

Weddington and St Nicolas Community Forum

Monday 1 April 2019 7.30pm

Horeston Grange Ecumenical Church,

Camborne Drive, Nuneaton CV11 6GU

Minutes of the Meeting

Present:

Cllr Jeff Clarke (Chair)

Cllr Rob Tromans

Cllr Hayden Walmsley

Cllr Keith Kondakor

Cllr Kris Wilson

Cllr Julian Gutteridge

Sgt Andy Scruton (Warks Police)

PCSO Hayley Skeath (Warks Police)

PCSO Julie Green (Warks Police)

Mike Slemensek (WCC)

Members of the public (22)

Total attendance 32

Apologies:

Cllr Brindley-Edwards

1. Welcome and Introductions

- 1.1 Cllr Clarke welcomed all to the meeting and introduced all of the elected officers, council and other representatives.

2. Safer Neighbourhood Team – briefing and feedback

- 2.1 A crime and ASB PowerPoint update was provided by Sergeant Scruton. (Please see Appendix A for a copy of the presentation).
- 2.2 Questions followed and a resident remarked about good practice by police in Market Bosworth – who are very good at keeping people informed, putting information out on social media – which was uplifting for residents there. The importance of this type of communication and involvement between police and public was echoed by Cllr Tromans. Sgt Scruton said that the police do use social media on a regular basis - but will do more to push this.
- 2.3 A resident asked which type of crime is most prevalent in the area. Sgt Scruton said that ASB and crimes of violence were the highest – but the violence included

domestic assaults. Vehicle crime too has been a widespread problem, not just locally but county-wide. Overall however, crime in the area is comparatively low.

- 2.4 Cllr Kondakor said that people had difficulty getting through to the police using the 101 non-emergency number. Was there a less busy time to call the police or was there another number that could be used locally? Sgt Scruton acknowledged that this is a problem and that senior officers are looking at how best to resolve this. This is a problem at a national level at the moment. Unfortunately there is no specific good time or day to call. The police can also be contacted by email – although this method will not always guarantee a quick reply. Sgt Scruton said that he was personally contactable when on duty via his mobile. A resident offered information about 'live chat' systems used by West Midlands Police and offered to provide further details of how that works. Cllr Clarke noted that Facebook is being used by our SNT but said there was merit in exploring the West Midlands system too.
- 2.5 Neil Cavanagh, (Nuneaton North East Neighbourhood Watch) mentioned CMS – (stands for Content Management System) which is an additional social media platform. Neil offered this as an idea that could be used to further develop information - sharing by the police. Sgt Scruton agreed and said that all officers in Nuneaton & Bedworth had actually received training in this. Neil offered to deliver training too if other people in the community were people were interested in learning about this (Please see Appendix B for contact details).
- 2.6 David Carr asked about recruitment of more officers. Sgt Scruton replied that there will be new officers arriving and PCSOs are being recruited too. The arrival dates for our share of officers recruited as a result of the increase in the Police precept is not clear yet and the process of recruitment and training always takes quite a time. However, some new arrivals in Warwickshire will be officers who are transferring from other Forces – which means they can be operational in a much shorter time as they are already trained, serving police officers.
- 2.7 Another resident inquired about the actual numbers of police officers that Warwickshire has in the North of the County – compared to the South. Cllr Clarke pointed out that because of the different departments the police have; where they are based; and the extent of their remit across the County – it is always difficult and sometimes possibly misleading to try and say how many officers are in a given area. However Cllr Clarke offered to get indicative figures about this and make them available.

ACTION: Cllr Clarke/Police

- 2.8 A resident asked if the Police and Crime Commissioner could attend the next meeting of the forum. Cllr Clarke agreed and an invite will be extended to the Commissioner.

