

Yarkhill News



The beautiful sunflower field off Watery Lane

YARKHILL CORONAVIRUS SAFE GUARDING GROUP

The Yarkhill Hub is still operating so if anyone, or anyone you know needs help during the Coronavirus situation please make contact with one of the following co-ordinators.

For **MONKHIDE VILLAGE** Mandy Williams on 07780 586846

For **YARKHILL CHURCH AREA** .. Katie Bott on 01432 890388

For **NEWTOWN AREA** Sallyanne Lees on 07801 108789

WARNING: Please be aware of persons unknown to you calling at your door and offering to help this is a cruel scam targeting the vulnerable, whereby the caller takes cash or your card and never returns.

Thank you so much to those who have volunteered their time to help. It seems the community is working together and supporting each other.

During these difficult times the Newsletter cannot be delivered by hand and so until further notice it will be emailed to all those people who have given permission for their email address to be used.

If you are reading this in the notice board and wish to receive the newsletter by email please contact Sallyanne (Parish Clerk) on 07801 108789 to arrange.



As Autumn approaches so we see people burning garden waste, leaves etc. Please be considerate and check your neighbour hasn't just hung out their washing ...

CONTACTS

PARISH COUNCIL CLERK: Sallyanne Lees 07801 108789 email: yarkhill@live.co.uk

EMERGENCY CO-ORDINATOR: Tom Misselbrook 07973 705550.

VILLAGE HALL: Wendy Nash 01531 670508

CHURCH WARDEN: Ashley Fortey (Ashley4009@talktalk.net)

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CO-ORDINATOR: David Thomas 01531 670437

Chairman's Update

Covid 19: Karen Wright, the Director of Public Health for Herefordshire recently gave Parish Councillors an update on Covid 19. The counties' cases have continued to be low apart from July's blip among crop pickers at Mathon farm, which was quickly contained, and the NHS in Hereford has not been overwhelmed. However, there remains concern for what might happen in the Autumn and Winter and we were asked to pass on some useful advice:

Get fit or fitter

Ensure you have a flu jab

Continue to wash your hands regularly in soap and hot water

Don't compromise on social distancing

If you have even the slightest symptom of the virus, get tested

What has been happening in Yarkhill?: Our Covid 19 support network continues to remain in place for anyone who needs assistance and it has been a notable feature of recent months how well neighbours, friends and family have helped our more vulnerable residents. A big thank you to everyone who has stepped up.

We have had remarkably few instances of fly tipping in the parish since lockdown apart from an incidence last month on land off the road from Watery Lane to Tarrington. All refuse sites in Herefordshire are now open though some require pre-booking.

Many of you will be aware that we had some vandalism in Monkhide a few weeks ago including damage to our noticeboard where the top was ripped off and left in a nearby driveway. I am also aware of a campfire being lit on the canal footpath where a knife was discovered the next morning. Three youths (2 men and a woman) were seen in the vicinity around the time of the vandalism, but they have not been identified. Please stay vigilant.

Our local roads continue to be a cause for concern now that traffic levels have risen again and there was a further accident on the Stokebridge Road between the A4103 and A438 in July where a car ended up in the ditch. Unfortunately, this was on a stretch where Herefordshire Council had installed improved safety measures earlier in the year which is disappointing and this has been reported to our Ward Councillor Jonathan Lester. A car also ran off the road, and into a field on the approach to the Newtown Crossroads from the west in the early morning of Sunday 16th August which required police and ambulance attendance.

Jeff Hughes Chair

Essential Matters – August 2020 PC Meeting

Planning Matters:

7 Houses at Monksbury Court Barns (192765). Following notification from Herefordshire Council's Planning Dept that it was considering approving this application, a formal request was made through Jonathan Lester that it be referred to a full Planning Committee meeting at which the Parish Council and any other interested parties will be invited to speak. This request was supported by the Head of Planning on the basis of the considerable number of objections received since the application was first submitted. No date has yet been set for the meeting pending further information being required on land drainage. Comments can still be submitted directly to the Planning Officer.

Grove Cottage, Grove Farm (202018). A new application for the renovation and extension of an existing Grade 2 listed cottage to create a 3-bedroom property.

Northcroft, Lower Eggleton (201829). A reserved matters application following the approval of an earlier outline application for 3 detached houses on land adjacent to the existing main property on the A4103.

Cont ...

Enforcement Cases: Herefordshire Council's Enforcement team is currently dealing with 3 cases in Yarkhill. These are Orchard View at Newtown Cross, the Newtown Inn, and Monksbury Court Barns in Monkhide.

Airband Fibre Broadband: Following delays caused by the Covid 19 lockdown and the need to agree access to several areas of private land in Yarkhill, Airband has been able to install only 1.5km of the initial infrastructure. A newly appointed external contractor is to complete the remaining roll-out and it is expected that they will be on site from mid-September.

Road to Monkhide: A number of Monkhide residents continue to be concerned by delivery traffic using the local road from the A4103 as a cut through to Monksbury Court, the barns development and A417. In an effort to reduce these occurrences, a new gate has been erected after the ex-council houses where the private lane begins and some of you are also educating drivers who insist on ignoring the No Through Road signs. The more local residents who do this the better so please help if you feel able. Herefordshire Council has been consulted on what additional formal measures can be put in place on the adopted part of the road, but unfortunately, they will only agree to an additional 2 Dead End signs and these would have to be paid for by the Parish.

OPEN AIR CINEMA YARKHILL

I'm sure many of you have missed going to the cinema over the last three months but the residents in the community around Yarkhill Church had the opportunity to enjoy the cinema a few weeks ago.

There is a very active WhatsApp group in the community and all of us received an invitation to a free open air cinema presentation in a safe environment. A very generous and well known member of the community and his wife who have always been very active members supporting village events, invited all their neighbours to a free open air cinema presentation in the grounds of their house.

The house has a very large courtyard and seven households were invited to bring their own chairs and refreshment and to sit in household groups, a minimum of 3 metres apart. The community minded couple who arranged the event had organised a projector, cinema screen and sound equipment and chose a film which would appeal to young as well as old, after seeking the views of the community on WhatsApp. Two sterling technical members of the community acted as crew and set up the equipment.

