



# On the beat in...

## North Shropshire

Market Drayton

Wem

Whitchurch

Safer Neighbourhood Team Newsletter

January  
2026

*Current statistics on calls to police and crime recording for your neighbourhood can be found at [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk). If you wish to discuss further, please contact a member of your Safer Neighbourhood Team.*

### Market Drayton – Team contact details:

**Team email:** marketdrayton.snt@westmercia.police.uk

**Safer Neighbourhood Officer:** PC Iain McIntosh **Mobile:** 07811 748 732

**Safer Neighbourhood Officer:** PC Tom Rayment **Mobile:** 07977 957 718

**Police Community Support Officer:** PCSO Steve Robinson **Mobile:** 07870 218 709

**Police Community Support Officer:** PCSO Tara Carruthers **Mobile:** 07971 050 442

**Police Community Support Officer:** PCSO Richard Parker **Mobile:** 07483 123 858

### Wem – Team contact details:

**Team email:** wem.snt@westmercia.police.uk

**Safer Neighbourhood Officer:** PC Jack Harper **Mobile:** 07817 885 113

**Safer Neighbourhood Officer:** PC Mark Holtschke **Mobile:** 07971 051 201

**Police Community support Officer:** PCSO Lizz Walmsley **Mobile:** 07967 303 567

**Police Community support Officer:** Vacant **Mobile:** TBC

### Whitchurch – Team contact details:

**Team email:** whitchurch.snt@westmercia.police.uk

**Safer Neighbourhood Officer:** PC Mark Bates **Mobile:** 07900 607 965

**Police Community Support Officer:** PCSO Jamie Robinson **Mobile:** 07967 301 147

**Police Community Support Officer:** PCSO Dave Andrew **Mobile:** 07971 395 050

## Reporting A Crime

### Is it an emergency?

Call **999** in emergency situations like these:

- there is an immediate danger to life
- someone is using violence or is threatening to be violent
- a crime is happening right now, like a house burglary or a theft
- the suspect is still at the scene

### If it's not an emergency

If you've witnessed or been the victim of crime that isn't an emergency, please report it to us.

Your report will be sent direct to our control room. Before you give us the details of the crime, we'll ask you a few questions to make sure you go to the right online form.

[www.westmercia.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/](http://www.westmercia.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/)

**Please encourage your parishioners to sign up to Neighbourhood Matters...**

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Neighbourhood Matters enables residents, businesses, and community groups to keep in touch with local policing teams. You can choose exactly what type of alert you wish to receive and how you receive them; whether that be by email, text or telephone.

Sign up now at: [www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk)



Sign up to receive alerts from your local policing teams [www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk)



## Hello Parish Councils,

This is your North Shropshire Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) Newsletter for **January 2026**. Please see the link above to [police.co.uk](http://police.co.uk) for crime recording stats for your area, or any other area in the UK should you wish.

Please get in touch if you would like to discuss anything further, if we can provide more information we will, our contact details are above. If there is anything specific that is affecting your parish area above and beyond the three priorities you have nominated, again please let us know and we will endeavour to support you.

The official West Mercia Police website [www.westmercia.police.uk](http://www.westmercia.police.uk) has a wealth of information and includes dedicated sections in relation to **News, Recruitment, Watch Schemes, Neighbourhood Matters, Crime Prevention Advice, Support For Victims, other Advice and Information and Thanks & Complaints**.

Our North Shropshire SNTs work in a very challenging and varied role and no two days are the same, naturally there are many requests for our time, support and assistance. Obviously, much of what we do we can't tell you too much about, but rest assured that much of our focus is on the three Parish Council Priorities that you provide us with quarterly.

