



SEVERN VALE NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING UPDATE

July 2026

Your neighbourhood policing team is pleased to provide the latest update on crime trends, anti-social behaviour (ASB), local policing activity and community engagement across Severn Vale & Pilning.

July saw a moderate increase in recorded crime compared with June, whilst anti-social behaviour remained broadly stable. The neighbourhood team continues to work proactively with local communities, partner agencies and residents to address concerns and keep local neighbourhoods safe.

Police Appeal: E-bikes and Motorbikes in Severn Beach

Police are aware of ongoing issues involving e-bikes and motorbikes being ridden on the sea wall and surrounding roads in Severn Beach.

Members of the public are urged to report incidents as they happen. If you have any information about the individuals involved, police would like to hear from you.

We understand concerns from residents that these vehicles are often being ridden at speed, with riders frequently wearing balaclavas and not wearing helmets. Such behaviour can pose a significant danger to pedestrians, other road users, and the riders themselves.

If you witness this type of activity and believe there is an immediate risk to public safety, please call 999 and report it at the time of the incident. Your information can help police identify those responsible and take appropriate action.

Police Warning Over Illegal Car Meets in Palmer Avenue

Police have received reports of illegal car meets taking place in the Palmer Avenue area. These events are not only dangerous but can also cause significant anti-social behaviour and disruption to local residents. Illegal car meets are unauthorised gatherings where motorists may show off vehicles, race, or carry out dangerous manoeuvres such as burnouts and doughnuts. While parking and socialising with other vehicle enthusiasts is not automatically illegal, activities that endanger the public, create excessive noise, or cause disorder can result in police action.

Police have a range of powers available to tackle illegal or disruptive car meets, including:

- Section 59 Police Reform Act 2002 – Officers can issue warnings to drivers using vehicles in a manner that causes alarm, distress, or annoyance. A repeat offence can result in the vehicle being seized immediately.
- Section 35 Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 – Allows officers to issue dispersal orders, requiring individuals to leave a specified area for up to 48 hours.
- Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) – These can prohibit car meets in designated areas, making it an offence to organise, attend, or take part in such events.
- Section 163 Road Traffic Act 1988 – Gives police the power to stop vehicles to check for offences, defects, or illegal modifications.
- Vehicle Seizure Powers – Vehicles may be seized if used in an anti-social manner or where offences such as no insurance or lack of vehicle tax are identified.

Police may also use additional tactics, including dedicated operations, covert surveillance, CCTV, and partnership working with local authorities to deter future gatherings.

A dispersal order is designed to prevent anti-social behaviour, crime, and disorder. It enables uniformed officers to direct individuals aged 10 and over to leave a designated area and not return for a specified period of up to 48 hours.

If you have information regarding any planned or upcoming car meets, please contact police on 101 or speak with your local neighbourhood officer.

If you witness an illegal car meet taking place and there is an immediate risk to public safety, please call 999. Your information can help police take action and keep the community safe.

Rogue Trader Warning

Police are reminding residents to be vigilant of rogue traders operating in the area. These individuals often go door-to-door offering services such as pressure washing driveways, patios, or roofs, cleaning gutters, or carrying out urgent roof repairs.

A common tactic is to claim they have spotted a serious problem with your roof or property that requires immediate attention. They may offer a seemingly reasonable quote at first, but once work has started, the price can increase dramatically, leaving homeowners under pressure to pay large sums of money for unnecessary or poor-quality work.

Rogue traders often target elderly and vulnerable residents, believing they may be more likely to trust doorstep callers or feel pressured into agreeing to work. We encourage residents to keep an eye out for elderly or vulnerable neighbours and check in with them if they appear to be having unexpected work carried out following a doorstep visit.

Residents should be particularly cautious of anyone who:

- Turns up uninvited and offers property maintenance services.
- Claims urgent repairs are needed without providing evidence.
- Pressures you into making an immediate decision.
- Requests cash payments.
- Is unwilling to provide written quotations, receipts, or proof of insurance.
- Fails to explain your cancellation rights.