We arrived in advance of the films start time at 8.30pm all ensuring that we were socially distanced and looked forward to the film. It had been a warm sunny day and unfortunately it was too light at 8.30 pm to see the film on the screen so we enjoyed our beer and wine and talked loudly to each other so we could be heard over the distance we were all sat apart. Our hosts generously provided ice creams which had been planned for the intermission but kept us occupied while we waited for the film to commence. At 9.30pm the light had fallen enough for the film to begin.

It was an amazing experience sitting in the dark watching the excellent film Rocketman about Elton John. The atmosphere created by the dark and the open air was superb and the great songs and scenes made the whole event a thrilling experience.

Comments after were mainly "can we do it again" and "what film can we watch next time". It was an amazing and extraordinary experience in a neighbourly and caring community. Thanks to our kind hosts for their generosity.

Scaffold tower for hire

The organisers of the Field to Fork Festival have purchased a scaffold tower from part of the income raised at last year's event which can be hired by anyone living in the village for £15 a week. Terms & Conditions apply. The details of the tower are as follows: Platform size: 1.45Mx 0.5M, Max platform height: 2.73M, Max working height: 5M (approx.) Max. load: 150kg Material: Aluminium. It weights approximately 37kg and is fitted with a pair of wheels to allow the tower to be moved around.

If you would like to hire this equipment please contact Martin Ennis on T: 01432 890486 M: 07831 424667 E: martinennis325@gmail.com

Meals on Wheels now delivering in your area

Herefordshire Meals on Wheels offers daily deliveries of hot, homemade food direct to your door. All meals are freshly prepared and cooked daily, then delivered to your door for your convenience. We can cater for a range of different dietary requirements. Fresh and frozen meals are also available which can be consumed over the weekend.

If you are interested in this service then please contact
Katie Bott on 07939 261640

Please see menu below. Alternatives are available.

Cost of hot main course, delivered, is £4.25

Cost of pudding, delivered, is £2.45

Our kitchen and all of our drivers follow strict hygiene protocols.

Bake and Create - Meals on Wheels Herefordshire Menu

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1				
Minced Beef Hotpot with seasonal vegetables	Roast Turkey Roast Potatoes and vegetables	Liver and Onions with Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables	Chicken Casserole with Green Vegetables	Fish in Parsley Sauce with Potato croquettes and peas
Fruit Crumble and custard	Fruit Trif	Jam Sponge with Custard	Apple Crumble with Custard	Fresh Fruit and Yoghurt
Week 2				
Faggots with Diced Potatoes and Vegetables	Chicken and Mushroom pie with Mashed Potatoes and Vegetables	Roast Pork, Roast Potatoes and Vegetables	Cottage pie with Seasonal vegetables	Breaded Fish with Potato croquettes and Peas
Lemon Drizzle Cake	Cheesecake	Homemade Rice Pudding	Fruit Crumble and Custard	Cof &e Cake
Week 3				
Sausages in Onion Gravy with Seasonal vegetables	Pork and apple casserole with New potatoes and Green Vegetables	Traditional Beef Stew	Roast Chicken, Roast Potatoes and Vegetables	Fish Pie with Peas and Sweetcorn
Syrup Sponge and Custard	Homemade Rice Pudding	Chocolate swiss roll and Custard	Bread and Butter Pudding with Custard	Fresh Fruit and Yoghurt

Please do let us know if you have any dietary requirements or would like an alternative meal. We also offer chilled meals which are available for Friday delivery. Any queries you can contact us on 07939 261640



Flicks in the Sticks **Films at Lady Emily Hall, Tarrington (HR1 4EX)**

If you need any help getting to the films, or could offer help to set up, contact John Tallis. Enquiries 01432 890720 or ladyemilyhall@gmail.com

If possible, please buy your tickets on-line, via Arts Alive (info@artsalive.co.uk or 01588 620883). If you need to pay on the door, payment is by card only (contactless or Chip and Pin).

Tickets are £5.00 adult, £3.00 U-16, £2.50 Film Club member

We will need to record attendees' names and a contact number, as part of the government "Track and Trace" measures. We may be using a non-contact thermometer to check temperatures on entry and ask you NOT to attend, if you have ANY symptoms of Covid-19 infection. (we will refund any pre-payment for tickets if this occurs).

Attendance will be limited to 30 seats, suitably spaced out, but family groups may sit together. Please follow the guidance provided, for hand sanitisation and spacing, as you enter.

It will not be possible for us to provide our usual wine and refreshments, and we will forego our normal interval. If you bring your own drinks, we can provide glasses.

One last caveat, this is being written in July and our plans could be affected by subsequent changes in Government or Council regulations – so please contact me (John Tallis), if you have any concerns.

Saturday 12th September 7:30pm

Judy (12A)

Legendary performer Judy Garland (Renée Zellweger) arrives in London in 1968 to perform a series of sold-out concerts. However, the tour doesn't go to plan and she struggles to reconcile her wish to have a "normal" family life with the pressures to satisfy her fans.



Renée Zellweger won the Best Actress Oscar for her performance in this film.

Director: Rupert Goold

Writer: Tom Edge (screenplay by)

St. John the Baptist's Church, Yarkhill

Ways to support your local church now and for future generations

Many of us are feeling blessed at this time to be living in the relative safety of our country parish of Yarkhill. Here, in these rural surroundings, it is easy to take for granted the presence of our centuries old church serving our community as it has done for countless generations. To help maintain your church at a time when your financial support is needed more than ever we are appealing to you to consider making a regular donation to St. John the Baptist's Church through the popular and secure Parish Giving Scheme. We originally introduced the scheme to all parishioners in July 2018 and remain hugely grateful to those who have signed up and continue to make a contribution in this way.



Covid 19 has meant that we have lost collections from services and occasional visitors and we have been unable to hold our usual fundraising events; BINGOs and social evenings. We know that we are not alone in seeking your support at this difficult time but, for the future of Yarkhill Church, please consider making a regular donation however small.....every little counts.



If you would like to know more about joining the Parish Giving Scheme please follow the link <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/> or get in touch with our treasurer, Julia Savagar.



You could be raising a FREE donation for your local church every time you shop online. Over 4,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself! The donation is made by the online shop and not by you!

Amazon, Argos, Viking, M&S, Booking.com, Confused.com : these are just a sample of the retailers that will donate to Yarkhill Church if you shop online with them.