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Much of the good work that SNTs engage with are posted in the following places:

- Parish Council attendance in person or North Shropshire SNT Newsletters
- Neighbourhood Matters – [www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk)
- Facebook - [www.facebook.com/MktDraytonPolice](http://www.facebook.com/MktDraytonPolice) (North Shropshire specific)  
[www.facebook.com/westmerciapolice](http://www.facebook.com/westmerciapolice)  
[www.facebook.com/WMPRuralMatters](http://www.facebook.com/WMPRuralMatters)

Below is just a small snapshot of the good work North Shropshire SNTs have been involved with recently...



### Operation Limit 2025 – Keeping Our Roads Safe

In the run-up to Christmas, our Safer Neighbourhood Teams across north Shropshire have been out supporting Operation Limit, the national campaign targeting drink and drug driving during the festive season.

This work also supports priorities set by local parish councils through the Local Policing Charter, many of which focus on road safety.

Over the past few days, officers from North Shropshire and Oswestry—supported by our Response colleagues—carried out speed checks in Prees and Whitchurch. Here's what they found:

- 29 vehicles checked — avg. speed 29.55mph, 4 over the limit
- 42 vehicles checked — avg. speed 26.04mph, 1 over the limit
- 95 vehicles checked — avg. speed 27.62mph, 5 over the limit
- 61 vehicles checked — avg. speed 27.09mph, 1 over the limit

Checks were completed using a TruCam device, and any necessary penalties will be issued to registered keepers.

Officers also made an arrest in Prees following a positive roadside breath test.

We'll continue working to keep our roads safe throughout the festive period. Stay safe and never drive under the influence.





Market Drayton, Wem and Whitchurch Police

Yesterday at 10:27 ·

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We are appealing for witnesses following a serious collision in the car park of Tesco in Whitchurch yesterday (Saturday 27 December).

The collision happened around 4:30pm when a blue MG ZS collided with two pedestrians.

One of the pedestrians, a woman in her 60s, was taken to the Royal Stoke University Hospital with serious injuries.

The other pedestrian, a woman in her 30s, sustained a broken foot.

The driver of the car, a man in his 70s, sustained minor injuries.

Two other parked cars were also damaged during the collision

PC Beech said: "We want to establish how the collision happened yesterday and we are appealing to anyone who may have witnessed it, or anyone who may have dashcam footage to help with our investigation to please get in touch."

Anyone with information is asked to contact PC Beech by emailing [ian.beech@westmercia.police.uk](mailto:ian.beech@westmercia.police.uk) quoting 0286\_i of the 27 December.





Market Drayton, Wem and Whitchurch Police

22 December at 08:02 ·

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A major incident had been declared in Shropshire following reports of a sinkhole affecting a canal in the Chemistry area of Whitchurch.

Emergency services are currently on scene, and a multi-agency response has been set up, co-ordinated through the Shropshire Tactical Co-ordination Group (TCG).

There are currently no reports of any casualties, and residents are being assisted by the fire service.

We ask that people avoid the area and seek alternate routes. Further updates will be provided when we are able to do so.





Market Drayton, Wem and Whitchurch Police

10 December at 16:39 ·

...

Today, PCSOs Robinson and Parker from Market Drayton were out in Hinstock to team up with Shropshire Council for their Winter Wellbeing event.

These events are all about sharing health and wellness tips to keep our communities feeling good during the chilly months, and it's a great way to connect with people around here!

We had a great time chatting with everyone and working with our partner agencies to make sure our communities stay safe and supported.

#WinterWellbeing #CommunityEngagement #HealthAndWellness #MarketDrayton  
#ShropshireCouncil





Market Drayton, Wem and Whitchurch Police

26 November ·

...

PCSO Carruthers from Market Drayton Safer neighbourhood team was out in the town centre yesterday holding a white ribbon event to support stopping violence against women and girls.

She was out partnership working with the locality youth team for the area engaging with members of the public giving out crime prevention advice and materials.

West Mercia Police is proud to support the White ribbon movement, calling out and challenging harmful behaviour.

We are encouraging those to speak out. We are holding those offenders accountable and we are supporting victims.

