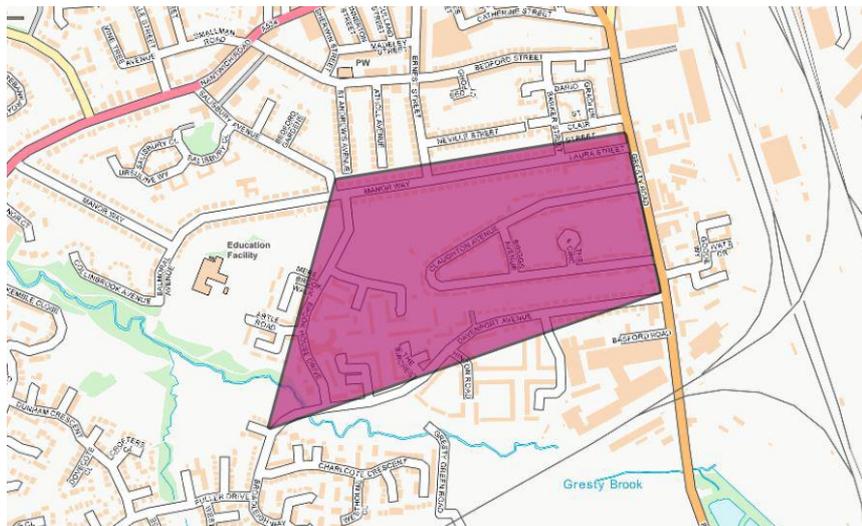
### **Crewe Police continue to use dispersal powers to tackle anti-social behaviour**

Police are continuing to patrol on the Brookhouse Estate area with a second Dispersal Order in place tonight.

We are continuing to conduct high visibility patrols in the area and are putting the Dispersal Order in place from 5pm tonight (24 November) until 4pm tomorrow on the Brookhouse Estate. The dispersal powers, under Section 34 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 have been authorised in order to deter anyone acting in an anti-social manner or likely to, from returning to a specific area for up to 24 hours, and officers and PCSOs will be using those powers to prevent any disorder. The order covers the area of Davenport Avenue, Cloughton Avenue and the Brookhouse Estate where you will see an increased police presence.

Insp Andy Smith, of Crewe Local Policing Unit, said: *"We're continuing to see anti-social behaviour in the area which will not be tolerated. We want to make sure that we are doing everything we can to deter people from*

*this type of behaviour so we will continue with our high visibility patrols and use the dispersal order to prevent further crimes being committed. If you spot suspicious behaviour or anti-social behaviour in the Brookhouse Estate, contact us as it is happening, whether that's face to face or by calling us on 101. Call 999 in an emergency. ”*



## **Cheshire police and crime commissioner (PCC) David Keane has launched a new fund that police officers and PCSOs will bid for to work with local residents on projects which make their area safer**

Cheshire PCC David Keane has launched a new fund that police officers and PCSOs will bid for to work with local residents on projects which make their area safer.

Each of the 122 policing communities in Cheshire will be allocated a £1,000 grant for bids that address community safety issues. An additional £10,000 will be allocated to each of Cheshire's eight Local Policing Units to support larger scale projects which address local issues. This Community Police Fund links directly to the recently launched initiative to increase police visibility in every community by providing a dedicated PC and PCSO for all 122 areas. The fund has been developed using money seized under the Proceeds of Crime Act (PoCA) 2002 to send a clear message to criminals that crime doesn't pay.

*PCC David Keane said: "By taking out the profits that fund crime and reinvesting them into community, we can help prevent further offences and increase community safety. This fund will empower each of our 122 community PCs and PCSOs to work directly with local communities on tailored projects which make a real difference to your local area. They will work with you and with key partners in the local authority to develop a problem solving approach to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour."*

Each local police team will work closely with their local community as they look to develop bids for the projects which must meet the priorities in the Police and Crime Plan. Bids must be submitted to the Office of the PCC directly by local policing teams. Grants will be awarded to new, one-off projects that leave a legacy as opposed to continuous year-on-year commitments. This could be, as an example, a road safety project, community engagement activities or a project which supports vulnerable people.

For more information on this fund and how it could benefit your area, please contact your local police team on the relevant details below.