These donations really mount up and could make a BIG difference to our church at a time when we are unable to hold fundraising events or receive collections at services. So we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up to support your church. It's completely FREE and only takes a moment.

You can find our easyfundraising page at

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/yarkhillpcc/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=gs-e1

100 Club

Like many community organisations Yarkhill Church runs a 100 Club. This is usually by monthly draw, held in the porch after a church service.

This was, of course, interrupted by Covid 19 and we were forced to save up four months of draws until we recently regained access to the church.

Thanks to all of you who have donated your prize winnings to church funds. These donations are a welcome boost and continue to help with the upkeep of the building and churchyard.

100 Club Winners				100 Club Winners			
Mar-20				May-20			
Prize	£	No	Member	Prize	£	No	Member
1	£12.00	50	Chris Spaett	1	£12.00	119	Margot Shetliffe
2	£7.00	93	S. Berry Ottaway	2	£7.00	124	M. Harrison
3	£6.00	35	Grace Powell	3	£6.00	88	C. and L. Hack
4	£5.00	99	David Thomas	4	£5.00	5	James Harris
Apr-20				Jun-20			
Prize	£	No	Member	Prize	£	No	Member
1	£12.00	105	Emilie Lowther	1	£12.00	71	Katie & Tom Bott
2	£7.00	127	Gus Lowther	2	£7.00	109	Hazel Walter
3	£6.00	50	Chris Spaett	3	£6.00	24	David Warnes
4	£5.00	8	Lorna Barnes	4	£5.00	18	Nick Nenadich

The 100 Club renews in September. If you are not already a member but would like to join please do get in touch: juliasavagar@gmail.com

Yarkhill Social Events: *Regrettably all social gatherings are 'off limit' until restrictions are lifted further. BUT watch this space for future BINGO and Social event dates when safe and permissible.*

St John the Baptist's Church, Yarkhill



Yarkhill Church is pleased to be able to **WELCOME** individuals or households for private prayer on two afternoons weekly.

Currently the Church is open for Private Prayer on

Sundays1.30pm to 3.30pm

Wednesdays3.30pm to 5.30pm.

As Covid restrictions are gradually being lifted we are looking forward to resuming public worship.

Church Services will begin on

SUNDAY 4th OCTOBER at 11.00am

when we will give thanks for the Harvest.

Thereafter Services will be held on the first Sunday of each month at 11.00am.

Please do come and use St. John the Baptist's for personal prayer or join a Monthly Service

We ask all visitors to respect Social Distancing throughout their visit and to adhere to new arrangements.

Tuston Market Garden Vegetable Boxes

We are starting to produce veg boxes containing our very own vegetables freshly picked from our market garden, which is located between Ashperton and Tarrington. We are now in our second growing year and we are well on the way to conversion to organic (certification due August of this year).

All of our veg is grown by hand using the no-dig method in the hope that it will keep our soils healthy, which in turn will allow us to produce and provide high quality and nutritious food to our local community. We are looking to deliver a vegetable box containing at least 7 items that have all been grown by us and picked on day of delivery for £12 a week.



For example for delivery on 12/06/20:

- Spinach/ Rainbow Chard
- Broad beans
- Sugarsnap Peas/ Podding Peas
- Courgettes
- Red Russian Kale/ Spring Cabbage
- Parsley
- Salad Bag

All subject to change on picking day!

Our aim is to provide what we produce so, given that this is only our second year, we aren't expecting to provide your whole weekly veg but seasonal, locally grown, fresh produce that it makes sense for us to grow. As the summer progresses the variety will increase as the summer vegetables become ready. We are happy to receive feedback and make changes/additions to our boxes and hope that as time goes on we will be able to increase the variety of crops that we can provide.

We understand that during the current Covid-19 situation the village halls etc are closed so we will be doing home deliveries around Tarrington and Ashperton, maintaining social distancing procedure etc. However we would like to develop a collection point system, please let us know if you have any ideas of good places for drop-off points for our veg boxes. If you are not in the local area please get in touch to collect from the farm.

You can order a box by email at tustonfarm@gmail.com by phoning Alice on 07539401648 or through our [online shop](#).



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As the Newsletter is currently being emailed there is no restriction on the number of pages or amount of colour I can include. I thought this monthly publication from West Mercia Police might make interesting reading ...

Newsletter

The Hub

Herefordshire Police

June 2020



'The Hub' is a new publication from the Police in Herefordshire for the benefit of the people who live, work and visit Herefordshire. Frank, informative and full of advice, we will welcome your feedback.

On that point, a huge thanks to all those who took the time to comment (really pleased you like format & content) and to those who asked questions like Pete who owns a Land Rover Defender and is concerned about them being stolen. Each one gave me the opportunity to provide some security advice and guidance.

Please keep the questions coming....I might print them and the answers in future editions.

The message may have changed but the situation remains the same, more than ever before there is a need for all of us to help each other and it would be remiss not to mention COVID-19 and overwhelming public compliance with the restrictions in place although sadly not by everyone!!



To those few we repeat, keep 2m apart or we WILL take (and have taken) enforcement action where necessary.

Coronavirus (Covid-19): Please only call 999 if it is an emergency. If it's not an emergency, use our online services if you can. Please only contact us about a social distancing violation if you think there is a serious breach of the rules.

- [Our information and advice on coronavirus and policing](#)
- [Government coronavirus guidance on Gov.uk](#)
- [Tell us about a possible breach of coronavirus \(Covid-19\) measures](#)

For those reading this electronically hover over the bullet points above and PRESS CTRL +CLICK otherwise log onto <https://www.westmercia.police.uk/> for further information

Brambles Blog



By popular request, meet 'Bramble' again, he may not be a regular feature but he has a particularly significant request during any hot weather and a tale to tell.

Firstly, **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR DOG IN A CAR IN THE HEAT!!**

Secondly, whilst out for one of his many walks the other week he came across this unattended tractor at the entrance to a farm.

You may not see from the image, but the key was left in the ignition, and on the same ring were keys to lock-ups. There was no one about. So we went and found a very grateful farmer (who happened to like Jack Russell's too!) and as a result he asked for a full crime reduction assessment for his entire business.

Please, please, please take you keys out of any vehicle when leaving it unattended and separate your vehicle keys from those for your home or business properties. That way, if you lose one, you don't lose everything.



TIP!