ACTION: Mike Slemensek

3. Minutes of the last meeting and progress made on issues raised

- 3.1 Action for Cllr Kondakor para. 3.3 regarding Post Office delivery vans damaging the grass. Cllr Kondakor updated that this will be addressed from his delegated budget in the next financial year and will liaise with council officers on what can be done.
- 3.2 Action for Mike Slemensek para 3.4 – to arrange a meeting with Higham Lane School regarding parking issues outside the school. Mike updated that he has liaised with Cllr Kondakor and Ben Elliot (Estates manager at the school). The school has a travel plan which they are updating on a continual basis, which includes close monitoring of the parking issues since the introduction of a sixth form school on the site. The school has confirmed that they regularly act on complaints and communicate with parents, issuing regular reminders about parking in their newsletters and weekly bulletins. The number of complaints received by the school has actually now reduced and the school is very keen to work with the council and residents on any suggestions or proposals to help reduce/manage the issues further.
- 3.3 Action for Cllr Kondakor para 5.1 – query about the bus stop in Higham Lane and of St Nicholas Park Drive and bus stop opposite that is never used. Update provided.
- 3.4 Under matters arising – concerning the progress on demolition of the old railway bridge – Cllr Clarke updated that legal work is being completed and plans for demolition will be going ahead. Cllr Clarke will be pushing for the demolition in the coming financial year 2019/20.
- 3.5 The minutes were agreed a true record.

4. Current local issues

Weddington Road School and GP surgery proposals

- 4.1 Cllr Clarke and Cllr Kondakor updated the meeting on issues related to the new school and proposed GP surgery. The school is putting in a planning application for a temporary and a permanent primary school on the Lower Farm site. By the summer it is expected there will be information published by the Clinical Commissioning Group on what GP provision/funding will look like. GPs will still have to do a business case. In response to a question about using portakabins at Milby School, Cllr Kondakor said that the school was asked but declined this – because they deemed having an extra ‘bulge’ class would not necessarily be helpful. Both councillors confirmed that discussion and consultation was continuing. One resident who is a teacher said that temporary classrooms don’t work and put the case for a properly designed permanent building for Reception and Year 1. Cllr Kondakor said that if all goes well there will be a massive primary school in Weddington in 18 months.

Borough Plan and Traveller sites update

- 4.2 Cllr Wilson gave an update on these matters. Cllr Wilson has attended monthly meetings with the executive directors of NBBC and if all goes to timetable there will be an extraordinary meeting of the council to ratify the Borough Plan in June - dependent on anything further from the Government Inspector.
- 4.3 The Gipsy and Traveller injunction is now in place having been granted by a High Court Judge. Specific sites are covered by the injunction and Cllr Wilson has asked for a list to be made available which sets out all of the included locations clearly. It is not a blanket injunction and there are some specific caveats for two known individuals out of 53 named persons, on grounds of health – as part of the council's duty of care. There is a power of arrest with the injunction.
- 4.4 Cllr Wilson felt there were still some loopholes with the injunction but was nonetheless pleased to have got to this stage with it. He will be asking for the injunction to be amended to include a disclosure element. The injunction has a two-year time limit and will then have to go back to the court for renewal. Cllr Tromans added that all the areas that are affected in Weddington & St Nicolas by unauthorised encampments are covered by this injunction.
- 4.5 A resident expressed thanks for the clear explanation from Cllr Wilson and for the work that has gone into progressing this.

Traffic lights and congestion

- 4.6 Discussion took place around resident's concerns about the installation of more traffic lights and Leicester Road Bridge. Cllr Clarke said that the Highways Team modelling process to achieve best possible traffic flows is normally very good and that all efforts will go into making things as safe as possible. Cllr Kondakor said that the lights at Eastborough Way were malfunctioning for a while – he took this up with the County who came out and fixed it. He urged residents therefore to report matters using 'Fix My Street'. One resident reported that the traffic lights on the estate have been fantastic and the shops are getting the benefit of this too.

Bus shelters

- 4.7 David Carr asked about getting the timetables for buses displayed on the shelters. Mike will speak to NBBC Transport Officers about this.