Chester local police team: [chester.lpu@cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:chester.lpu@cheshire.pnn.police.uk)

Crewe local police team: [crewe.lpu@cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:crewe.lpu@cheshire.pnn.police.uk)

Ellesmere Port local police team: [ellesmere.port.lpu@cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ellesmere.port.lpu@cheshire.pnn.police.uk)

Macclesfield local police team: [macclesfield.lpu@cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:macclesfield.lpu@cheshire.pnn.police.uk)

Northwich local police team: [northwich.lpu@cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:northwich.lpu@cheshire.pnn.police.uk)

Runcorn local police team: [runcorn.lpu@cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:runcorn.lpu@cheshire.pnn.police.uk)

Warrington local police team: [warrington.lpu@cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:warrington.lpu@cheshire.pnn.police.uk)

Widnes local police team: [widnes.lpu@cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:widnes.lpu@cheshire.pnn.police.uk)

If you do not know which local policing team you come under or who your local PC or PCSO are, [you can find out here](#) by typing in your postcode.

## **Police give safe shopping advice ahead of Black Friday**

Many of us have been shopping online throughout the year, given the restrictions on going into shops, and in the midst of lockdown it is expected that Black Friday (27 November) and Cyber Monday (30 November) will see more online shoppers than ever flock to the online sales for bargains. These days are also the most opportune time for online fraudsters.

Action Fraud has reported that, during Black Friday and Cyber Monday sale events last year (25 November to 8 December 2019), over £3 million was lost to criminals. It is an active time for scams such as realistic-looking phishing emails, posts that advertise offers that are too good to be true, fraudulent shopping websites and fake goods, all of which are concerns that shoppers need to be aware of.

Cheshire Police has simple advice to help keep people safe online:

- Bargain hunters can keep themselves safe online by making sure shopping websites are authentic and the payment page is secure. Do this by checking that all addresses start with https (the s is for secure). There should also be a padlock in the address bar, and it's important to also make sure the website address you have typed in has been entered correctly and is showing the correct address in the address bar.
- Don't pay for anything by transferring money directly to people or companies you don't know, however desperate you are to buy. The safest way to pay for anything online is by credit card.
- Always log out when you have finished your payment. Simply closing the page may not end your session.

DC Tracy Earley from the Cyber team for Cheshire Police. She said: *"If something seems too much of a bargain this Black Friday, or on Cyber Monday where deals only apply online, then it probably is. Follow your instincts and don't make any rush purchases. Fraudsters see these events as an opportunity to take advantage of people and don't care about the consequences their actions may cause for the victim. Creating strong passwords for yourself and always updating anti-virus software are the two easiest ways to keep you safe, but also using secure Wi-Fi networks when making payments and buying from official sites will help keep people safe from fraudsters, or using your 3G 4G 5G Data or secure home WI-FI. You should also enable two-factor authentication (2FA), where possible, which gives your online account additional protection by double checking that you really are the person you claim to be, when logging in."*

David Keane, PCC for Cheshire, added: *“With online crime accounting for over half of all crimes committed each day, it is important for people to follow expert guidance to keep them safe online. As most of us increase our use of technology, this hasn’t gone unnoticed by the criminal fraternity who continue to adapt how they operate so they can use this lucrative accessibility to prey on vulnerable members of society. I would urge all Cheshire residents to review their online footprint to ensure they are as secure as possible.”*