If you are the owner of any self-propelled, or trailer mounted, construction or agricultural equipment then this could be for you. There is a brilliant Government backed and Police supported equipment registration and security scheme that acts as a powerful deterrent to theft and an invaluable aid in recovery, in the event of theft called **CESAR** <https://cesarscheme.org/>

CESAR registered machines are fitted with a sophisticated multi-layered security system that gives each machine its own unique 'fingerprint', that is impossible for thieves to remove. The security is made up of 4 elements, both visible to act as a deterrent and covert to aid identification and recovery. Firstly, a number of tamper proof registration plates are securely fitted to the machine's chassis. Secondly, a number of RFID transponders, each the size of a grain of rice, are hidden in the machinery each with its own unique programmed code. Thirdly, the machine has patches of chemical forensic liquid painted on it.

A CESAR registered product is 4 times less likely to be stolen and 6 times more likely to be recovered than one unregistered.

Substantial premium discounts and reductions in mandatory excesses can be obtained by having CESAR fitted to your equipment



SUPPLEMENT IT WITH A TRACKER TOO - Trackers are available for anything from kids & animals to Machinery & Vehicles. They vary in design, specification and cost, and some have advantages over others, however, a good place to start is with a Police approved company such as TRACKER at <https://www.tracker.co.uk/how-tracker-works> but there are many other companies to choose from too 😊

**** Speak to your Rural & Business Crime Team who can give you some practical advice in relation to Trackers ****

TIP!

Preventing Agricultural Vehicle Theft

It's not just Tractors, cars, 4x4's, Quad bikes, Horseboxes & Trailers ARE ALL TARGETS FOR THIEVES OPERATING IN RURAL LOCATIONS

It's imperative to put measures in place to safeguard your vehicles as this is big business for organised crime gangs, both domestically and internationally.

General advice for all vehicles

- Where possible, vehicles should be housed in a lockable garage or building, ideally with security lighting installed to the perimeter.
- Vehicles should always be locked when not in use, with the keys kept hidden and locked away in a secure location.
- Keep recordings or photographs of serial numbers and vehicles as these can be crucial in recovery, should the worst happen.

It is also important to be wary of crime even when selling a vehicle and check any prospective buyer is genuine before giving out your address details. Equally, it is just as important to protect yourself when buying used vehicles and machinery too. For further information visit <https://www.nfumutual.co.uk/news-and-stories/rural-crime-tips-to-avoid-buying-stolen-farm-vehicles/>

Quad bikes / ATVs

Quads / All-Terrain Vehicles are the top target for thieves in the UK as they are easier to steal and sell-on than larger farm vehicles. As well as being simple to jump on and drive off when they're left standing, thieves also take them from workshops and barns.

- Invest in a bespoke quad security device, such as Quadvice or a quality padlock and chain, such as those approved by [Secured By Design](#) - a police approved product scheme. Securing to a fixed point on the ground or something that takes time to remove will also act as a deterrent.
- Never leave your keys in the ignition, even if you only briefly leave your ATV unattended.
- Keep gates to yards closed as open gates can be an open invitation to thieves.

Tractors

Although large, expensive tractors may seem the obvious target, thieves are now also targeting smaller and older, vintage models, which are less conspicuous to move around. The kit inside tractors, such as satellite navigation equipment, is also a major target for theft.

- Machinery should be security marked with DNA marking devices and [SmartWater](#) tools, enabling tractors and their parts to be traced back to their rightful owners.
- Sign up to [CESAR](#), an agricultural equipment registration scheme, which increases the chance of recovering stolen goods by helping police identify stolen machinery. This provides chips and data dots that can enable machines to be identified, even if they are victim to the common criminal practice of cloning and modifying stolen vehicles.
- Have the Vehicle Identification Number etched on windows. This makes the vehicle more detectable and less appealing to thieves because they have to grind out the numbers. Autoglass carry out etching free of charge for [NFU Mutual tractor insurance](#) policyholders for example.
- Install immobilisers, chip keys and trackers as these are a simple way to deter criminals or track vehicles and can be fitted easily by an experienced agricultural engineer. [Thatcham immobilisers](#) are quality tested and allow greater piece of mind for a one-off cost. Fitting a tracking device will provide a 24/7 location of your vehicle and can possibly lower your insurance premium.

Trailers and horse boxes

Farmers often have no choice but to store trailers outside, but there are still precautions they can take to limit the risk of theft.

- Fit locks and wheel locks when the vehicle is not in use; these can also be marked to identify who they belong to.
- Paint your postcode on the roof to enable police helicopters to spot it; chances are the thieves won't know it's there.

Fuel

Fuel for tractors and ATVs is an increasingly expensive resource and therefore should also be safely guarded.

- Store fuel tanks within secure buildings or cages, keeping them locked and alarmed.
- Install an anti-siphon device on vehicles.
- Protect fuel tanks by equipping them with an alarm that will sound when fuel levels drop.



Contact your Rural & Business Crime Officer (RBO) who will provide you with totally free advice and guidance on how you can reduce the opportunities for crime at home, work and online.....in fact anything to do with people, places or property. There is an abundance of good generic advice but the RBO will tailor that to your particular needs and location.

CASE STUDY

A Herefordshire Farmer who had been a victim of crime in the past, was worried by suspicious activity around his property and thought he was going to be broken into again. The sort of things that had been happening were strange vehicles driving into his yard and there were signs that people had been on his land. He had taken some security advice from a commercial company and others and then recalled reading about the Rural & Business Crime Team.

Rural & Business Crime Officer Paul Crumpton visited the farm and gave an assessment of the sorts of appropriate, realistic and cost effective measures that could be taken to reduce the opportunity for crime which were implemented by the farmer.

Feedback from the farmer was

*Paul, Thank you for your visit to view security arrangements at **** Farm today. I thought that your suggestions were more suitable compared to others that I had been given.*

*Thank you for the signs for the gates too. Many thanks, Mark ******

County Lines

Some of you may have heard of a phrase called County lines and wondered what it is and how significant it is? **I urge you to read on** County Lines is the police term for urban gangs supplying drugs to suburban areas and market towns using dedicated mobile phone lines. It often involves child criminal exploitation as gangs use children and vulnerable people to move drugs and money. Gangs establish a base in the market location, typically by taking over the homes of local vulnerable adults by force or coercion.