ACTION: Mike Slemensek

Dog Control Order Signs

- 4.8 Cllr Tromans said that he was in possession of signs having recently put some new ones up and could people let councillors know if there are any problem areas where new signs are needed.

Traffic roundabouts

- 4.9 One resident commented about a large dip in the new road at Coton Arches roundabout. Cllr Clarke was aware and said this will be looked at.
- 4.10 Another resident commented about central warning bollards not being illuminated on roundabouts giving example of the large roundabout on the Longshoot near the new homes and on the A5 – saying that this was a common problem – and it was a danger for pedestrians at night time. Cllr Clarke will report these matters and ensure the reflective bollards are cleaned.

ACTION: Cllr Clarke

Management of trees and open spaces

- 4.11 A resident asked if Glendale could landscape and prune trees in the water meadow behind the Co-Op. Cllr Walmsley said he had inquired into this last summer but was informed that this is part of a cost-saving strategy to leave areas as 'wild'. There will be a tendering process for a new contract soon and Cllr Walmsley will again be looking to revisit this issue. Cllr Wilson added the new specification is not yet known to councillors but will be available once all the tenders have been submitted. Cllr Gutteridge said there would be a separate tender for tree management. One resident felt that councillors should be able to see the specifications beforehand.
- 4.12 Cllr Walmsley said a new specification should ideally allow for a system that enabled the public to see when a piece of land is scheduled to be mowed/cut back. This should include the last time it was cut and when the next visit is due. More transparency over this would help reduce complaints.

5. Any other business

- 5.1 David Carr sought confirmation that there would be no hedge trimming during the bird nesting season. It was confirmed that there will be none until the end of July.
- 5.2 Neil Cavanagh requested more people join NHW. Please see Appendix 2 for more information and contact details.
- 5.3 Councillor Clarke thanked everyone for their contribution and brought the meeting to a close.

6. Next meeting date.

- 6.1 Monday 9 September 2019. Venue will be announced as soon as possible.



