

Council – 7 January 2019

Item 8(b) – Petition – Streetly policing

Statement by West Midlands Police

“There has been a seasonal rise in burglaries in Streetly, in line with the rest of the West Midlands. However burglary offences have reduced over the last year (16% YTD).

We’ve stepped up patrols in the area to tackle the issue, which has predominately seen thieves stealing car keys from houses and then taking cars from driveways.

Uniformed and plain-clothed patrols have been increased in the area during key times and local officers are working closely with residents to increase awareness, share crime prevention advice and encourage people to get involved in local Neighbourhood Watch and Street Watch schemes.

Our local neighbourhood taskforce team have also been focusing their patrols in the area, together with the force’s road policing unit, to prevent these crimes and catch those responsible.

Nine people have been arrested and charged in connection with some of these burglaries and other offences, including handling stolen goods, motoring offences and possession of drugs. Several stolen vehicles have also been recovered.

As a force we are committed to tackling burglary from all angles and have introduced short and long term measures to reduce the problem. Last year dedicated specialist burglary teams were set up to investigate these crimes and apprehend those responsible.

Intelligence is constantly reviewed and shared which helps to identify offending patterns across the region. Since September 2018, an intelligence-led operation has been underway utilising local neighbourhood teams, investigation, traffic and motorway police to target criminals.

I appreciate how being a victim of burglary can be very distressing. Even if nothing is stolen, the thought of a stranger being in your home can feel like a violation of your privacy and security. We visit all victims of burglary to offer reassurance and advice.

We rely on members of the public for help in taking criminals off the streets. We’ve got some excellent working relationships with members of the community and lots of people who are really proactive in sharing our messages and advice.

I’d like to offer my thanks to these people and encourage anyone else who is interested in working with us via schemes such as Neighbourhood Watch or Street Watch to get in touch.

We also regularly attend local community meetings in Streetly to gain a better understanding of the needs of the community, offer support and share crime prevention advice.

Anyone who is interested in finding out more about what is happening in their area can sign up to WMNow community messaging service at www.wmnow.co.uk or follow them on Twitter @aldridgeWMP.”

Andy Parsons
Chief Superintendent
Commander Walsall NPU
West Midlands Police