**#whiteribbonday #standup #raiseawareness**





Market Drayton, Wem and Whitchurch Police

22 November ·

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🎄 Whitchurch Christmas Light Switch-On ✨

This evening officers from the Oswestry Safer Neighbourhoods Team assisted Whitchurch SNT with providing some high visibility patrols in Whitchurch Town Centre during the Christmas light switch on. ✨

Whilst in attendance the officers engaged with members of the public and stall holders with no issues or incidents reported to them, with the event appearing to have been a huge success and well attended by the public, with gift stalls 🎁, fair rides and games 🎠, and live music on offer 🎵.

We'd like to thank all of those involved who made it an enjoyable and festive event and the public for their well-behaved attendance. 🎉

33 days to go 🎉 📅, sorry 😊.





Market Drayton, Wem and Whitchurch Police

20 November ·

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Whitchurch Safer Neighbourhood Team were in Whitchurch Town Centre today with the Mobile Police Station chatting to local people about their concerns. Next time you see us, come along and say hello!

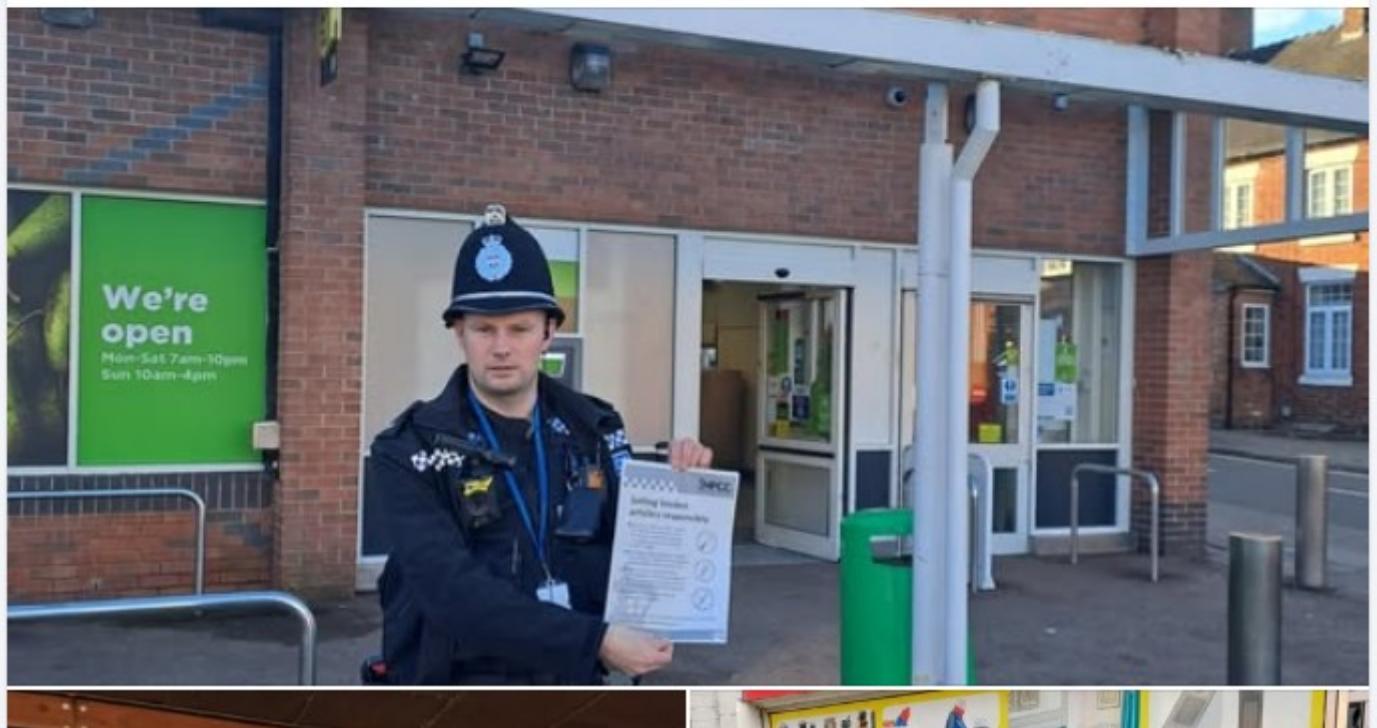




As part of **#Sceptre**, officers from Market Drayton and Whitchurch Safer Neighbourhood Teams have been out engaging with local retailers and the public to raise awareness around the dangers of knife crime and responsible knife sales.

PC McIntosh will be available to assist with the safe disposal of knives and bladed items between 12pm and 2pm this Saturday (22 November) outside of Market Drayton Police Station.

Thank you to all retailers and residents for your continued support in helping us keep our communities safe.





Its been another busy week for Market Drayton safer neighbourhood team (SNT).

Here is an insight of just a few of the things we have been up to.....

- Officers have been over at the town Christmas market & light switch on
- Officers have conducted a scam awareness event at Leek United building society for business action week
- The local safer neighbourhood police officers have taken out two members of the public as part of the ride along scheme we are currently running
- Police surgery's have been conducted in the town to give members of the public the option to come to speak with their SNT team direct
