

Here is the latest update for the Caversham neighbourhoods from Sgt Rob Pitman:

Burglary remains our number one priority and the Caversham neighbourhood policing team was involved in 'Operation Overpass' during February which focused on targeting burglars and people who handle stolen goods. It was accompanied by a good deal of media coverage and the Caversham team made a brief appearance on the BBC South news programme.

During this operation the Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) focussed on crime prevention. They talked to residents, handed out leaflets and conducted crime prevention surveys. They carried out this work on entire streets, including Valentine Crescent, Grove Road and Westdene Crescent to

The operation itself was a great success, with a number of people arrested and property found that could be identified as coming from some of our local burglaries. As well as stolen goods we uncovered a number of drug offences.

Information from the public goes a long way to helping the police act on these crimes and I would urge people to look out for anyone who

- Calls at a home posing as a council or utility worker
- Sells cheap goods at a local pub or club
- Runs a "dodgy" stall or sells items at a boot sale
- Acts suspiciously - maybe a friend of a friend or even a member of your own family.

If you don't want to speak to the police directly then contact the Crimestoppers charity on 0800 555 111 - you can remain anonymous and no-one will know that you have called.

I am pleased to report that the team seized one of the trials bikes that was causing problems on Amersham Road and surrounding streets. We have a power under the Police Reform Act 2002 to impound vehicles being used anti-socially, which can come at considerable cost to the owners.

Most people get a warning to allow them to alter their behaviour but sadly not all drivers and riders choose to do so, and they ultimately lose their wheels.

I have recently had reports of trials bikes being ridden on land surrounding Deans Farm and Millers Court – if anyone has information about people riding trials bikes through this area, please contact the Caversham neighbourhood policing team on 08458 505 505.

The team has changed the way we carry out our policing surgeries in a bid to be even more accessible. While our monthly surgery at Caversham Library and the police office were well received, we aim to reach even more people by holding outdoor surgeries on a Wednesday and a surgery alongside our local councillors on a Saturday. Confirmed dates so far are published on our website. PCSOs Chloe Denny, Karen Vaughan and Rob Dunford carried out our 'pilot' surgery in a gazebo placed outside Costa Coffee.

They gave out lots of crime prevention advice and answered questions about local policing and listened to people's concerns. We'll be moving the gazebo between the

precinct and Budgens store in Emmer Green and the councillor surgeries are in various locations including Amersham Road, Montague Street and Caversham library (just don't talk too loudly).

The newly reformed Caversham Trader's Association had a meeting this month which the team were invited to attend. The local shops and stores have their fair share of problems and it was useful to get their perspective on crime and anti-social behaviour. I'm very pleased that we now have their membership on the Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) and their help in both identifying and tackling the local priorities.

You can contact any member of the team by calling 0845 8 505 505 or by visiting thamesvalley.police.uk and following the neighbourhood policing links.

Ends