

Coleford Parish Council

Update from the local Neighbourhood Team

Crime Levels

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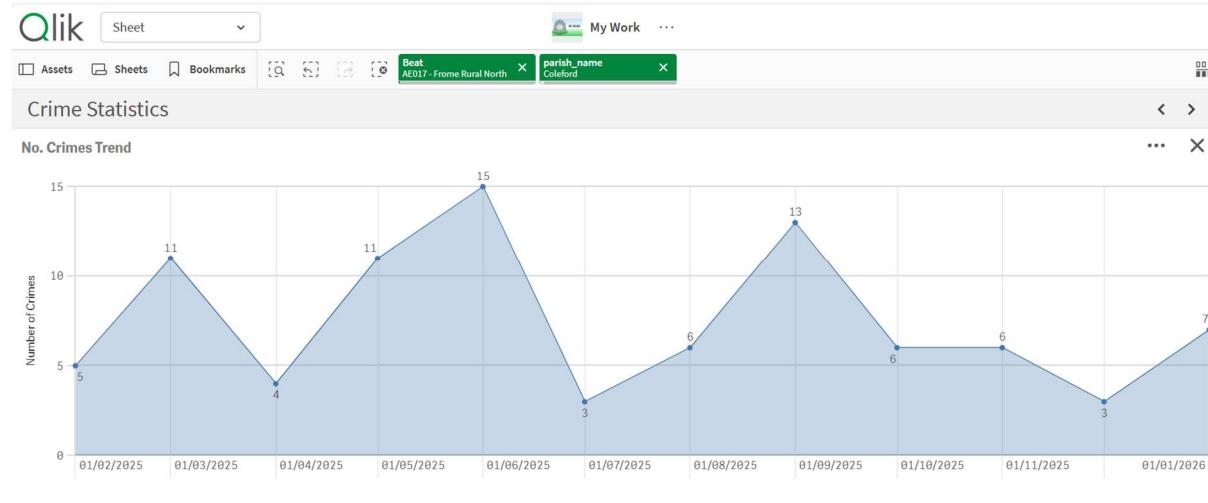
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Crime Statistics

No. Crimes By Offence Type

Crime Offence G... Month

	Totals	02/25	03/25	04/25	05/25	06/25	07/25	08/25	09/25	10/25	11/25	12/25	01/26
Arson and Criminal Damage	12	1	2	1	1	2	2	-	-	-	2	1	-
Burglary	5	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	-
Drug Offences	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non Recordable	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Possession of Weapons	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Public Order Offences	6	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	1
Robbery	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sexual Offences	9	-	1	-	1	4	-	2	-	1	-	-	-
Theft	14	1	-	1	1	3	-	5	-	1	-	-	2
Vehicle Offences	3	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Violence Against The Person	35	2	6	1	7	2	1	1	6	-	3	2	4



In previous crime figures, there is a segment titled 'Violence Against a Person'. I have been informed that this may have caused some concern and confusion a few of our Parish councils.

Violence Against a Person is a broad classification encompassing various incidents. These can range from physical altercations, such as one person striking another, to verbal disputes where someone shouts, causing another person to feel unsafe. It also includes situations where body language suggests intent to harm, as well as instances where an individual perceives a potential threat—perhaps due to a mental health episode.

Could I please ask that you distribute the Community Speed Watch (CSW) information I've provided? I'm keen to increase the number of active teams across the areas I'm responsible for, and your support in sharing this would be greatly appreciated

Please follow the link below, which will take you to the CSW web page where you can find out how to join and lots more.

Briefing Note: Fly-Tipping—Roles, Reporting and Enforcement (Avon & Somerset area)

Purpose: To clarify responsibilities, evidence standards, and how councils, parish councils and Avon & Somerset Police work together to deter, investigate, and prosecute fly-tipping.

Audience: Parish councils, elected members, community leaders, and partner agencies.

Version: January 2026

1) What is fly-tipping and who leads?

- **Fly-tipping** is the illegal deposit of waste on land without a licence. **Local councils** lead on investigation and clearance for most incidents under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. A&S Police direct the public to **report fly-tipping to their local council** (public or private land routes apply)
- **Police involvement** is targeted: when there is **risk to life/violence, organised criminality, repeat offending**, or where councils need police powers

2) When is it a police matter?

Police will support or take the lead when incidents involve:

- **Organised or large-scale dumping;**
- **Hazardous/dangerous waste;**
- **Repeat/persistent offenders;**
- **Threats, confrontation, or risk to officers/public.**

These triggers are referenced in local police–council coordination statements

3) What offences will be actively pursued?

- Councils will pursue **the majority of fly-tipping offences**, using fixed penalties and prosecutions. Police will **support** where seriousness, risk, or criminal networks are indicated. Police statements emphasise action where anti-social, profit-driven criminality is involved.
- Regionally, PCCs have called for **tougher sanctions** to deter offenders (higher fixed penalties and substantial fines for repeat/large-scale offenders).

4) Reporting: who, how, and when?

- **Non-urgent fly-tipping:** report to your **district/unitary council** via their online portal/phone—this is the default route for investigation and clearance. A&S Police webpages signpost directly to councils for fly-tipping.

- **Urgent/ongoing incidents** (offenders present, confrontation, danger, or crime in progress): call **999**. For non-urgent intelligence on persistent offenders or linked criminality, report via **101** or to your neighbourhood policing team; the MoU enables police–council information sharing and, where appropriate, arrests for interview.