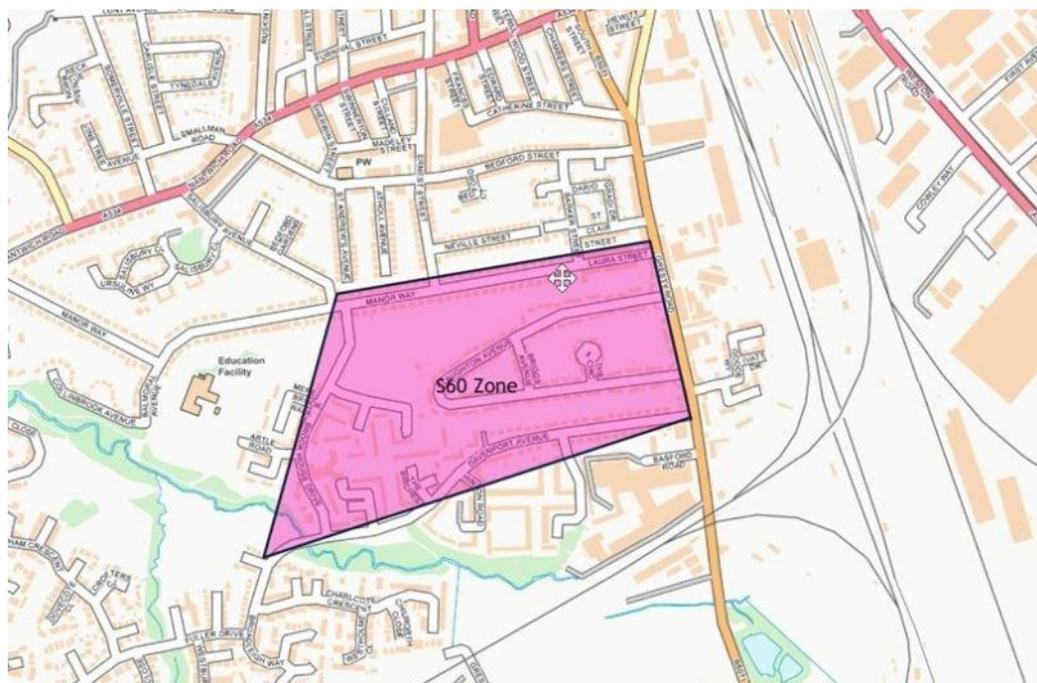
The Force’s cyber team has created the 5Cs guide to online safety, five simple steps to improve online safety and security, which can be found on the Constabulary website at [5Cs guide to online safety](#) Shoppers can also get free expert advice from the [National Cyber Security Centre \(NCSC\)](#)

## **Police warn dispersal order in place on Crewe estate**

Police are continuing to patrol in the Brookhouse Estate area following on from the weekend’s police activity.

A Section 60 order was in place over the weekend to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour and saw a number of people stopped - some were arrested for drugs offences. We are continuing to conduct high visibility patrols in the area and are putting a Dispersal Order in place from 5pm tonight (23 November) until 4pm tomorrow on the Brookhouse Estate. The dispersal powers, under Section 34 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 have been authorised in order to deter anyone acting in an anti-social manner or likely to, from returning to a specific area for up to 24 hours, and officers and PCSOs will be using those powers to prevent any disorder. The order covers the area of Davenport Avenue, Claughton Avenue and the Brookhouse Estate where you will see an increased police presence.

Insp Andy Smith, of Crewe Local Policing Unit, said: *“As you know there were a small number of incidents over the weekend involving threats of violence with knives. We want to make sure that we are doing everything we can to deter people from this type of behaviour. We have put the Order in place as we believe it necessary to demonstrate to the community we are on the front foot in our response to violent crime and to reassure local residents that we are doing everything we can to keep them safe.”*



## **Man charged with four offences following incident in Warrington**

A 34-year-old man from Warrington has been charged with four offences following an incident in the town.

Saban Sahin, of Leicester Street, was arrested in the Winwick Road area of Warrington at around 6.15pm on Tuesday 20 October. He has subsequently been charged with a racially aggravated public order offence, two counts of assaulting a police officer and resisting arrest. The charges all relate to an incident that occurred in the Winwick Road area of Warrington on Tuesday 20 October. Sahin appeared at Warrington Magistrates' Court on Thursday 22 October. He was released on conditional bail and is set to return to the court on Wednesday 25 November.

## **Latest Cheshire Appeals**

### **Appeal following a distraction burglary in Warrington**

Detectives are appealing for information in connection with a distraction burglary in Warrington.

At around 4.45pm on Wednesday 25 November two men called at an address on Thelwall Lane. They spoke to the occupant about a broken window at her home and they need to check the property. Both men went inside and searched the house before fleeing through the back door and ran off in the direction of Lyon Street. The men stole couple of items including a quantity of cash. Enquiries in relation to the burglary are ongoing and officers are following a number of lines of enquiry.

DC Michael McDermott, from Warrington Local Policing Unit, said: *"The victim has understandably been left extremely shaken and we are determined to catch the offenders responsible. While our enquiries are ongoing I am urging anyone who was in the area and believe they may have witnessed, or have CCTV or dashcam footage of, anything that may help the investigation to get in touch. Perhaps you saw the offenders before they entered the victim's home or as they were fleeing the scene or you may know they are."*

Anyone with any information is asked to contact Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 859637.