The response to tackle it involves the police, the National Crime Agency, a wide range of Government departments, local government agencies and VCS (voluntary and community sector) organisations.

County Lines **are here** in Herefordshire and we need your help in identifying it and protecting those most at risk.

This poster is from 'fearless.org' who provide anonymous support and reporting for young people. The poster indicates some of the signs that a young person may be involved in this activity.

If you have anything to report around County Lines activity or are concerned for someone who may be involved please contact us via 101 or alternatively use Crime stoppers or Fearless.org or me !



Meet the Rural & Business Crime Team who say, “A little bit of info goes a long way.”

Sarah Smith, John Meek & Paul Crumpton work across Herefordshire as part of a larger dedicated problem solving team and are supported, not just Special Constables and volunteers, but also by members of the public.

Report suspicious activity, people or vehicles. No matter how insignificant you might think it is, if it is suspicious to you, it probably is.

For a confidential conversation with either Sarah, John or Paul direct contact them on

WDBC RBO Pc John Meek	07773 044234	john.meek@westmercia.pnn.police.uk
WDBC RBO Pc Sarah Smith	07773 047243	sarah.smith@westmercia.pnn.police.uk
RBO Paul Crumpton	07773 044781	paul.crumpton@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Also, REPORT CRIME! We know not all crime is reported to us, and we know the many reasons for that which include frustration.



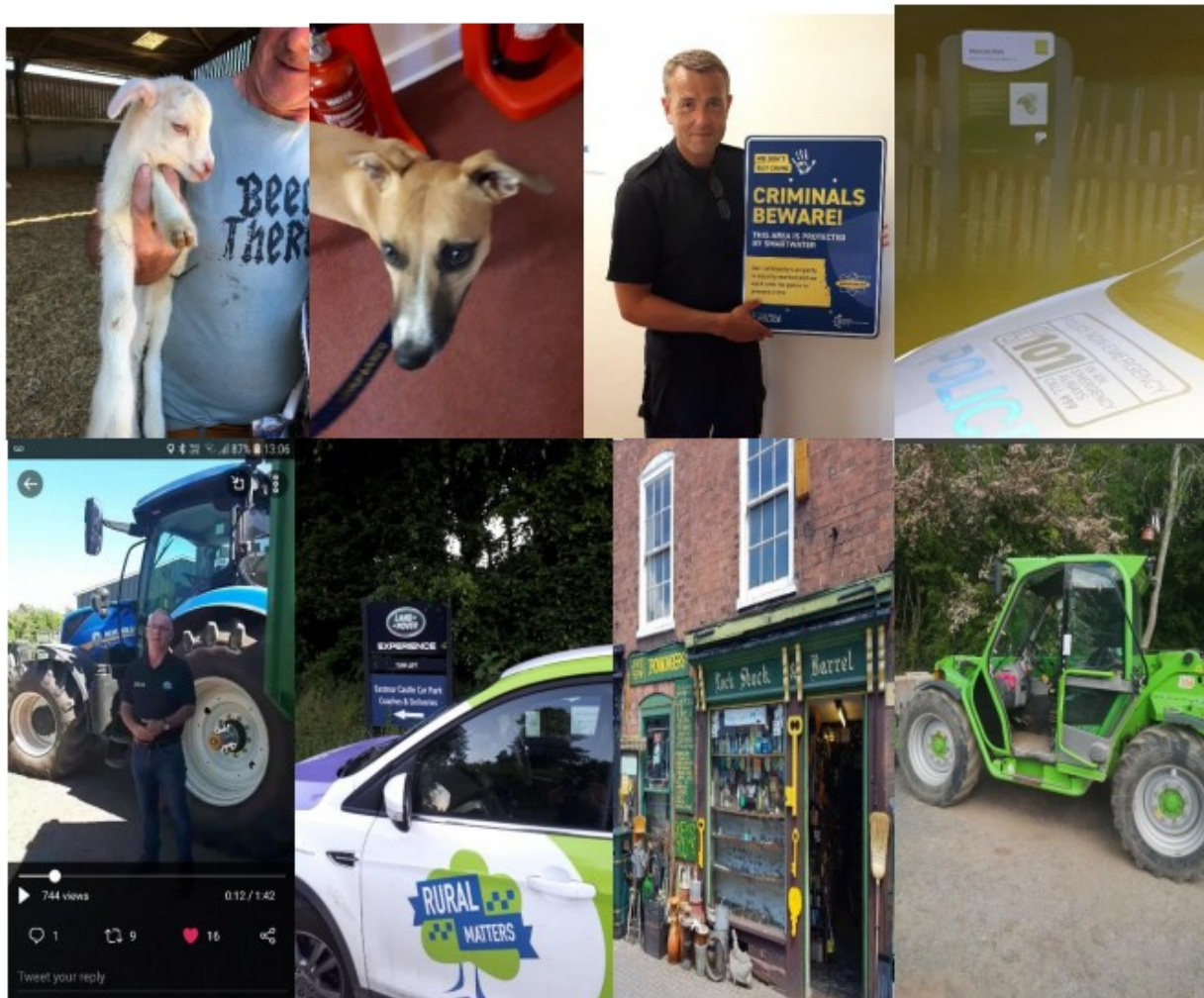
You can now report non-emergency crimes on the **West Mercia Police website** as well as 999 or 101

(Click on the word 'website' and it will take you straight to it – you may need to hover and press CTRL + CLICK together)

If you have any information regarding any crime you can contact police on 101, in an emergency please dial 999.

You can also contact Crime stoppers on **0800 555 111** to report any crime or criminal activity anonymously.

So, what sort of things were they up to in May?



Clockwise from the top left, providing crime prevention advice to a farmer at Credenhill, rescuing a dog from a hot locked car, promoting the award winning WeDontBuyCrime scheme, patrolling rural communities at night, finding an unattended tractor with keys in for a grateful farmer, providing crime reduction initiatives to businesses, supporting business who have been victims of crime/poaching, using social media to promote safety.