For contracts agreed in your home, consumers are generally entitled to a 14-day cooling-off period, allowing them time to reconsider. Rogue traders often fail to provide this information and may seek to pressure residents into making immediate decisions.

To protect yourself:

- Never agree to work on the spot.
- Obtain at least three written quotes from reputable companies.
- Ask for references and check online reviews.
- Use traders recommended by trusted friends, family, or recognised trade schemes.
- Seek a second opinion before agreeing to any work.

If you believe you have been targeted by a rogue trader, report the matter to Trading Standards. If you feel threatened or intimidated, call 999 immediately.

Remember: Genuine traders will not pressure you into making a quick decision. If something doesn't feel right, take time to stop, think and check before agreeing to any work.

Beat Surgeries – Come and Talk to Your Local Neighbourhood Team

Your local Neighbourhood Policing Team regularly holds Beat Surgeries and Talk to Us events across the Severn Vale and Pilning area, giving residents the opportunity to raise concerns, discuss local issues, seek crime prevention advice, and meet their local officers.

Whether you want to discuss anti-social behaviour, road safety concerns, rural crime, or simply find out more about what your local team is doing in the community, we encourage you to come along and speak with us. No appointment is necessary.

Upcoming events can be found on the Avon and Somerset Police website, including sessions held in locations across the neighbourhood area.

To view future Beat Surgeries, local policing priorities, and details of your Neighbourhood Policing Team, visit:

<https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/your-area/severn-vale-and-pilning/>

We look forward to meeting residents and hearing about the issues that matter most to you.



Crime Stoppers

If you need to report a crime but are worried about sharing your personal information, use the following number for Crime stoppers.

0800555111

100% anonymous.

Community SpeedWatch

Community SpeedWatch gives local people the ability to actively get involved in road safety. The scheme also educates motorists who speed on the impact their actions have and the danger they pose to other road users and pedestrians.



What does Community SpeedWatch do?

Community SpeedWatch is made up of a network of community volunteers who monitor traffic speeds through scheduled high-visibility roadside sessions. These sessions are part of our evidence-based approach to addressing speeding and road safety concerns.

Our objectives are to:

- reduce average speeds on Avon and Somerset's roads
- lower the number and severity of road casualties
- enhance road safety to improve the quality of life in our communities

These objectives form part of a wider aim to prioritise the reduction of fatal and serious injury collisions. They also align with the Avon and Somerset Police Road Safety Strategy and the .

I want to report a speeding concern

If speeding is an issue in your area, you should complete our

Community Speed Concern form to let us know.

How Community SpeedWatch works

A Community SpeedWatch can be set up in any area that is governed by either a 20, 30 or 40 miles per hour speed limit. Once a scheme is set up, activities will include:

- trained volunteers monitoring set areas, with access to support and resources

- warning letters sent to owners of vehicles observed speeding, along with advice to help change their driving behaviour
- police taking further action against persistent and high-end speeding offenders

Joining Community SpeedWatch

There are two routes to becoming a Community SpeedWatch volunteer. You can either join an existing scheme or set up your own if there isn't one covering the area you would like to monitor.

For more information, please follow the below link to access the necessary form.

[Community SpeedWatch | Avon and Somerset Police](#)

July 2026 Crime Breakdown

Offence Type	Count
Violence Against the Person	26
Theft	10
Arson & Criminal Damage	9
Burglary	5
Sexual Offences	5
Vehicle Offences	5
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	3
Possession of Weapons	1
Public Order Offences	1
Total Crime	65

July 2026 ASB Breakdown

Key Points for a July Update

- Overall crime increased from 52 offences in June to 65 in July (+25%).
- Violence Against the Person remains the most prevalent offence and increased significantly to 26 offences.
- Theft remains a neighbourhood priority, increasing slightly from 9 to 10 offences.
- Anti-Social Behaviour reduced substantially, falling from 13 reports in June to 4 in July (-69%).
- Burglary and vehicle offences remained relatively low at 5 offences each.
- No single offence category other than Violence Against the Person appears to dominate overall demand.