To lesson your chances of falling victim to this type of crime, follow this advice:

- Do not let anyone into your home who calls unexpectedly
- Make sure that your doors and windows are locked at all times, even when you are at home
- If you do answer the door, make sure you have it on the chain and ask for identification – police officers will always have ID and you can verify that they are who they claim to be by calling 101 or 999
- If you have any doubts about a caller being genuine, do not let them in
- It is also wise to call a neighbour or friend nearby to ask them to come to your property to check out any caller before you open the door to them
- If you do let someone into your home ensure that you close the door behind them – burglars often work in teams and while you are distracted another person may sneak in through an open door – and stay with them at all times while they are in your property so that you can see what they are doing
- Look out for your neighbours and ask them to do the same for you – if you see suspicious activity report it to the police.

## **Appeal for information after puppies stolen from Radway Green**

Police are appealing for information after eight puppies were stolen from an address in Radway Green near Alsager.

Sometime between 1pm and 3pm on Tuesday 24 November an unknown person forced entry into an address on Butterson Lane. Once inside they ransacked the property and stole a jewellery box along with six three-day-old Cane Corso puppies and two seven-week-old English Bull Terriers. A four-year-old French Bulldog is also missing from the address.

Insp Andrew Smith of Crewe Local Policing Unit, said: *"The puppies stolen during this burglary are all too young to be taken from their mums so the owners are desperate for them to be returned as soon as possible, or else they could sadly die. It's also distressing for the puppies themselves who will be missing their parents. I'd urge anyone who has any information or is offered a puppy clearly too young to call us. A puppy shouldn't leave their mum until at least eight weeks old. You should also be able to see their mum when purchasing a puppy. Not seeing mum should raise alarm bells."*

Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via [www.cheshire.police.uk](http://www.cheshire.police.uk) quoting IML 858804. Alternatively information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

## **Appeal following two burglaries in Warrington**

Detectives investigating two burglaries in Warrington are appealing for information from the public.

The houses, in Stockton Heath and Latchford, were targeted on Wednesday 25 November. At some time between 10.45am and 12.15pm offenders broke into an address on Marbury Street through a bedroom window. A search of the bedroom was made but no items were stolen. Officers believe the burglars may have been disturbed when the occupant returned to the address. The second burglary took place at a house on Ellesmere Road between 8.30am and 7.45pm. The offenders entered the property from the kitchen window and ransacked the rooms. A number of items were taken including a large TV. Enquiries in relation to both burglaries, which detectives believe could be linked, are ongoing. As part of their enquiries detectives are urging anyone with any information or footage that may help with the investigation to get in touch.

DC David Gerrard, from Warrington Local Policing Unit, said: *"Burglary is a serious offence in which victims are targeted in their own home, the one place everybody should be able to feel most safe. I would like to reassure the community that we are doing everything we can to find those responsible. In the meantime I am encouraging anyone who may have information or CCTV footage of anyone acting suspiciously in these areas to come forward. We believe the burglars are likely to have fled in a car and therefore I would like to hear from anyone who may have noticed a suspicious vehicle nearby to get in touch."*

If you have any information please contact Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 859756 in relation to the burglary in Stockton Heath and IML 859721 for the burglary in Latchford. Information can also be provided anonymously by calling 0800 555 111.

## **Family pay tribute to Flintshire man following fatal collision in Saughall**

The family of a 48-year-old man who died in a collision in Saughall have paid tribute to him.

Chris Rimell, who lived in Flintshire, was riding his motorbike when the collision, involving a red Volkswagen Golf, occurred on Parkgate Road shortly after 6pm on Monday 23 November. He was taken to the Aintree Hospital after being assessed at the scene by paramedics. Sadly, despite the best efforts of everyone involved, Chris died at the hospital. His family are being supported by specialist officers and have issued the following tribute to him: *“Chris was a loving husband, father, grandfather, son, brother and a great friend to many. He was considerate, caring and touched the hearts and enriched the lives of everyone that knew him. We are sure that everyone will remember him with the fondest of memories. He was well known within the Countess of Chester Hospital with both patients and staff where he worked as a porter for six years. Chris was well known in the local area and part of the motor biking community. He will be truly missed by everyone. We are forever grateful to have had Chris in our lives. We love you very much. You will forever be in our hearts.”*



Enquires in relation to the collision are ongoing. Officers want to hear from anyone who may have information or from motorists who may have captured relevant footage on their dashcams. Please call Cheshire Constabulary on 101 quoting IML 858176 or give details through the website <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report>

## **Appeal after two cars set alight in Burton**

Detectives are appealing for information and footage from members of the public after two cars were set on fire in Burton, near Neston.

