

Annual Police Report 2011

The main issues this year in the rural area have once again been the problems caused by the extreme weather. In order to keep main routes open during the long periods of extreme cold during December, a lot of rural lanes were not being gritted to save on salt. These lanes suffered badly from the effects of frost damage. This caused the roads to break up in many places and it also has the effect to cause deep ruts along the sides of the lanes where vehicles have run on to the soft borders. Although the highways department has made considerable efforts to repair the damage some lanes still have the after effects of road surface damage. Police do urge farmers and land owners to take care whilst working on fields during wet weather as a great deal of mud is often transferred to the lanes when the heavy machinery leaves the fields. It is their responsibility to clean up after them or they may attract the attention of either the police or the highways authority. The effects caused by serious hazards on the highway are a danger to car drivers and are also a very severe hazard to cycle and motor bike users.

It appears that most drivers took police advice over Christmas and avoided using their cars when out enjoying a drink or a meal at some of the excellent pubs and restaurants on the area. The extreme winter weather also had the effect of keeping people at home. However we do still have a few drivers who feel they can get away with drinking and driving in rural areas. These will be targeted and prosecuted if caught. We think it's quite appropriate to say a big thank you, for the tremendous cooperation we received from our licensed premises across rural south. All participated and advertised the drink-drive campaign material that we delivered during our monthly licensee checks.

Although in comparison with other areas, crime in this area still remains relatively low with theft from outbuildings and isolated uninhabited properties being the hardest hit. We did see a small surge of burglaries in the more remote areas just after Christmas. This resulted in an operation conducted by the police that resulted in an arrest and conviction of a male from the West Midlands region. One of the reasons that theft has significantly increased is partly due to the high prices of fuel and metal. We would therefore urge that all suspicious activity is reported to the police.

We have also seen significant problems on the East of the area where most of the thefts that take place are associated with vehicle crime committed in isolated locations. Most of the crime on the area is associated with theft by offenders from outside the area.

Speeding traffic is still a factor of concern in all rural locations and I would urge all drivers to show due consideration, local drivers are often the worst offenders as they are more familiar with the roads. The introduction of vehicle activated signs in a number of locations has helped to remind drivers of their speeds. PACT priorities have targeted speeding issues in Cressage, Dorrington and some of the smaller villages. The police will continue to work with its partner agencies to target speeding traffic.

I also urge all parents to act with due care and caution when dropping off and picking up children outside the schools as these are often areas of congestion and frustration. Parking issues outside schools have caused considerable anger and frustration; often this can easily be avoided by having consideration for other road users.

It is quite apparent that a number of persons driving tractors are driving without due care to other road users and using mobile phones. If seen by police, who now patrol the rural areas at regular intervals, they will face prosecution. Using a mobile phone whilst driving **WILL RESULT IN EITHER A PENALTY TICKET OR A COURT APPEARANCE.**

Litter, Dog fouling and fly tipping are still a problem. Fly tipping has increased due to people trying to save money by disposing of building and commercial waste illegally.

We urge all dog owners to act responsibly and clean up after their pets. Any person caught not doing this face a penalty notice that can be issued by the dog warden as well as CSOs and police.

Poaching and Wildlife Crime continue to blight the area, mainly due to trespassers running dogs on farm land without permission of the owners. Due to this we did increase patrols on the East of the area where most of the problems arise.

The LPO team continues to work very closely with our schools and we are currently looking at doing some work with the schools prior to the summer holidays. This will include talks on causing criminal damage, personal and cycle safety and tackling anti-social behaviour. The team will continue to promote crime awareness with prevention presentations, work with the safer schools initiative as well as promoting sport such as Tag rugby.

Although policing in general has had to adapt to the reduction of funding affecting everybody. It is still the priority of West Mercia Police to direct its main attention to the needs of front line policing. Front Line Policing also includes local policing and we will continue to direct as much of our time, to visual patrols. Remember we are YOUR policing team and we are here for YOU.

We ask all our residents to be vigilant and we have once again at the bottom of this report REPRINTED SOUND CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE.

Shrewsbury Rural South crime results for 01/04/10 – 01/04/11

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	
Burglary Dwelling	0	1	1	0	2	3	0	0	0	2	0	1	10
Burglary Other	1	0	2	0	4	1	1	4	4	1	3	2	23
Criminal Damage	1	0	7	8	2	9	0	1	1	3	2	3	37
Drug Offences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fraud & Forgery	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	5
Violent Crime	3	2	4	2	1	1	0	0	3	0	1	0	17
of which: Violence Against Person	3	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	3	0	1	0	13
of which: Sexual Offences	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
of which: Robbery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Theft & Handling	6	9	5	8	4	7	8	9	6	13	7	6	88
of which: Vehicle Crime	2	1	3	1	2	3	1	3	3	3	2	3	27
of which Theft from Vehicle	2	1	1	1	1	3	0	3	2	2	2	2	20
of which: Theft of Vehicle	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	7
Other Offences	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
TOTAL RECORDED CRIME	12	13	20	19	14	21	9	14	15	19	14	12	182

Security Tips.

- **Do not** leave valuable items on show in your car whether you are out shopping or parked at home.
- **Never, Never** leave the car unlocked, or with the keys in the ignition when it is unattended. Not even for a couple of minutes. Doing so could seriously affect your insurance.
- **Do Not** leave your car running unattended whilst it defrosts, this is a traffic offence on a public road and it leaves your vehicle vulnerable to THEFT.
- **Keep** your outer buildings locked and consider whitewashing windows of sheds to stop people looking inside.
- **Close** gates, this makes it time consuming for a thief to enter your property.
- **Close** windows and ensure all doors are locked when you leave your property.
- **Mark** property to help identify it. This can be done either visibly with marker pens and paint or invisible with ultra violet pens or Smart Water.
- **Don't leave** Lap tops on view or any other valuable items.
- **Don't leave** Car Keys on hooks in the kitchen or on hall tables, this is the first place a thief will look.
- **Do not** leave handbags in shopping trolleys in supermarkets, and then wander off to look at goods along the aisle ways.
- **Do Not** leave garden tools around the garden or yard, doing so provides a thief with the tools to break into your house.
- At night take your handbag and wallet upstairs with you.
- If you need to arrange transport home after a night out, either book a taxi or use a black cab. A good idea when using a cab or a taxi to go home at night, or even a car belonging to someone you have only just met. Is to **TEXT** the car registration number to a friend prior to getting in to the vehicle?

Remember, if it's out of sight, it is also out of the mind of the criminal.

Look at your property and think! Could I take this without anyone knowing or seeing me? If the answer is YES, Then a thief can do the same thing.

Above are just points to consider. The security of your home starts with you,

DON'T MAKE IT EASY FOR THE CRIMINAL.

Shrewsbury Rural South still remains a very low crime area and we want it to remain that way.

As a reminder to all, The Drink Drive Campaign will continue throughout the year.

DRINK DRIVERS, WRECK LIVES

DON'T BECOME ONE OF THEM. LEAVE THE CAR AT HOME IF YOU PLAN TO GO OUT AND DRINK.



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