- Morning & afternoon school patrols have been conducted across the local area
- Police community support officers have been and conducted a crime prevention event at the farmers market in Market Drayton
- Foot patrols of the town centre, supporting response officers and attending incidents that have come in for the area are just to name a few, The list goes on.....

We will continue to update you with events & patrols being conducted around Market Drayton.

[#Saferstreets](#) [#Safercommunities](#) [#saferroads](#)





Market Drayton, Wem and Whitchurch Police

12 November ·

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Following on from reports from members of the public and routine Police patrols, a vehicle has been seized after it was found to have had no tax or insurance.

We would like to thank those who continue to share information with us- your reports really do make a difference and help us keep our roads safe and lawful for everyone.

Remember vehicles must be taxed, insured and roadworthy at all times. If they are not, they risk being seized and the driver could face penalties.

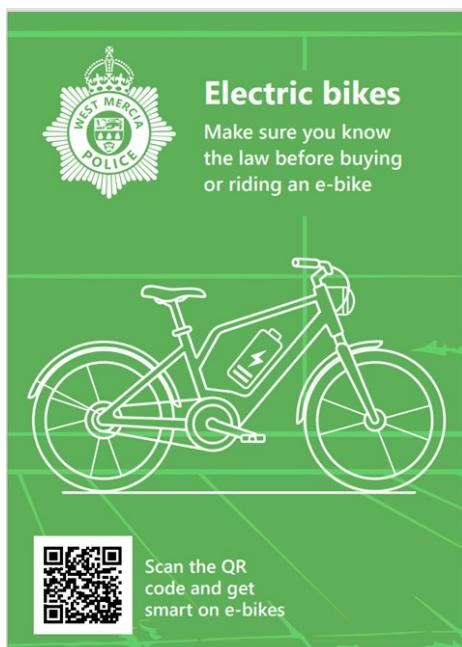
Working together we can keep our communities and our roads safe



As part of the monthly Newsletter, we will be adding trending and/or appropriate crime prevention advice and information. Along with any recent updates from our other policing departments and partners.

This month's Newsletter contains information on;

- **Electric bikes (E-bikes) and Electric scooters (E-scooters)**
- **West Mercia Police Ride Along Scheme**
- **Are you aware of Community Speed Watch, and is it relevant to your parish?**
- **'Operation Snap'**
- **'WalkSafe' – Personal safety app**
- **'Crimestoppers' & 'Fearless'**
- **'Report Fraud'**
- **The Victim Support Gateway**
- **'SmartWater'**



In order to be used on our roads electric bikes (electrically assisted pedal cycles EAPCs) must meet specific criteria. To be classified as an electric bike:

- Pedals must be in motion for the motor assistance to be provided.
- The motor used must be of no more than 250 Watts (maximum continuous rated power).
- Electric assistance can only be provided to a maximum of 15.5mph.
- The rider must be 14 years of age or over.