This suggests that while ASB performance improved considerably during July, the increase in recorded crime was largely driven by higher levels of Violence Against the Person, along with increases in Criminal Damage and Sexual Offences.

Revised July 2026 ASB Breakdown

ASB Category	July 2026
ASB Nuisance	8
ASB Personal	2
ASB Environmental	2
Anti-Social Behaviour (General)	2
Total ASB	14

Revised Key Findings for July 2026

- Overall crime increased from 52 offences in June to 65 offences in July (+25%).
- Violence Against the Person remained the most common offence, increasing from 15 to 26 offences (+73%).
- Theft increased slightly from 9 to 10 offences (+11%) and remains a local priority.

- Arson and Criminal Damage increased from 6 to 9 offences (+50%).
- Burglary and Vehicle Offences both reduced slightly from 6 to 5 offences.
- Total ASB increased marginally from 13 to 14 reports (+8%).
- Nuisance ASB remained the most common ASB category with 8 reports, accounting for over half of all ASB incidents.
- No single ASB category shows a significant spike, although Personal and Environmental ASB both increased by one incident compared with June.

During July 2026, Severn Vale & Pilning recorded 65 crimes and 14 anti-social behaviour incidents. Crime increased by 25% compared with June, largely driven by rises in Violence Against the Person, Arson and Criminal Damage, and Theft offences. Violence Against the Person remained the most common offence category, accounting for 26 recorded crimes. Anti-social behaviour levels remained relatively stable, increasing by one report compared with June. Nuisance-related incidents continued to account for the majority of ASB reports. While some offence categories showed increases, burglary and vehicle crime remained comparatively low, and no emerging crime hotspots or serious crime patterns have been identified.

Local Crime Overview

During July 2026, a total of 65 offences were recorded across Severn Vale & Pilning.

Crime Comparison: May - July 2026

Category	May	June	July
Violence Against the Person	40	15	26
Theft	4	9	10
Arson & Criminal Damage	6	6	9
Burglary	6	6	5
Vehicle Offences	10	6	5
Public Order Offences	12	5	1
Possession of Weapons	3	3	1
Sexual Offences	0	2	5

Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	3	0	3
Total Crime	84	52	65

Most Common Offences During July

- Violence Against the Person - 26
- Theft - 10
- Arson & Criminal Damage - 9
- Burglary - 5
- Vehicle Offences - 5
- Sexual Offences - 5

Violence Against the Person remained the most frequently reported offence category during July and accounted for approximately 40% of all recorded crime.

Although crime increased during July, levels remain significantly lower than those recorded during May, when 84 offences were reported. The increase from June was primarily driven by rises in Violence Against the Person, Arson and Criminal Damage, and Sexual Offences. Theft offences also increased slightly and remain a neighbourhood policing priority.

Public Order offences, Vehicle Offences and Weapons offences all showed improvements compared to June.

No emerging serious crime hotspots or linked crime series have been identified during the reporting period.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

During July 2026 there were 14 recorded ASB incidents.

ASB Comparison: May - July 2026

ASB Category	May	June	July
Nuisance	8	8	8
Personal	7	1	2
General ASB	6	3	2
Environmental	1	1	2
Total ASB	22	13	14

July ASB Breakdown

- ASB Nuisance - 8
- ASB Personal - 2
- ASB Environmental - 2
- General Anti-Social Behaviour - 2

ASB levels remained relatively stable during July, increasing by just one incident compared to June. Nuisance-related incidents continue to account for the majority of reports received and commonly involve neighbour disputes, noise complaints and behaviour causing annoyance within local communities.

