



COMMUNITY SAFETY SUB COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 3 APRIL 2023

ADDITIONAL PAPERS

Date published: Date 30 March 2023.

Agenda Item 6

OPERATION DODFORD

(a) To receive an update report from Bedfordshire Police in respect of Operation Dodford, crime and antisocial behaviour for the period January - February 2023

(Pages 1 - 4)

PLEASE BRING THE ATTACHED PAPERS TO THE MEETING IN ADDITION TO THE PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED AGENDA.

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OPERATION DODFORD

Report January - February 23

Author
PS 6268 ISON

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Dodford Results

Current tasking is weekly market day patrols on Tuesday and Saturdays (single PC or PCSO 09:00 – 17:00 to disrupt and detect anti-social behaviour.

Market day patrol intention

- Provide high visibility policing in the town centre and Market.
- Patrol the shops.
- Make licensed premises checks in the town centre.
- Monitor the taxi ranks, and deal with any offences.
- To seize alcohol and cigarettes from minors and alcohol in designated areas.
- Stop check younger children and enquire as to truancy.
- To ensure that the shoppers who come to the town centre and shop keepers and their staff feel safe whilst going about their business whilst deterring shoplifting in the retail establishments.
- To deter and move on street drinkers within the town centre area.
- To challenge and document antisocial behaviour and parking.
- To visit and patrol Parsons Rec & Pages Park to deter/ detect antisocial behaviour.

Total hours worked and outcomes

Month	Hours worked	Footbeat (hours)	Incidents Attended / of note	People stopped	Vehicles Stopped	Arrests
January 2023	72	33	<p>Street Watch met up with and intelligence and information exchanged. Street Watch now have new Shop Watch radios so can communicate effectively.</p> <p>GROVEBURY ROAD Retail Park visited numerous times during the shifts.</p> <p>Boots still being hit by 2 prolific male and female shoplifters. Have been told to report this each time so we have the incidents recorded and can do more to act against them. The 2 persons are currently awaiting a court date for an injunction to be attached to them not to enter LEIGHTON BUZZARD town centre.</p> <p>Multi-Storey car park checked numerous times for youths causing a nuisance. CCTV are also aware of these issues and will record any footage if youths seen causing problems in the area. 1 group of youths, who were on bikes, were seen causing issues and given stern words of advice after being caught up with by officer on duty. Youths did not return.</p>	20+	numerous	0

		<p>Another occasion a group of 4 girls and 1 lad were seen in the stairwell of the car park but were not causing any issues. Advice given.</p> <p>Usual beggar often sitting by the alleyway with a cup out in front of him. Central BEDFORDSHIRE Council ASB and legal team constantly being chased up for breach of injunction hearing at court, still waiting.</p> <p>Known street drinker with a Community Protection Notice seen numerous times walking around the HIGH STREET. This male has been to court recently where he received a fine. Will monitor for further breaches.</p> <p>Numerous thefts from Poundland but did not have the Shop Watch radio on them so officers couldn't detain and suspects. Poundland given words of advice that someone should always have the radio on them.</p> <p>Theft from Wilkinson's on the HIGH STREET. Officer in contact with CCTV operators but offenders lost from sight after leaving WATERBORNE WALK.</p> <p>Alarm activation at the Post Office in CHURCH SQUARE. Officers attended and found to be accidental, and all was in order.</p> <p>Prolific male shoplifter seen in the HIGH STREET and was stopped and spoken to and advised to leave the town. Seen again by Lloyds Pharmacy but left the area when he saw officers approaching him.</p> <p>Assistance given to elderly female who had car problems. Female very happy with officers' assistance.</p> <p>PARSONS REC visited numerous times with no issues reported.</p> <p>New Look requested officer attendance as someone had been assaulted in their shop. A female had been verbally abusive to her and slapped her around the face, unknown for what reason and female did not know the male involved. Female checked by officers and strongly advised to report the incident. Safety advice and reassurance also given. New Look had the incident captured on their CCTV and details obtained of 2 witnesses.</p> <p>Large group of youths congregating outside of the Charity shop and newsagents in LAKE STREET. Officers stayed in the area monitoring the youths before they moved on of their own accord. This area is a priority for Op Dodford officers.</p> <p>Female beggar seen sitting outside various shops in the HIGH STREET. Moved on every time she was seen. Fairly new to the area and a Community Protection Warning has already been issued to her.</p> <p>Concern from shops regarding a prolific shoplifter soon to be released from prison. Shops told he will be closely monitored should he return to the town.</p> <p>House close to town centre checked a few times due to the owner, who was a street drinker, had just died. Concerns due to possible suspicious death.</p> <p>The town was relatively quiet this month highly likely to be just after Christmas and to the adverse weather conditions.</p>			
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February 2023	66	33.5	<p>Known prolific shoplifter seen behind the shops in WATERBORNE WALK and detained for outstanding offences and breaches of Criminal Behaviour Order. Arrested and taken to custody. Appeared in court the following day where he received a heavy fine where we were hoping for a custodial sentence. Very disappointing.</p> <p>Pick pockets have been reported as operating in the town targeting charity shops and in particular Peacocks. All charity shops visited by officers for a heads-up warning and Peacocks also visited and spoken to in relation to this. Pick pockets appear to be targeting elderly ladies. Purse bells to be distributed to females by Dodford officers.</p> <p>Female travellers working in groups trying to steal from various shops in the HIGH STREET. Followed around and deterred from getting anything. Eventually left town with nothing.</p> <p>Wilkinson's stated that they were being targeted and hit by unknown persons. Store visited regularly but no offenders identified at this time.</p> <p>GROVEBURY ROAD RETAIL PARK and VIMY ROAD RETAIL PARK both visited numerous times during Op Dodford patrols.</p> <p>Female beggar moved on from sitting outside of Peacocks and asked to leave the town.</p> <p>Groups of schoolkids entering Poundland after school has finished and shoplifting. Stayed inside the shop until they had mostly left.</p> <p>Street Watch met up with and intelligence swapped.</p> <p>Taxis moved on from causing an obstruction and parking illegally.</p> <p>Waitrose being targeted for lots of thefts of alcohol by the front of the store. Since their security guard has left Waitrose have been suffering from theft of wine and spirits. Dur to this Dodford officers have been attending more frequently and providing a high visibility presence to deter this from happening. Waitrose advised to always have a least one person in that department or try and get a full-time security guard.</p>	20+	Numerous	1
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Additional information

A relatively quiet set of shifts which would primarily be due to being just after Christmas and some adverse weather conditions but none the less some good results and in particular the arrest of a prolific shoplifter. **It is expected to get busier in the upcoming months due to the weather improving and with the Easter and summer holidays on the horizon.**

Please note that the report is for January and February only as March had not ended when this report was completed and will be added onto the next.