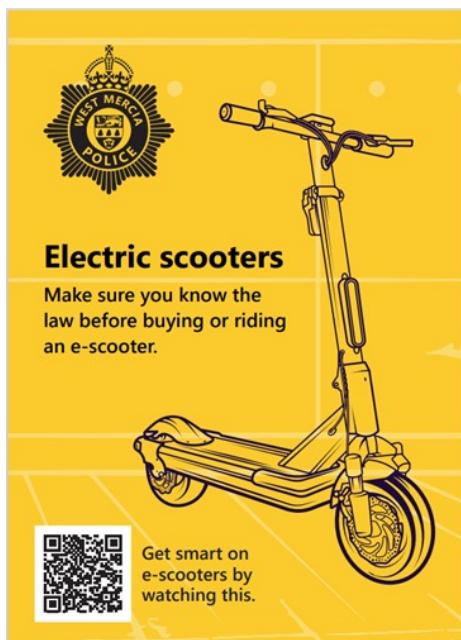
EAPCs can be ridden anywhere a regular bicycle is permitted, including roads, cycle lanes, and bridleways, but cannot be ridden on pavements (unless specifically designated for cycling).

Modifying an electric bike and not adhering to the above laws can render it illegal for road use and may subject it to motorcycle or moped regulation.

Anyone found not adhering to these laws will be dealt with as appropriate.

Follow us on social media:

[Facebook](#) @westmerciaroads [Instagram](#) @WMerciaRoads



Although e-scooters are available to buy, they are currently illegal to use on public roads, pavements, cycle lanes and pedestrian-only areas unless part of a legal e-scooter loan scheme. As there are no legal schemes in place in Herefordshire, Shropshire or Worcestershire, e-scooters can only be ridden on private land with the permission of the land-owner.

E-scooters are currently classed as Personal Light Electric Vehicles (PLEVs) by the Government and fall under the same laws and regulations that apply to all motor vehicles in terms of requiring insurance, tax, MOT, licence and registration.

There is no mechanism in place at the moment to obtain any of these for e-scooters so as this requirement can't be met, their use in public areas is illegal. Anyone found using them in public areas risks having the e-scooter seized by the police.

Follow us on social media:

[Facebook](#) @westmerciaroads [Instagram](#) @WMerciaRoads

## West Mercia Police Ride Along Scheme

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Ever wondered what it's really like to work in your community, tackling local issues and keeping people safe day to day? Now's your chance to find out!

Earlier this week, **West Mercia Police** relaunched the Ride Along scheme across Herefordshire, Shropshire and Worcestershire, giving you the opportunity to join a neighbourhood officer on patrol and see what policing is like in your area.

During your Ride Along, you'll:

- 🔍 Experience what a typical shift looks like for a neighbourhood officer
- 💬 Chat with officers about local policing and community priorities
- 👉 See first-hand how neighbourhood teams work to resolve issues or concerns in your local area

The Ride Along scheme is open to anyone aged 18 or over, and you must live in Herefordshire, Shropshire or Worcestershire.

Whether you are considering a career in policing, would like to know how your local area is being policed, or simply have an interest in policing, you are invited on shift.

Visit <https://orlo.uk/97GAY> to find out more.



**Are you aware of Community Speed Watch, and is it relevant to your parish?**

With Community Speed Watch now in its eighth year of operation within West Mercia, local communities are being reminded about the scheme and how volunteers can get involved in speed monitoring and improve the quality of life in their area if speeding traffic is causing concern.