Overall Summary

July saw 65 recorded crimes and 14 ASB incidents. Crime increased compared with June but remains below the levels seen during May. The increase was driven largely by Violence Against the Person offences, while burglary, vehicle crime, public order offences and weapons offences all decreased. Anti-social behaviour remained stable, with nuisance incidents continuing to account for the majority of reports. The neighbourhood team remains committed to visible policing, crime prevention and working alongside local communities to keep Severn Vale & Pilning a safe place to live, work and visit.

What We Are Doing

Your neighbourhood team continues to focus on:

- High-visibility patrols throughout local communities.
 - Responding to concerns raised by residents.
 - Tackling anti-social behaviour.
 - Preventing theft, burglary and vehicle crime.
 - Supporting vulnerable individuals.
 - Working alongside local authorities and partner agencies.
 - Providing reassurance patrols where concerns arise.
 - Identifying community issues before they escalate.
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Community Reassurance

- ✓ Overall crime remains below May levels despite a July increase.
 - ✓ Burglary reduced compared with both May and June.
 - ✓ Vehicle crime continues to decline.
 - ✓ Public Order offences reduced by 80% compared with June.
 - ✓ Weapons offences reduced by 67% compared with June.
 - ✓ ASB levels remain relatively low and stable.
 - ⚠ Violence Against the Person increased during July and remains our most common crime category.
 - ⚠ Theft offences continue to rise gradually and remain a policing priority.
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Illegal encampments

Locally we have had an increase in illegal encampments.

For private landowners, the key message is that unauthorised encampments are primarily a civil matter (trespass), not automatically a police matter, unless criminal offences, significant harm, public disorder, or specific legislative criteria are present.

Preventing unauthorised encampments

Landowners should be encouraged to:

- Secure vulnerable access points with gates, earth bunds, barriers, ditches, height restrictors or fencing where appropriate.
- Regularly inspect vacant or isolated land.
- Remove opportunities for occupation by ensuring entrances can be locked when not in use.
- Improve lighting, surveillance and security patrols where practical.
- Report damage to access controls promptly and repair breaches quickly.

Good site security is generally the most effective way of reducing the risk of unauthorised encampments.

If an encampment arrives on private land

1. Assess and gather information

The landowner should:

- Confirm ownership of the land.
- Record the number of vehicles, caravans and occupants.
- Take photographs if safe to do so.
- Note any damage, fly-tipping, anti-social behaviour or criminality.
- Avoid confrontation.

This information may be required by solicitors, bailiffs, the local authority or police.

2. Contact the police if there is criminality

The police should be contacted if there is:

- Criminal damage.
- Theft.

- Violence or threats.
- Public order offences.
- Environmental crime.
- Situations meeting the criteria for police powers relating to unauthorised encampments.

Police powers are generally used proportionately and where legal thresholds are met.

3. Seek legal possession of the land

As the encampment is on private land, responsibility for removal usually rests with the landowner.

The main options are:

Common Law Eviction

A landowner may:

- Serve a Common Law Notice requiring trespassers to leave.
- Use an agent such as a certificated enforcement agent (bailiff) or solicitor.
- Inform police to prevent any breach of the peace.

Independent legal advice is recommended before taking action.

Court Possession Order

A landowner can:

- Apply to the County Court for a possession order under Part 55 of the Civil Procedure Rules.
- Once granted, enforcement agents can remove occupiers if they do not leave voluntarily.

This is often the preferred route where there is any dispute or risk.

Role of the police

Police should explain that:

- Trespass alone is normally a civil matter.
- The landowner is responsible for pursuing eviction.
- The police may become involved where offences are committed or where statutory powers under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 and subsequent legislation apply.

- Welfare considerations, human rights and proportionality must always be considered.

Practical advice for PCSOs and officers

A useful message to give a landowner is:

"Secure the site where possible, record what is happening, avoid confrontation, and seek legal advice regarding civil eviction. If there is criminal damage, disorder, threats, fly-tipping or other offences, report them to the police immediately. The responsibility for removing trespassers from private land will usually lie with the landowner through civil remedies."

