

Candidate enquiry

Attached is the latest (6 Feb) CCTV image of attempted car crime. Please could I ask you to encourage officers to take this type of crime seriously. When both the Police and the Locals know who is perpetrating the crime, the residents find it very difficult to understand why the Police are not arresting and jailing the culprit.

PCC election board response

I can now advise you that the Bath Neighbourhood Policing Team have had a positive result and this morning have located and apprehended the suspect. The investigation is in its early stages and therefore I am unable to comment any further but hopefully this will provide some reassurance to you and the local residents.

The Neighbourhood Policing Team were aware of the latest footage taken from Facebook. They have taken action to secure the footage. Whilst the police understand the public unwillingness to support this work due to the reputation of the offender and concerns around identification, it has been a significant challenge considering the extensive Policing efforts that have gone into resolving this crime series.

I have spoken with Inspector Gavin Usher at length this morning regarding your concerns. The Bath Neighbourhood Policing Teams' primary focus is to keep the public and their property safe. They want to work with the public to ensure that any intelligence is acted upon expeditiously to identify and bring offenders to justice. They are aware that there has been occasions when information has been shared on social media rather than through the appropriate reporting channels. Whilst the police have a social media footprint, they cannot monitor it 24/7 and in order to catch offenders, it's vital that this is shared through 101 and even 999 where appropriate. Should you receive any footage of this nature in the future, I would ask that you actively encourage residents to report these incidents, and the captured footage, to the police, rather than them sharing such footage on social media. The Police need residents who own the footage to be willing to share it with the police and provide that in an evidential format; that means being willing to support that evidence as the criminal justice system runs its path and, if required, is presented at court. If any victim or person with footage of this nature wants to discuss any concerns around being part of the evidential chain the Bath Neighbourhood Policing Team would welcome the opportunity to speak with them and see if concerns / perceived hurdles can be resolved.

As can be seen in the footage, the police feel the offending has been very opportunistic, with the majority of offences targeting cars left unlocked. The message regarding basic and long standing crime prevention advice still stands to local residents – please lock your vehicle and leave nothing of any value on show inside.

I understand that you also mentioned concerns about potential election issues which may have been raised before. If you have any concerns or receive information to suggest that the integrity of an election process may have been compromised intentionally then please contact 101 and report accordingly. Election fraud is a criminal matter and should be dealt with by the police. I have spoken with Communications Centre Manager Tara Bryant this morning who will be refreshing the guidance to the Control Room staff about election related reports to ensure that staff are aware of the potential for reports as we enter various election cycles.

I hope that this action is helpful to you and those affected by these car crimes.