These are just a glimpse of the activities (when they remember to take a picture!) that the team have been involved with and you can follow some of their exploits on Twitter & Facebook. Look for them at

Twitter: @WMPRuralMatters or @WMPBusinessMatt and Facebook: Your Rural Matters & Your Business Matt

A summary of other activities in May include

- 4 arrested for Burglary (quads stolen from barns), going equipped and drugs offences
- Providing COVID-19 support/advice & guidance
- Dealing with livestock & quad thefts & illegal fishing
- Providing Cyber Security advice to victims
- Giving crime prevention advice
- Working with local businesses to join the We Don't Buy Crime scheme to reduce criminality.

and a lot more (whilst respecting social distancing)

If you run or work for a charity or organisation that supports Victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence please read on as the West Mercia PCC John Campion has secured additional funding from the Government.

Victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence across West Mercia are to benefit from strengthened support.

To meet the additional costs that charities and organisations have faced as a result of adapting their services during the pandemic, and to cope with the associated increases in demand, they have the opportunity to apply for a total of £434,000 for the following:

- Domestic abuse services that are already commissioned by the PCC
- Sexual violence services that are already commissioned by the PCC, and those that are not currently funded by the PCC
- Domestic abuse services that are not currently commissioned by the PCC

PCC John Campion said: "This additional funding is fantastic news for the communities of West Mercia and those that are dependent on the vital support these services provide. It also further bolsters my commitment to ensuring victims and survivors get the right help to cope and recover at every point of their journey.

"This funding will help strengthen these charities that have had to adapt during these challenging times to make sure that the support victims need continues."

Business Update



£1.58m LEP injection to support region's recovery

The [Marches Local Enterprise Partnership](#) is to inject nearly £1.6m into the regional economy to support tourism and businesses affected by flooding and the coronavirus.

It will be allocated to the LEP's partners, councils in Herefordshire, Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin, to use as grant support for strategic tourism and business initiatives following consultations with the area's business boards.

LEP Chair Mandy Thom MBE DL said: "Businesses and the tourism sector have been amongst the hardest hit in 2020. First we had the devastation of the floods and then we have a national emergency as we fight coronavirus and its impact on our economy.

"The LEP Board has voted to use £1.58m of Marches Investment Funds (MIF) to help support those hardest hit over the next six months. We have a duty to support the regional economy and this will be just one step on the road to its recovery." [Full story...](#)



**WE DON'T
BUY CRIME**



**WE DON'T
BUY CRIME**



**WE DON'T
BUY CRIME**



A record number of homes and businesses are better protected from would be thieves as almost 20,000 join the We Don't Buy Crime scheme in the last 12 months alone. Between April 2019 and April 2020 18,643 SmartWater forensic property marking kits were registered across the cities, towns and villages covered by West Mercia Police taking the total number of SmartWater registrations to more than 54,000

Earlier this year We Don't Buy Crime won a national award for its work to reduce demand and prevent crime in partnership with local communities and continues to go from strength to strength, utilising innovative and effective crime prevention.

Chief Superintendent Tom Harding has been behind We Don't Buy Crime since its first launch.

He said: "Independent academic research has found that there is a significant reduction in crime in We Don't Buy Crime areas and just as importantly residents feel safer and more reassured."

We Don't Buy Crime, which looks to tackle acquisitive crime and associated harm, also works with second-hand stores to help prevent the resale of stolen goods and fuel stations to prevent motorists driving off without paying for fuel, those who do are often involved in wider criminality with staff working with police to spot those who may be criminally exploiting vulnerable people.

The award winning initiative also utilises the latest in covert technology leaving criminals exposed and catching them committing crime.

Ch Supt Harding added: "Being a victim of a crime such as burglary can have a significant impact on victims, often leaving them to feel unsafe in their own home. With all of our measures we are seeking to increase the risk to criminals that we will be caught. Quite simply I want our work to put criminals out of business and make our communities safer."

For more information about We Don't Buy Crime follow @WeDontBuyCrime on Twitter or visit the We Don't Buy Crime facebook page.



NEXT MONTH WILL FEATURE A CASE STUDY ON WE DON'T BUY CRIMENOT TO BE MISSED

Online Criminality

NHS test and trace - fraud awareness

If NHS Test and Trace calls you by phone, the service will be using a single phone number 0300 0135 000. The only website the service will ask you to visit is <https://contact-tracing.phe.gov.uk>.

Contact tracers will never:

- Ask you to dial a premium rate number to speak to us (for example, those starting 09 or 087)
 - Ask you to make any form of payment
 - Ask for any details about your bank account
 - Ask for your social media identities or login details, or those of your contacts
 - Ask you for any passwords or PINs, or ask you to set up any passwords or PINs over the phone
 - Ask you to purchase a product
 - Ask you to download any software to your device or ask you to hand over control of your PC, smartphone or tablet
 - Ask you to access any website that does not belong to the Government or NHS
- If you think you have been subjected to, or a victim of, a scam or attempted fraud using Track and Trace or any other fraud please call 101 or contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040. If you or someone else is in immediate danger or risk of harm dial 999 now

At last! There is now one email address you can report suspicious emails too

Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS) report@phishing.gov.uk

Please be aware and remain vigilant of phishing emails. One of the many scam emails currently in circulation purports to be from the TV Licensing advising to cancel direct debits. These messages may look like the real thing but are malicious. Once clicked, you are sent to a dodgy website which could download viruses onto your computer, or steal your passwords. The criminal's goal is to convince you to click on the links within their scam email or text message, or to give away sensitive information (such as bank details).

If you receive an email which you're not quite sure about, forward it to the Suspicious Email report@phishing.gov.uk

For further information and advice please go to:

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/suspicious-email-actions>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/about-ncsc/what-is-cyber-security>

<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>

<https://staysafeonline.org/stay-safe-online/>

Stay Safe. Stay Connected. Stay Cyber Aware!



haveibeenpwned.com is a trusted website where you can check to see if your email address has been breached anywhere in the world, by who and will indicate what has been what has been compromised, for example, password, mother's maiden name etc... It will also advise on how you can protect yourself. As a matter of course, change your password for your email account. Go to <https://haveibeenpwned.com>

Social Media users may wish to view this short clip on YouTube, either click on the link below (you may need to hover over it and press Ctrl + Click together) or type it into Google or whatever search engine you use.....



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F7pYHN9iC9I>

Social networking is a global revolution, enabling billions of people worldwide to stay in touch with their friends, share experiences and photographs and exchange personal content. In many ways it has replaced the phone and email. For many users, it has become a way of life.

Various social networking sites are also valuable tools used by many companies and individuals to extend their contacts and deliver marketing messages.