Key powers and legislation

- Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994.
- Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022.
- Civil possession proceedings under Part 55 Civil Procedure Rules.

This would be broadly consistent with the advice most UK police forces provide to private landowners dealing with unauthorised encampments.

Community Engagement and Prevention

Throughout July officers continued to engage with residents, businesses, local schools and community groups to understand local concerns and provide crime prevention advice.

Residents are encouraged to:

- Lock doors and windows when leaving property unattended.
- Remove valuables from vehicles.
- Secure sheds, garages and outbuildings.
- Report suspicious behaviour promptly.
- Share information about community concerns with the local policing team.

Nearly a quarter of drivers stopped during World Cup campaign arrested for drink or drug driving



Nearly one in four motorists stopped by police in Avon and Somerset during a dedicated drink and drug driving campaign linked to the FIFA Men's World Cup were arrested on suspicion of drink or drug driving offences.

Operation Limit ran throughout the tournament, with Roads Policing officers carrying out proactive patrols across the force area to identify drivers impaired through drink or drugs and prevent serious harm on our roads.

Drink and drug driving is one of the 'Fatal Five' behaviours linked to the highest risk of serious and fatal collisions. In Avon and Somerset, around a quarter of fatal collisions in 2025 involved drink and/or drug driving as a contributing factor.

During dedicated Operation Limit enforcement shifts, primarily centred around England fixtures, Roads Policing officers stopped 465 motorists. Those proactive patrols resulted in 113 arrests for suspected drink and drug driving offences, almost one arrest for every four vehicles stopped.

The figures also highlight the growing prevalence of drug driving. Of the suspected offences identified during the campaign:

- 82 related to suspected drug driving.
- 31 related to suspected drink driving.

The majority of those arrested were male (85 per cent), while more than half (57 per cent) were aged between 25 and 40 years old. A further 25 per cent were aged between 41 and 60.

The operation also demonstrated the value of proactive and intelligence-led policing, with 21 arrests following intelligence-led stops and a further 13 resulting from Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) activations.

Roads Policing Inspector Matt Boiles said:

“Operation Limit is about preventing harm by identifying drivers who are under the influence of drink or drugs before they have the opportunity to cause a serious or fatal collision.

“While drink driving remains a significant concern, the results from this operation show that drug driving continues to be an increasingly prevalent issue on our roads. Since officers gained the ability to routinely test for drugs at the roadside, we’ve seen first-hand just how widespread it has become.

“Every driver who chooses to get behind the wheel while impaired is making a decision that puts themselves and everyone else at risk. Through proactive patrols, intelligence-led policing and information provided by the public, we will continue to target those who make that choice.”

Operation Limit formed part of a national campaign to reduce drink and drug driving during the FIFA Men’s World Cup.

Many of the arrests followed information provided by members of the public about people suspected of regularly driving under the influence of drink or drugs.

Inspector Boiles added:

“If you know or suspect someone is regularly driving while under the influence of drink or drugs, please tell us. The information you provide helps build our intelligence picture, allowing us to target our activity where it is needed most. It could ultimately prevent a serious or fatal collision.”

The operation also reinforced the links between roads policing and wider crime. Of those arrested during the campaign, 16 were known to police as previous domestic abuse or violence against women and girls (DA/VAWG) offenders, highlighting how proactive enforcement on the road network can identify people linked to other forms of offending as well as improving road safety.

“Roads Policing is about far more than enforcing traffic laws,” added Insp. Boiles.

“The people we stop are sometimes linked to other forms of offending, including domestic abuse and violence against women and girls. Every proactive stop is an opportunity to identify risk, safeguard victims and take action where it’s needed. That’s why Roads Policing plays an important role not only in preventing collisions, but also in protecting our communities from wider harm.”

*These figures relate specifically to Operation Limit activity and do not include routine roads policing enforcement carried out during the same period.