Weddington & St. Nicholas

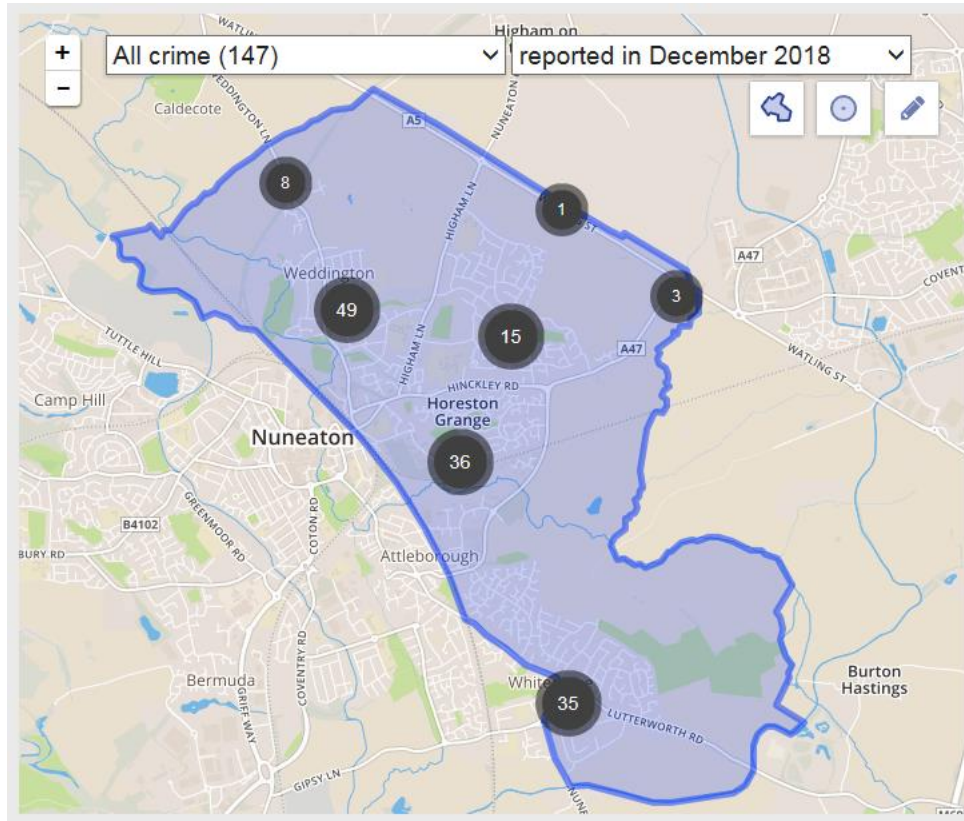
Community Forum

Crime Statistics

APPENDIX A

Nuneaton East

<https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/article/2222/Nuneaton-East>



