

New Forest Heart Police Report – Presented at the Copythorne Annual Parish Meeting on May 29th 2026

Again this year burglaries to sheds, garages and outbuildings, and thefts from vehicles, especially vans have been the main crimes committed not only here but across the whole New Forest. Arrests have been made throughout the year and the number of reports have fallen slightly and it's hoped that will continue. Thanks to New Forest District Council and the Police & Crime Commissioner we have been giving people DNA security marking kits – they are free and can act as a real deterrent to thieves but also allow us to return any stolen property to you when we find it.

As the holiday season takes hold we will again be increasing our Op Forestguard patrols and crime prevention activities. Op Forestguard is our Forest wide operation aimed at tackling crime during the holiday season especially thefts from vehicles left unattended in the Forest and the thefts of bicycles, especially from campsites. Op Forestguard includes patrolling those hot spots where most of these crimes take place. We give out crime prevention advice to residents and visitors and act as a deterrent to would be thieves. These patrols are carried out with our partners at Forestry England at the National Park Authority.

If anyone would like one of our DNA kits or NO VALUABLES HAVE BEEN LEFT IN THIS VEHICLE signs just email richard.williams@hampshire.police.uk We have also been security marking bicycles across the Forest so use the same email to let us know if you would like us to do yours and add it to National Bike Register.

Op Mountie continues and this year sessions on the Forest will increase thanks to the Safer Roads Team and their motorbike patrols. The motorbikes can park up in places where the speed camera van can't and the vehicles they record exceeding the speed limit are videoed and sent tickets. As for Op Mountie, our multi agency approach to reducing speed and animal deaths across the Forest, again we are aiming to hold more sessions and at various locations and times of the day. We aim to change driver's attitudes to driving and to reduce their speeds and the work goes on.

Also this year you will see increased activity as we join forces with New Forest District Council, Forestry England and the National Park Authority to tackle fly tipping. Monthly Op Wolf sessions will be held across the Forest as we attempt to educate people about the need to hire trusted traders with waste carrier's licences and support NFDC as they look to prosecute those people that do dump waste in the Forest.

Last year SCAMS and FRAUD reports made up over a half of all crimes reported to Police and in response to this PCSO Richard Williams has been visiting groups and associations across the Forest giving advice on how best to beat the scammers. This is proving to be popular with dates already arranged for September of this year.

If you have a group that you think would benefit from this talk then, again, please email richard.williams@hampshire.police.uk

That's the same email if you have any further questions or queries for the New Forest Heart Team

Copythorne Community Speed Watch Report to the 2026 Annual Parish Meeting – May 29th 2026

Last year, 2025, was another busy year for the Copythorne Speed Watch team. They conducted a total of 62 roadside surveys, each about 1½ hours long, but would have done another 34 if the weather had been kinder! More surveys were carried out than in the previous year. The surveys mainly took place in Romsey Road and Southampton Road.

The Speed Indicating Device, known as 'Sid', is a robust machine which clearly shows drivers their speed and a green 'thank you' lights up if they are not exceeding the speed limit. However, for those who exceed the speed limit, the sign lights up in red with the words 'slow down'. You may have seen the Sid on your travels in the Parish.

Last year the Sid recorded over 15,000 vehicles traveling passed during the surveys; over 2,000 more than the previous year. Unfortunately, Police letters were sent out to 2,133 motorists who were recorded breaking the speed limit, that is approximately 14%, which was up 1% from the previous year. The Police letter is educational and highlights the dangers of speeding and explains the distress it causes especially to local residents.

97 drivers were recorded at speeds in excess of 50 Mph in 30 Mph zones. All of these excessive speeders will have had direct police contact, usually as a personal visit from the Road policing Team. This number was also slightly up from the previous year.

The months of August, early September and November saw the highest number of excessive speeders.

The Speed Watch team consists of a small handful of very friendly, local volunteers. They would welcome anyone who would like to join them to see how it all works. If you could spare 1½ hours or more per month to help then please contact the Clerk to Copythorne Parish Council for more information.

(email parishclerk@copythorne-pc.gov.uk or phone 02381 120150.

The Copythorne CSW Team