How to report a suspected drink or drug driver



Most drink and drug drivers are repeat offenders. Reporting someone you know or suspect regularly drives under the influence of drink or drugs could prevent a serious or fatal collision.

You can tell us what you know anonymously by filling in our [online form](#) or scanning the QR code above.

If it's happening now, always call 999.

Domestic abuse victims offered specialist support after World Cup games



Victims of domestic abuse and violence are being offered enhanced support during the 2026 World Cup.

Our officers are attending some reports of domestic abuse in partnership with Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) who are specially trained to support victims of domestic abuse who are at high risk of harm. IDVAs can

provide additional help to keep victims safe, by offering access to expert advice and specialist services, and supporting them to make a police report if they wish to. They are independent of police and work with, and on behalf of, victims.

Domestic abuse reports increase during major sporting tournaments according to national statistics, with a rise in calls to police, particularly following England matches, whether the result is a win, loss, or draw. Football does not cause domestic abuse, and responsibility sits solely with perpetrators who choose to use abusive or controlling behaviour. However heightened emotions, alcohol consumption, and social dynamics around tournaments can create conditions in which perpetrators may escalate their behaviours.

We are working alongside IDVAs from three specialist domestic abuse support charities across Avon and Somerset:

- Next Link which works across Bristol and South Gloucestershire
- Southside Family Project which serves Bath and North East Somerset
- The You Trust which delivers Somerset Domestic Advice Service for Somerset Council

When perpetrators are arrested and taken into custody following World Cup games, officers and IDVAs visit higher-risk victims within the next 24 hours, while they have time and space away from their abuser. Abusers could be a partner, ex-partner, family member or someone else they know.

While police officers listen and take statements, IDVAs help assess the risk to victims and their families, then help them consider their next steps, including practical safety plans. At a time when victims may be experiencing distress, shock and pain, IDVAs also support by listening, helping to spot patterns of abuse, explaining available options to help them and speaking for them/ensuring their voice is heard where required.

Beyond the visit, the IDVA will continue to act as the voice of the victim in risk assessment conferences involving multiple agencies and work with other partners and the criminal justice system to ensure support is co-ordinated. They can also provide practical assistance to help victims navigate legal proceedings through criminal and civil courts.

They will also be there to for victims when the psychological impact of their abuse hits, helping them to cope and supporting them in rebuilding their confidence.

Detective Chief Inspector Matt Cable, who is leading the partnership operation, said: "When our police officers and the IDVAs work together, victims have access to two professionals who have their wellbeing and safety at heart and who can

offer a wealth of knowledge and specialist services to help them through what may be one of the most difficult times in their lives.

“We know how difficult reporting domestic abuse and violence can be and know some victims may find it easier with the support of a specialist who is independent of police. If they can’t, or don’t want, to speak to police or report, the IDVA can still help them stay safe.

“The outcomes of domestic violence and abuse can be complex. Getting justice for the victim can be challenging. The impact on the victim can be life changing. We take domestic abuse seriously and hope this latest work helps more victims feel supported and protected.”

In Avon and Somerset Police, domestic abuse makes up around 20 per cent of all crimes reported. It happens in all types of relationship, regardless of race, ethnic or religious group, class, disability, sexuality, lifestyle, nationality or age.

Information on reporting to police and advice and support for victims can be found at:

How You Can Help

- Report concerns via 101 or online through the Avon & Somerset Police website.
- Report crimes in progress or emergencies via 999.
- Attend local community engagement events.
- Speak with your neighbourhood team about issues affecting your area.

Meet Your Local Team

Inspector Stephen Baines
stephen.baines@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Sergeant Polly Tucker
polly.tucker@avonandsomerset.police.uk

PC Marc Maddox
marc.maddox@avonandsomerset.police.uk

PCSO Paula Perry
paula.perry@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Please remember to contact your local beat team.

Help us to help you