5) Evidence: what helps most?

The following, collected safely and lawfully, gives the best chance of action:

1. **CCTV capturing the act + clear vehicle registration** (highest evidential value in many cases).
2. **Photographs** of the waste, vehicle, and offenders (multiple angles, avoid handling).
3. **Witness statements** with date/time, description, direction of travel, and any dialogue overheard, are extremely useful in gaining a successful prosecution .
4. **Linking documentation** (e.g., paperwork in waste) left undisturbed for council officers to recover.

Submission: Use your council's reporting channel for most cases (attach photos/video). Use police channels only where risk/criminality triggers apply

6) CCTV & covert cameras in hotspots

- **Use of CCTV is encouraged** in hotspot areas and is cited by the PCC as an effective deterrent and evidence source.
- Ensure compliance with **UK GDPR** and data-protection requirements (clear signage, a stated purpose, secure storage). **Covert deployments** for policing purposes may require additional legal thresholds (e.g., RIPA)—seek advice via your council and local policing team before using covert capability.

Parish-owned CCTV: Yes, it **can** be used in prosecutions if lawfully operated and shared through the council's enforcement team, who then liaise with police as needed.

7) Have cameras led to local results?

- I have found cases where Somerset councils has been successful but not in our area
- Previous PCC has publicly promoted **CCTV use** as part of a regional push for stronger deterrence and outcomes.

8) Improving outcomes locally—what works?

- **Deploy CCTV** and signage in hotspots;
- **Promote waste-carrier licence checks**—residents must verify traders are **licensed** before handing over waste;
- **Encourage timely reporting with high-quality evidence**;
- Support ongoing **calls for tougher penalties** to deter serial offenders.

9) Vehicles carrying commercial waste without a Waste Carrier Licence—why not more police use of powers?

- Licensing compliance checks are **primarily a local authority/Trading Standards function**. Police may act where there is **associated criminality, risk or obstruction**.

10) Patrols and “last catch” data

- Public sources do **not** list routine patrol counts or the **last fly-tipper arrest date** for A&S Police. Available materials confirm **active support to councils** (including arrests when required) and **frequent council prosecutions**. For precise figures, submit a **Freedom of Information (FOI)** request to A&S Police and/or the relevant council.

11) Why not a targeted operation in Berkley?

- Multi-agency operations are **intelligence-led** and prioritised by **threat, risk, harm, and repeat offending**. Where Berkley presents evidence of persistent or organised activity, the MoU enables **joint tasking** (council enforcement + police support). Parish councils can collate hotspot intelligence (times, vehicles, footage) and request a **problem-solving meeting** with the council enforcement team and the neighbourhood/Rural Crime Team.

12) Quick reference: What to do now

For Parish Councils & Councillors

- Publicise the **council reporting link** for fly-tipping and encourage residents to include **photos/CCTV** and **vehicle registrations**.
- Support lawful **CCTV** deployment in hotspots; ensure signage, retention policy, and secure storage. Share footage with the **council enforcement team**.
- Promote **waste-carrier licence checks** before residents use a trader.
- Where there is repeat offending, coordinate an **intelligence pack** (locations, times, vehicle plates, images) and seek a **joint tasking meeting** under the MoU.

For Residents (to share in newsletters/websites)

- **Report all fly-tipping to your local council**—attach photos and any CCTV/vehicle details.
- If offenders are present or there is risk/threat, call **999**; for non-urgent intelligence on persistent offenders, use **101**. (The council and police will coordinate as needed.)

13) Contacts & escalation

- **Primary reporting:** Your **district/unitary council** (online portal/phone). A&S Police webpages signpost to council reporting.
- **Police (risk/crime in progress):** 999; **non-urgent:** 101.

Rural Crime – Please Report Suspicious Activity

Rural crime continues to have a significant impact on our farming and countryside communities. Offences such as poaching, hare coursing, and the theft of farm equipment or livestock can cause considerable disruption, financial loss, and emotional stress for those affected.

One of the challenges we face is that many incidents go unreported. Members of the public often assume that suspicious behaviour in the countryside is simply a farmer, contractor, or landowner carrying out legitimate work. Similarly, individuals seen walking across fields with dogs are frequently presumed to be exercising them, when in some cases the behaviour may be linked to illegal hunting or poaching.

Why Reporting Matters

Every report helps us build a clearer understanding of what is happening across our rural areas. Even if something appears minor or turns out to be harmless, the information may be vital in identifying patterns, targeting patrols, or supporting future policing operations.

Your reports directly assist the rural crime team in tackling:

- **Hare coursing and deer poaching**
- **Theft of machinery, tools, diesel, and livestock**
- **Damage to crops, fences, and gates**
- **Suspicious vehicles or unknown individuals on farmland**

What to Look Out For

Residents are encouraged to report anything that seems unusual, such as:

- Vehicles driving slowly or parked in remote rural locations
- People stopping to watch fields, livestock, or farm buildings
- Dogs being used to chase wildlife across farmland
- Unfamiliar individuals entering fields or woodland without clear purpose

If you are unsure whether something is suspicious, **please report it anyway**—we would rather check and find nothing than miss vital information.

How to Report

999 – If a crime is in progress or someone is in immediate danger

101 – For non-emergency reports and ongoing suspicious activity

Online reporting: www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report

You can also contact your local Neighbourhood Policing Team through the Avon and Somerset Police website for non-urgent concerns or rural crime advice.