Meet the team



**Police Community
Support Officer
Julie Green
236205**



**Inspector David
Williams 230546**



**Sergeant Andy
Scruton 946**

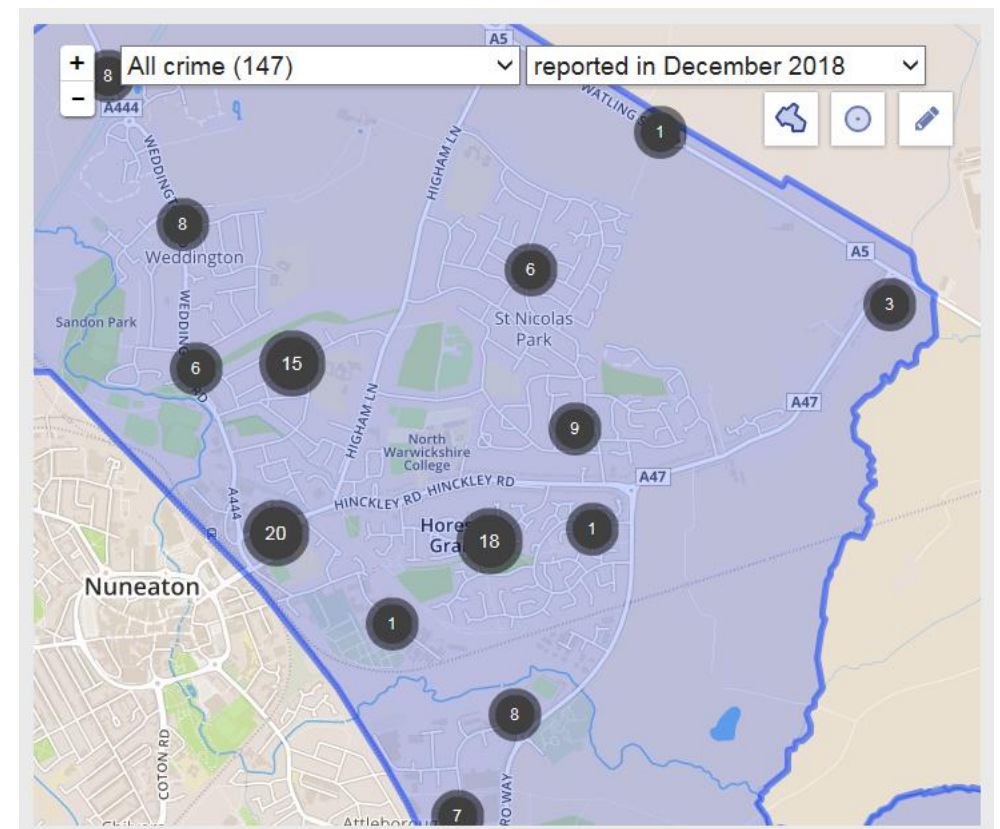


**Police Constable
Thomas
Stevenson 231251**

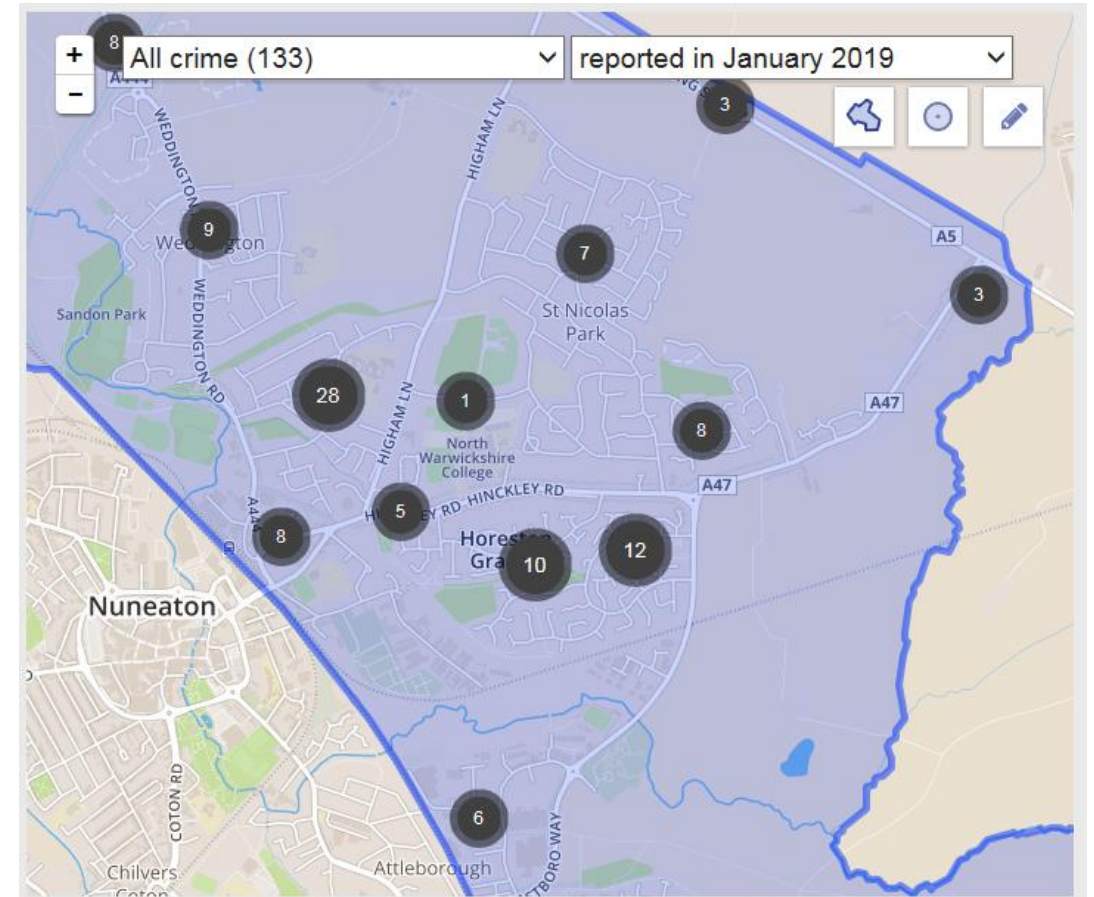
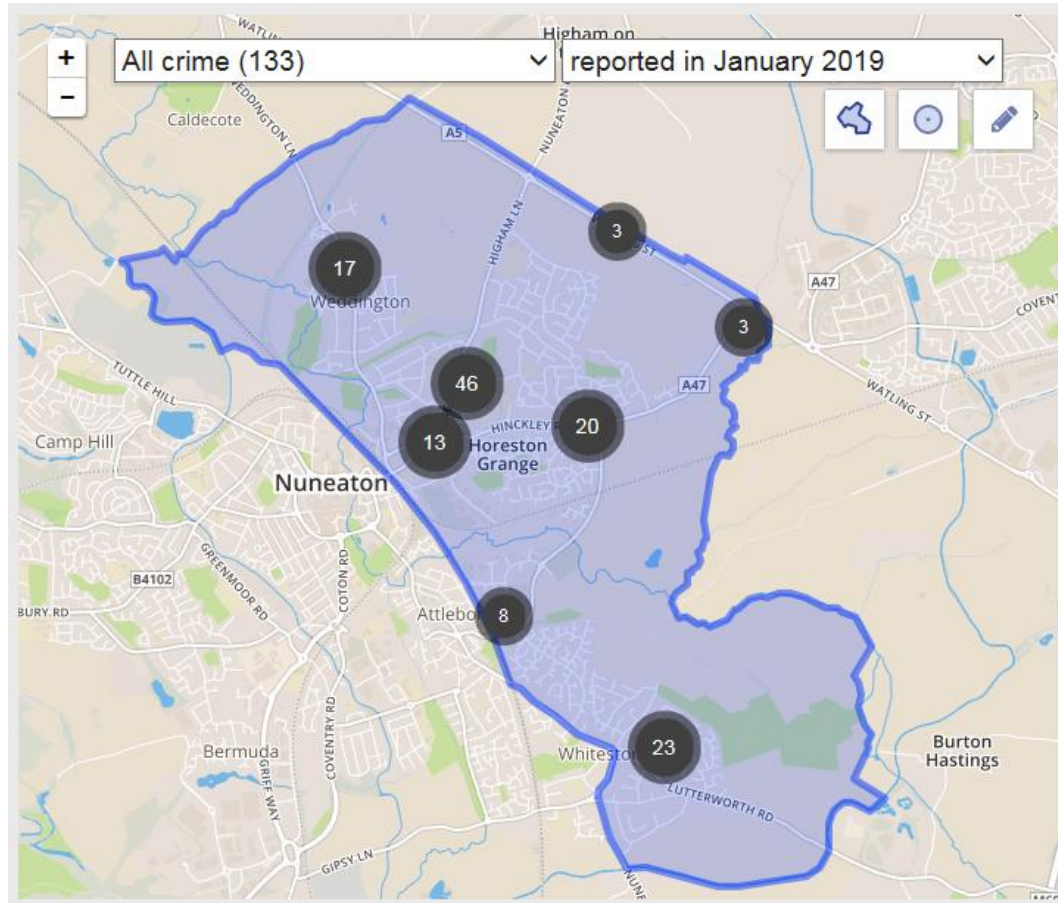