The nature of social networking – having such a massive base of users who are unknown to you – means that using it unfortunately carries a degree of risk including becoming a target for cyber-criminals.....so here are just some of the things you can do to protect yourself and not fall victim to Cyber Crooks.

Safe Social Networking

You can avoid these risks and enjoy using social networking sites by following a few sensible guidelines:

- Do not let peer pressure or what other people are doing on these sites convince you to do something you are not comfortable with.
- Be wary of publishing any identifying information about yourself – either in your profile or in your posts – such as phone numbers, pictures of your home, workplace or school, your address or birthday.
- Pick a user name that does not include any personal information. For example, "joe_glasgow" or "jane_liverpool" would be bad choices.
- Set up a separate email account to register and receive mail from the site. That way if you want to close down your account/page, you can simply stop using that mail account. Setting up a new email account is very simple and quick to do using such providers as Hotmail, Yahoo! Mail or gmail.
- Use strong passwords.
- Keep your profile closed and allow only your friends to view your profile.
- What goes online stays online. Do not say anything or publish pictures that might later cause you or someone else embarrassment.
- Never post comments that are abusive or may cause offence to either individuals or groups of society.
- Be aware of what friends post about you, or reply to your posts, particularly about your personal details and activities.
- Remember that many companies routinely view current or prospective employees' social networking pages, so be careful about what you say, what pictures you post and your profile.
- Don't post your holiday dates - or family photos while you are away - as social networking sites are a favourite research tool for the modern burglar.
- Learn how to use the site properly. Use the privacy features to restrict strangers' access to your profile. Be guarded about who you let join your network.
- Be on your guard against phishing scams, including fake friend requests and posts from individuals or companies inviting you to visit other pages or sites.
- If you do get caught up in a scam, make sure you remove any corresponding likes and app permissions from your account.
- Ensure you have effective and updated antivirus/antispyware software and firewall running before you go online

TOP



GET SAFE ONLINE is an EXCELLENT website to help you at home or in business to understand the internet and how to utilise it safely, how to protect your devices and thereby yourself from Cyber Crime. If some of the language in the World of the Internet and Computers is gobbledegook to you, GET SAFE ONLINE puts it into to "Janet & John" language (that's my description by the way ☺) Really, Really good. <https://www.getsafeonline.org/social-networking/>

Things to look out for

This section is designed to ask you to help us with ongoing investigations or issues of interest to us that may form part of a bigger picture. Its value to us is massive as you know your area and you will know what is suspicious so please do let us know.

1. There are a continuing number of incidents of livestock theft (sheep etc.) Particularly those in lesser populated areas could you keep your eyes peeled for vehicles with trailers or livestock transporters that you don't recognise? The crooks doing this need an outlet so if you have suspicions of livestock being slaughtered at a particular place we would also like to know.
2. Quad bikes are also a continuing item of choice for the thief. If you are unsure of anyone messing around with a Quad or loading one onto a trailer we would prefer to follow up 1000 good intention calls and establish it's the owner than have more and more stolen. Here are a couple to look out for.

One like this a HONDA QUAD TRX420FE1 in RED from Preston Wynne



And this actual bike a QuadZilla CF 500 -2 in Blue from Lower Bullingham



Crime Prevention Tactics

This final section will feature a series of articles to help you help yourself in preventing or reducing the opportunity for crime.

It begins with a basic Routine Activity theory which simply states

For any crime to happen you need just 3 things

- A suitable target (something to steal, something to damage or someone to hurt)
- A motivated offender (A crook!)
- The absence of a capable guardian (someone to stop it happening, something to stop it happening)

So if you remove just one of those 3 things, you have no crime.

To understand how we can all help each other in preventing or reducing crime, we are going to use something called the 10 Principles of Crime Reduction. The first newsletter focussed on Surveillance and this month we are going to look at **ACCESS CONTROL**

Access control in the World of Crime Prevention is about preventing the criminal gaining access to the target, which might be a building, a person or a place.

If you can control the **access** you can control who enters the space whether that be at home, work or online. (Which is why in next month's issue I will go on about effective passwords) but at home or work it might include some of the following amongst many, many others

- Having a 1.8 metre fence around the garden complete with trellis and climbing prickly shrubs and a well locked gate of equal height
- Making sure you lock your doors and windows
- Making sure that car doors and windows are locked
- Adding an access control system to the main entrance
- Employing a security guard and barrier at the entrance to an industrial estate
- Putting up gates at the entrances to back alleys that run to the rear of houses

For some of you reading this who have had a crime prevention survey from me or have been subjected to one of my presentations in a village hall! You will know I go on and on about ACCESS CONTROL. If we can make it more difficult for the crook to operate in your space, where ever that is, because of the measures controlling access, we put one more crook out of business and have one less victim.

Take a look at the picture below and what can you see?



In this example I am showing the entrance to a Business Park in Herefordshire, but if it were the driveway to a house, the principles are the same. From this position you can see buildings, vehicles and other equipment.....so if you can see that, so can the crook.

Now think about your own situation.

What else can you see?

Hopefully the picture is clear enough to show the multiple tyre tracks in and out of this site indicating a regular vehicular traffic.

Would you want to know and/or regulate who is accessing your space?

Thinking ACCESS CONTROL what might you consider?



My advice, (and the owner has done this) is to restrict & regulate the access where possible.

In this example the owner installed a substantial electric gate with perimeter fencing. The gates also have an Access Control system fitted.

Now the view is very different and the crook cannot so easily see in. This is referred to as Situational Crime Prevention which attempts to dissuade potential offenders by altering the situation.

Always consider your perimeter security measures first, deter them from entering your space in the first place.

This location is also going to become a WE DON'T BUY CRIME Smartwater Protected Business Park.



Well that's it!

Thank you for taking the time to read this and if you have any feedback good and bad or suggestions for articles or information you would like covered please contact me on the details below.

Paul Crumpton
Rural & Business Crime Officer
Herefordshire
West Mercia Police
Mob:07773 044781
Email:paul.crumpton@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Twitter: @WMPRuralMatters @WMPBusinessMatt
Facebook: look for us at Your Rural Matters and Your Business Matt

I will respond to your email as soon as possible.

If you are contacting me in relation to an emergency please call 999 or the alternative emergency number 112; for the deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired call 18000 to use [Next Generation Text Service](#); or use [emergencySMS](#); or please visit our website to report crime and other matters online www.westmercia.police.uk.