Two males travelling on an orange off-road motorbike started the fires in The Village at around 6.30pm on Tuesday 24 November. The cars that were set on fire were not parked near to each other. The fires, which were extinguished by firefighters, caused extensive damage to both vehicles. The offenders were both white and were wearing face coverings. The one who was riding the off-road bike looked to be in his early 20s and was wearing a black woollen hat and a black balaclava. The other offender, who sat on the handlebars when the bike was in motion, is estimated to be around 14 to 15 years old. He had short dark hair and a black face mask on. They fled on the bike in the direction of Neston following the arson attacks. Enquiries in relation to them are ongoing and officers are urging anyone with any information or footage that may aid their investigation to get in touch.

DS Shyami Williams, of Ellesmere Port Local Policing Unit, said: *“Fire spreads quickly and can put lives as well as properties and possessions in danger. Thankfully no-one was injured as a result of these arson incidents but they have resulted in two parked cars suffering extensive damage. I would like to reassure members of the community that these are believed to be isolated arson attacks and we are determined to establish who started the fires and make them face the consequences of their actions. As part of our ongoing enquiries we want to speak to anyone who was in the area and believes that they saw something that could help our investigation. We also want to hear from anyone who thinks they may know who the offenders are, or have CCTV or dashcam footage of them.”*

Anyone with information or footage that may be relevant to the investigation is asked to call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 858988, give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report> or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

## **Appeal following a fatal collision in Saughall**

Officers are appealing for information following a fatal collision in Saughall.

The incident on Parkgate Road involved a car and a motorbike. It was reported to police shortly after 6pm on Monday 23 November. Officers attended the scene and discovered the rider had sustained serious injuries and he was taken to Aintree Hospital by ambulance. Sadly the 48-year-old man from Flintshire died a short time later. His family have been informed and are being supported by specialist officers. The 22-year-old man, from the Chester area, who was driving a red Volkswagen Golf was also taken to hospital with injuries believed to be minor. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing. Officers want to speak to anyone who was in the area and witnessed the collision or have any information that may help the investigation. They also want to hear from any motorists who may have captured relevant footage on their dashcams. If you have any information or dashcam footage that may be relevant to the investigation please call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 858176, or give the details through the website <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report>.

## **Appeal following serious assault in Alsager**

Detectives investigating a serious assault in Alsager are appealing for information from members of the public.

The incident occurred in an alleyway between Blenheim Court and Winston Avenue on Saturday 31 October. The victim, a 49-year-old man from Alsager, was assaulted by a small group of young men. He sustained serious facial injuries as a result of the incident, which occurred between 9.45pm and 11pm. The victim received hospital treatment for his injuries and has since been discharged. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and detectives are urging anyone with any information or footage that may help their investigation to come forward.

DC Sarah Sayer, who is leading the investigation, said: *“This was a serious assault that left the victim in hospital with significant facial injuries. He does not know the young men he encountered as he walked through the alleyway that night. I would like to reassure members of the community that we are determined to establish who assaulted the victim and make them face the consequences of their actions. Enquiries are ongoing and I urge anyone who was in the area and saw anything that may aid our investigation to get in touch. Perhaps you saw the small group of young men before or after the incident took place, or maybe you think you know who they are or have CCTV or dashcam footage of them.”*

Anyone with information or footage that may be relevant to the ongoing investigation should call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 841355, give the details via [Report](#) or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

## **Police appeal for information after man stabbed in Crewe**

Police are appealing for information after a man was stabbed in Crewe over the weekend.

At 10.41pm on Friday 20 November police were called to Davenport Avenue in Crewe following reports of a man in his 40s with a knife injury. Police are making a number of enquiries in the area to find the person responsible.

DI Claire Jesson said: *“If you have any information or think you know who the suspect is, I would urge you to come forward to help us find whoever carried out this attack. You can report information to Crimestoppers anonymously if you don’t feel you can speak to us. We understand that this is very concerning and we are doing everything we can to investigate this. We are currently in the area making a number of enquiries and have stepped up patrols to provide reassurance. If you have any concerns please don’t hesitate to speak to one your local officers out on patrol in your area.”*

Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via [www.cheshire.police.uk](http://www.cheshire.police.uk) quoting IML 856221. Alternatively information can be given anonymously by contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

## **Police in Runcorn appeal for witnesses following van robbery**

Police are appealing for dashcam and CCTV footage following the robbery of a delivery van in Runcorn.