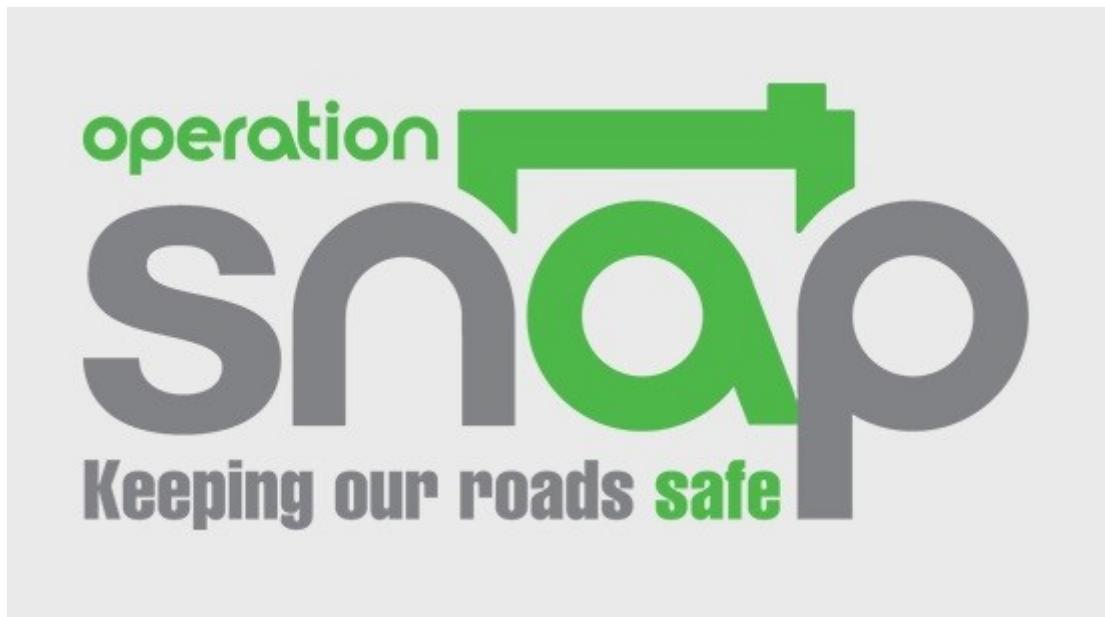
Community Speed Watch is a community driven road safety initiative, coordinated by West Mercia Police but managed and run by volunteers in the community. It involves trained volunteers from the community monitoring the speeds of vehicles with approved, hand-held speed measurement devices. Where vehicle speeds are found to be inappropriate, a letter is sent to the registered keeper by the police with the aim of encouraging them to reduce their speed when driving in the future.

The scheme was introduced within West Mercia in 2014 and has gone from strength to strength over the last 8 years with over 40 active sites currently operating. It was introduced to enhance the force's speed enforcement strategy, by addressing community concerns in areas that do not meet either speed or collision criteria for police-led enforcement.

A Community Speed Watch scheme is initiated when 'speeding traffic' has been identified as a community road safety concern by a parish council or Safer Neighbourhood Team. However, several criteria must be met before a scheme can be established:

- The area must have a 30mph or 40mph speed restriction.
- Speed data collected by West Mercia Police must show that speed levels in the area do not meet the national industry requirements for police enforcement.
- No other enforcement activity is currently in place.
- There must be at least six volunteers in each Community Speed Watch scheme.
- Speed checks must be conducted by at least three volunteers at any one time.





As part of Operation Snap, members of the public can report and submit digital footage showing potential traffic offences via a secure online form.

<https://secureform.nextbase.co.uk/>

This can range from driving dangerously or carelessly to overtaking on solid white lines, using a mobile phone while driving, ignoring traffic lights or dangerous driving around other road users, such as horse riders and cyclists.

Please note; issues with number plates, windscreens and minor traffic offences are unable to be dealt with via Op Snap.