**Police Community
Support Officer
Hayley Skeath
236211**

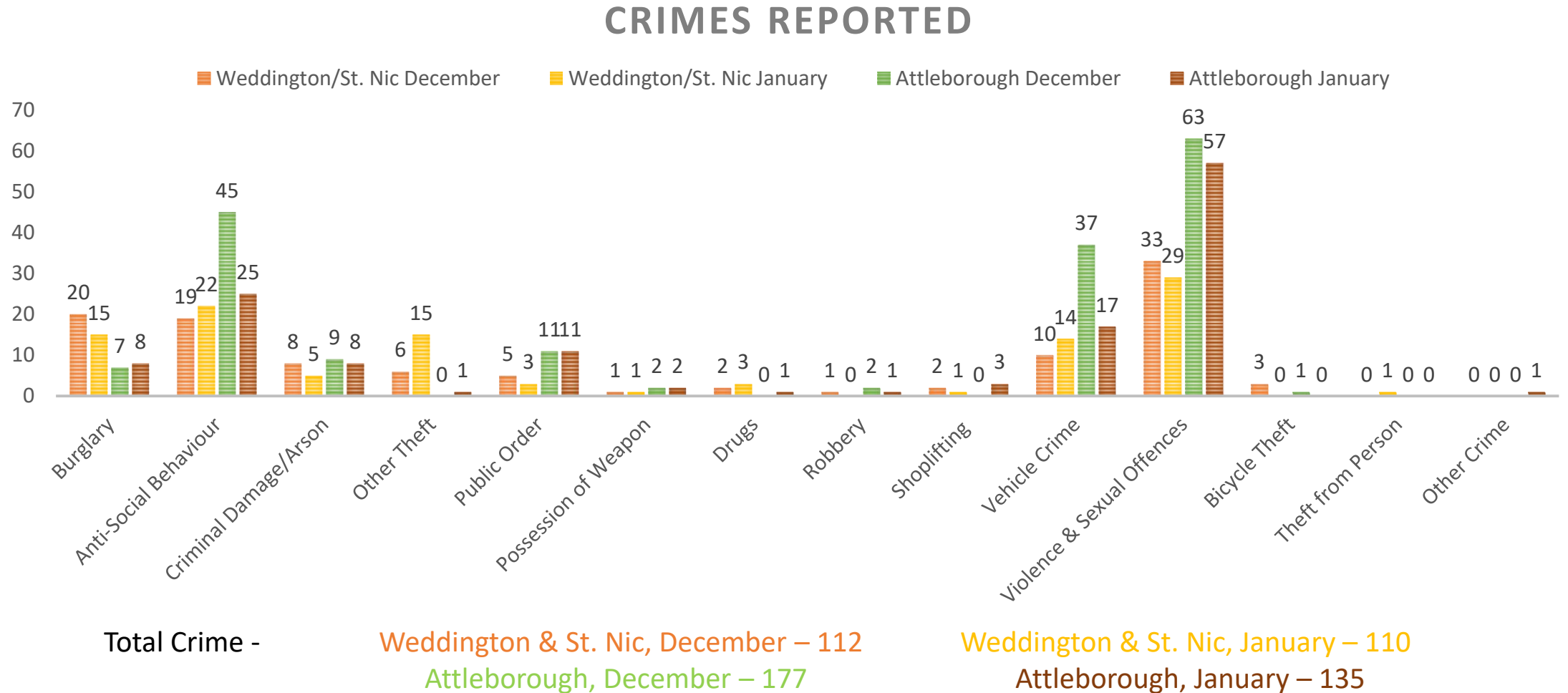
Anyone can access these figures by going to – www.Warwickshire.police.uk and following the ‘MY AREA’ link



Below is the Crimes reported on 'NUNEATON EAST' in January 2019 total of 133, narrowed down to the Weddington and St Nicholas area the total crimes is 110 for the month of January.
Anyone can access these figures by going to – www.Warwickshire.police.uk and following the 'MY AREA' link



Crimes reported in Weddington & St. Nicholas and (For Comparison)



*Stats are December and January as these are the only stats available at the time of producing this document.

Good News

Prolific offender – Ricky Aucott remanded in custody.

Aucott is responsible for a large amount of the Vehicle crime in the East & South of Nuneaton.

Following Aucott's arrest in January for Theft from Motor Vehicle he was given a 3 month custodial sentence. Aucott was released on license after 6 weeks on 22nd February and immediately began to reoffend. Aucott was arrested and remanded – Aucott is still remanded awaiting a trial. Hopefully he will be given a more robust sentence.





APPENDIX B

The Nuneaton North East Neighbourhood Watch is looking to increase its members. The areas that need new Neighbourhood Watch coordinators are as follows.

Hinckley Road
The Longshoot
Weddington Road
Tiverton Drive (Horeston Grange)
Clovelly Way (Horeston Grange)

New areas/developments

The Longshoot
Eastboro Way
Weddington

If you are interested in joining the scheme please do not hesitate to contact Neil Cavanagh who will be pleased to offer information and discuss the important role of Neighbourhood Watch in making communities safer. Please use the email address below to contact him. Thank you!

Neil.cavanagh2@btinternet.com