On our website you can

- Report a non emergency incident www.westmercia.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/
- Find about your Safer Neighbourhood Team and what's happening in your area www.westmercia.police.uk/a/your-area/
- Find advice and information www.westmercia.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/
- Submit compliments or complaints www.westmercia.police.uk/fo/feedback/tc/thanks-and-complaints/



AND FINALLY THE FOLLOWING FIVE PAGES ARE A SURVEY HEING CARRIED OUT BY WEST MERCIA POLICE. IT IS NOT OBLIGATORY TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY BIUT I THOUGHT SOME OF YOU MAY WISH TO.



TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL SURVEY 2020

Please select one answer for each question, unless asked to do otherwise.
Please ensure only one questionnaire is completed and returned for your individual town/ parish council

LOCAL POLICING

1 In the Council's opinion, how good a job do you think the police are doing in your town / parish?

☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor ☐ Very poor ☐ Don't know

2 In the Council's opinion, how would you rate the visibility of police in your town / parish?

☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor ☐ Very poor ☐ Don't know

How much does the Council agree or disagree with the following statements:

3 The police work well with the Council to identify and address local crime and disorder issues

☐ Strongly agree ☐ Tend to agree ☐ Neither agree nor disagree

☐ Tend to disagree ☐ Strongly disagree ☐ Don't know

4 The Council has confidence in the police to resolve crime and disorder issues raised within the local community

☐ Strongly agree ☐ Tend to agree ☐ Neither agree nor disagree

☐ Tend to disagree ☐ Strongly disagree ☐ Don't know

5 On average, how often does the Council contact the police to raise concerns about crime or incidents?

☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Every 2 – 6 months

☐ Once a year ☐ Never ☐ Don't know

6	Overall, how would you rate the police response to crime and disorder issues or incidents Raised by the Council?
☐	Excellent
☐	Good
☐	Fair
☐	Poor
☐	Very poor
☐	Don't know / NA

CONTACT AND ENGAGEMENT

7	In the Council's opinion, how easy and convenient is it to access your local policing teams? (This may be in any form – face to face, email, telephone etc)
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☐	Very easy	☐	Fairly easy	☐	Fairly difficult
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☐	Very difficult	☐	Don't know / N/A
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8	In the Council's opinion, how easy and convenient is it to access relevant information for the local community from the police?
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☐	Very easy	☐	Fairly easy	☐	Fairly difficult
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☐	Very difficult	☐	Don't know / N/A
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9	In the Council's opinion how would you rate the level of contact you have with the police?
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☐	Excellent	☐	Good	☐	Fair	☐	Poor	☐	Very poor	☐	Don't know / NA
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10	How does the Council contact the police to discuss local issues, seek information or invite to meetings / community events? (Not including reporting crimes)
----	--

Please tick all that apply

☐	Phone (land line)	☐	Phone (mobile)	☐	Email
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☐	Letter	☐	Social media	☐	In person (at a police station etc)
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☐	Website	☐	Other	☐	Don't contact the police
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11	How often does the Council contact the police to discuss local issues, seek information or invite to meetings / community events etc? (not including reporting crimes)
----	--

☐	Weekly	☐	Monthly	☐	Every 2 – 6 months
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☐	Once a year	☐	Never	☐	Don't know
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12	How would the Council rate the police response to requests for information / meetings etc?
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☐	Excellent	☐	Good	☐	Fair	☐	Poor	☐	Very Poor	☐	Don't know / N/A
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13	How often do the police attend Council meetings or other community events in your town or
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	parish area		
☐	Weekly	☐	Monthly
☐	Every 2 – 6 months	☐	Once a year
☐	Never	☐	Don't know / not invited
14	How often do the police proactively contact the Council to raise awareness of local issues, share information etc?		
☐	Weekly	☐	Monthly
☐	Every 2 – 6 months	☐	Once a year
☐	Never	☐	Don't know
15	Does the Council know the members of the police's local Safer Neighbourhood Team? These teams include Inspectors, Sergeants, PCs and PCSOs.		
☐	Very familiar	☐	Somewhat familiar
☐	Not well known	☐	Totally unknown
☐	N/A	☐	
CRIME AND ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ISSUES			
16	In the Council's opinion how much of a problem, if at all, would you say that crime and anti-social behaviour is in your town / parish council area?		
☐	Not a problem at all	☐	Not a very big problem
☐	Fairly big problem	☐	Very big problem
☐	Don't know	☐	
17	Which if any of the following issues would the Council say are currently a problem to people in the town / parish area?		

Please tick one box in each row

	Not a problem at all	Not a very big problem	Fairly big problem	Very big problem	Don't know
Domestic burglary	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Violent crime	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Anti-social behaviour	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Online crime	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Vehicle crime	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Criminal damage / vandalism	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Crimes against businesses	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Rural crime	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Offences of a sexual nature	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Crimes committed against people due to their gender, age, race, ethnicity religion, disability or sexuality	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Road safety	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other (please specify in the box below)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Other:

ABOUT YOUR COUNCIL

18 What is the name of your council (or councils if it is a combined parish council group)?

19 Please confirm which Borough / District / City / Unitary area your council is in

☐ Herefordshire	☐ Shropshire	☐ Telford & Wrekin
☐ Redditch	☐ Wyre Forest	☐ Worcester City
☐ Malvern Hills	☐ Wychavon	☐ Bromsgrove

20	Approximately how many people live in your town / parish area?		
☐	Less than 500	☐	501 - 1000
☐	1001 - 5000	☐	5001 - 10,000
☐	Over 10,000		
21	Please provide an appropriate, current email address the Commissioner or his staff may use to contact the Council when necessary. Your email will be stored in secure web-based systems. It would not be shared more widely with other third parties.		
☐	Yes	☐	No
Would you like to receive the PCC's monthly newsletter to this email address?			

Thank you for taking the time to complete our survey. The survey results will be available to view online at www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk

EMAIL RETURNS: If you have chosen to complete a word version of the survey, email your completed survey to: opcc@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

POSTAL RETURNS: If you have chosen to print a copy of this survey to complete and return via Royal Mail (instead of completing online / emailing), post your completed survey to: John Campion, Police and Crime Commissioner, OPCC, West Mercia Police HQ, Worcester, WR3 8SP