General parking complaints (other than illegal parking on zig zags) should be raised with the relevant local authority. Notification of untaxed vehicles can be reported directly to DVLA, reports of no MOT or no insurance should be logged to 101, not via the Op Snap portal.

Your submission will be sent to West Mercia Police where the evidence will be reviewed by one of our road traffic police officers.

One statement is required for each submission/offending vehicle. We are unable to process multiple offences sent as one submission.

We will strive to update each submitter regarding the outcome of their allegation. All submissions are dealt with pro-actively to help reduce risk taking and poor driving on our counties roads.

Any footage submitted through the portal can be used by us to help educate other road users and to advise on case results.

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Please note - if you operate a recording device in a public place, you may have obligations under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). It is in your interest to familiarise yourself, and comply with, any such obligations as apply to you. If you are in any doubt as to your obligations, please obtain independent legal advice to ensure you do not put yourself at risk of prosecution. By submitting footage you acknowledge you have read and understood this before proceeding.

For more information, please see the Frequently Asked Questions section or email [OpSnap@westmercia.police.uk](mailto:OpSnap@westmercia.police.uk)

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## 'WalkSafe' - Personal safety app launched across West Mercia

West Mercia Police has launched a personal safety app, which aims to help people feel more confident when out and about during the busy festive period.

WalkSafe is available to people across Herefordshire, Shropshire and Worcestershire and provides users with a list of safety-trained venues, including bars, restaurants and other premises that meet recognised standards through schemes such as Licensed Security & Vulnerability Initiative (LSAVI) and Best Bar None.

The app also allows people to plan their route home, share their journey with trusted friends or family and make use of an SOS alert button if they feel unsafe.

The introduction of WalkSafe across West Mercia supports ongoing work to improve safety in public spaces, particularly for women and girls.

WalkSafe is backed by West Mercia's Police and Crime Commissioner and is funded through the Home Office. It will be available all year round.



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The contacts below may be of interest to those in the parish who may be more comfortable reporting crime or giving information to the police, anonymously:

**CrimeStoppers.**  
Speak up. Stay safe.

**0800 555 111**  
100% anonymous. Always.



**0800 555 111**  
100% anonymous. Always.

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Are your parishioners aware of Report Fraud?



[www.reportfraud.police.uk](http://www.reportfraud.police.uk)

0300 123 2040

There is now a new national cyber crime and fraud service called **Report Fraud**.

**This replaces Action Fraud**, which has been around since 2009, and is completely new service for reporting and responding to cyber crime and fraud. It will provide an end-to-end service, from how reports of cyber crime and fraud can be made, to how reports are analysed and how victims are supported.

Report Fraud has been designed and delivered by the City of London Police, who are the national policing lead for fraud, in close partnership with the National Crime Agency along with banking, tech and victim services.

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## How does Report Fraud differ from Action Fraud?

- Law enforcement agencies will be able to share data to and / or from the new service.
- The new service will assist in taking down websites, bank accounts and other channels through which criminal activity takes place.
- It will provide specialist advice and support to victims of crime.
- Be able to take forward investigations into reports of criminal activity.
- Use trends on threats at international, national, regional and local level.

## Report Fraud will:

- Make it easier for anyone from any background or demographic to report cyber crime and fraud.
- Inform victims about what has happened or is happening with their report.
- Quickly and efficiently inform victims when their crime report has contributed towards the protection of others.
- Protect a greater number of people and businesses from the risk of cyber crime and fraud through delivery of targeted and timely advice on how to avoid the latest threats.
- Significantly improve the speed and quality of information provided to law enforcement partners, boosting their chances of successful prosecutions.
- Block and disrupt crime through providing real-time information to those institutions and organisations who can deter and disrupt fraudulent websites, bank accounts, and other activities enabling criminality.