Sometime around 7.40am on Saturday 21 November a man was sitting in a plain white van parked up in Keckwick Lane, Daresbury when he was approached by two men. The men got into the van and threatened the driver. He was then driven to Merseyside and was left near the M57 East Lancashire roundabout in distress. The men then made off in his van with its contents.

The first suspect is described as white, 30-40 years old, 6ft 2 to 3 ins tall and of slim build. He was wearing a black or dark green top with his hood up and a hat. He was wearing a dark grey Berghaus type jacket and bottoms. The second suspect is described as white, 6ft to 5ft 11ins tall and of large build. He was approximately in his early 30s. He was wearing a black hat and black hoodie with the hood up, and a black waterproof jacket.

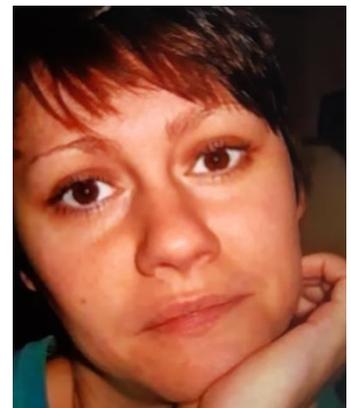
DC Amanda Antrobus said: *“The victim was left shocked and injured following his ordeal and was taken to hospital to be assessed. Thankfully it’s not thought that his injuries are serious. The area of Keckwick Lane is quite busy, even at that time in the morning with dog walkers and joggers, so I’m particularly keen to hear from anyone who was in the area and saw suspicious activity, or two men getting into a white van. If you have CCTV or dashcam footage that may help us please contact us. This was a shocking incident and we want to find those responsible, so if you know anything that will assist our investigation we would urge you to do so.”*

Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via [www.cheshire.police.uk](http://www.cheshire.police.uk) quoting IML 856410. If you have CCTV or dashcam footage you can send it via the website. Information can also be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

## **Appeal renewed following fatal hit and run in Crewe**

Officer’s investigating a fatal hit and run collision in Crewe have renewed their appeal for witnesses to come forward.

Agnieszka Poczowska died on Monday 14 September following a collision on Hungerford Road. The 41-year-old mother-of-three was cycling to work when she was knocked off her bike by a silver ford focus near to the junction of Hungerford Terrace at around 6.53am. The driver of the car failed to stop and drove off from the scene. The vehicle was later located in Lime Vale Street in the Trent Vale area of Stoke-on-Trent.



Sgt Helen Cooper said: *“Agnieszka was a devoted mother of three young children whose life was tragically cut short as a result of the callous actions of the people within this car. This wasn’t a simple accident, the driver, and the passengers, were all aware of that they had hit Agnieszka but rather than stop and help, they purposefully chose to drive off and left her to die at the roadside. Not only that, but the dangerous driving continued and the car was involved in a second collision with another cyclist on Crewe Road. Fortunately on that occasion the victim escaped with minor injuries.”*

Agnieszka’s husband said: *“Agnieszka was my partner, my friend, my wife and the devoted mother of our three children. She was a woman with a big heart, who was dedicated to her job and who trusted everyone. Our lives have been torn apart by Agnieszka’s death and all we want is for the people responsible for her death to be held accountable, so that nobody else has to experience what we have been through.”*

Sgt Cooper added: *“Our investigation is very much ongoing and we are committed to doing all that we can to ensure that all those involved are held responsible for their actions. As part of our enquiries we want to hear from anyone who witnessed the incident, or anyone who knows who was behind the wheel at the time of the crash. I would urge anyone with any information, no matter how small, to contact the team here at Cheshire Police so that we can give Agnieszka’s partner and her three children the best possible present this Christmas – justice.”*

Two men, age 18 and 20, from Stoke-on-Trent were arrested in connection with the incident and they are both on bail pending further enquiries. Anyone with information or footage that may be relevant to the investigation is urged to call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 804595, or give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report> A reward of up to £10,000 is also being offered by the independent charity Crimestoppers for anonymous information which leads to a conviction. The reward will only qualify for information passed to Crimestoppers by calling freephone 0800 555 111 number or via the non-traceable anonymous online form at [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org).

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: [www.cheshirenw.org](http://www.cheshirenw.org)