## **The Victim Support Gateway**

The [Victim Support Gateway](#) is a free and confidential support service available to anyone in Herefordshire, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin or Worcestershire who has been affected by crime. You'll have a named point of contact to help you with a range of services including:

- emotional support
- practical help
- help to navigate the criminal justice system
- support in dealing with services such as housing and insurance
- access to specialist support services
- personal safety advice and equipment

**The Victim Support Gateway can be contacted via:**

Telephone: [01905 726 896](tel:01905726896)

Email: [VictimSupportGateway@victimsupport.org.uk](mailto:VictimSupportGateway@victimsupport.org.uk)

24/7 Live Chat: [Live chat](#)

# INTRODUCING SMARTWATER®

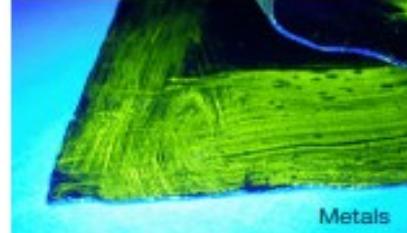


## WHAT IS SMARTWATER?

SmartWater is a sophisticated security system that protects property, deters thieves and helps the police to convict criminals. It can be directly applied to valuables or it can be used to spray criminals committing a crime. SmartWater contains a unique forensic code that is registered to an address or location. Anything marked can be traced back to where it came from, allowing the police to identify stolen property and link criminals to crime scenes. SmartWater is almost invisible in natural light but glows brightly under ultraviolet (UV) light.

### WHERE IS SMARTWATER USED?

- Homes use SmartWater to protect electrical goods, jewellery and other valuables.
- Many businesses protect IT equipment, infrastructure and tools.
- Shops and banks use it to deter robberies.
- Railways are marking trackside cable.
- Cars, vans, bikes, boats, and other vehicles can all use SmartWater.
- Farms and rural communities are protecting machinery and stoneware (including paving and dry stone walls).
- Many schools protect their IT and sports equipment.
- Utility firms apply SmartWater to metals and cables.
- Thousands of Churches use SmartWater on lead roofing.
- Many Cash-in-transit cashboxes are fitted with SmartWater.
- Retail chains are using SmartWater to reduce pilferage and internal theft.



Photographs taken under UV light.

### WHY DO CRIMINALS AVOID SMARTWATER?

If a criminal is marked with SmartWater or caught with SmartWater-marked property, they face an increased risk of prosecution. SmartWater has helped to convict hundreds of criminals and has a 100% conviction rate. Police Forces nationwide, along with many second hand dealers, scrap merchants and recyclers are all looking for SmartWater.

For further information, please go to [www.smartwater.com](http://www.smartwater.com) or call: 0333 320 7797



Secured by Design



Official Police Security Initiative

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# HELP US TO REDUCE CRIME IN YOUR AREA



## SMARTWATER® HOME SECURITY PACK: SPECIAL PROMOTIONAL PRICE

SmartWater is manufactured right here in the West Midlands. They are a local company working in partnership with your local police to reduce crime in your communities.

Thanks to West Mercia and Warwickshire Police's **WE DON'T BUY CRIME** project, you can purchase SmartWater for your home at a special promotional price of **£19.95\*** with no annual fees.



Photographs taken under ultraviolet light.

### HOW SMARTWATER WORKS:

- SmartWater has a **unique forensic code** that, once applied, makes equipment traceable back to their owner
- SmartWater is **easy to apply** and only visible under UV light\*\*
- Each application is guaranteed to last **5-years\*\***
- Recognised by criminals - SmartWater **THIEVES BEWARE®** deterrent signage sends out a powerful warning to thieves
- Responsible for convicting hundreds of criminals, with a **100% conviction rate** in contested court cases
- Only a speck the **size of a pinhead** is required to convict
- When deployed by police, SmartWater has helped reduce burglary by up to 85%.

### HOW TO BUY:

Please visit: [www.smartwater.com/redeem](http://www.smartwater.com/redeem)

Or call: 0333 320 7797

Use discount code: **WDBCRIME25**



\*\*When applied in accordance to the application instructions



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