



An open letter from Chief Superintendent Richard Johnson

BASSETLAW, NEWARK AND SHERWOOD DIVISIONAL HQ
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BASSETLAW EDITION

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Arrests of purse thieves

You may already be aware that we have been suffering a spate of purse thefts in Bassetlaw, particularly in Retford town centre.

I am pleased to let you know that we arrested two young Polish women in Retford on Saturday 4 February after two attempted purse thefts.

The quick thinking of shop assistants, who saw somebody acting suspiciously and called the police, meant that we could act quickly.

The two suspects were from Leeds and could be part of a group of people committing these types of offences.

Please continue to be vigilant when you are out shopping. Keep your purse in your handbag and ensure your handbag is closed whilst you are carrying it.

If you see anybody acting suspiciously please do not hesitate to contact the police.

House burglaries down by almost 30 per cent

House burglaries across this policing division (Bassetlaw, Newark and Sherwood) have dropped by 259 crimes compared to last year.

Figures for 1st April 2005 to 31st January 2006 also show reductions in robbery, other burglaries such as sheds and garages and vehicle crime, compared to 04/05.

I know that you judge your local police service on your quality of life, not on statistics. But these results are what we are judged on and it is only with your co-operation and support that we can continue to be the best performing division in the force.

One of our biggest challenges now is tackling violent crime and alcohol related disorder. A number of police operations are already underway to make our towns safer, particularly on Friday and Saturday nights.

We have the support of our local licensees and Pubwatch members who are all committed to reducing this type of behaviour.

Getting off-road vehicles off your streets

I am aware that many of you are again having problems with mini-motos – the collective term given to off-road vehicles such as go-peds, motorised scooters and quad bikes.

A team of police officers have been brought together to deal with the problem. They will be carrying out police operations in the worst affected areas.

Legally, mini mopeds and go-peds can only be used on private land with the permission of the landowner.

I must warn parents that if you are allowing your children to go out on a mini-moto then you and they risk being fined, arrested and having vehicles seized.



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If you know the name of somebody riding illegally or can give a good description of the rider and vehicle please let us know.

I am determined to get these vehicles off our streets and on to a site where the riders do not pose a danger or nuisance to others.

One of my Beat Managers is on the steering group to create a motor project in Worksop. I am in full support of establishing a site like this where people can enjoy these vehicles to their full extent.

Victim Support welcome four more volunteers

I am delighted to welcome four new volunteers to our Victim Support team.

The service provided by this charity is critical in helping to rebuild the lives of those affected by criminals.

Coming to terms with being a victim is something every individual deals with differently and unless you have been a victim of crime, you may never fully appreciate how invaluable Victim Support is.

At Worksop we have two Victim Support managers and a staggering 34 volunteers. The team provide free support and advice to victims.

They are specially trained to provide emotional support for victims of a wide range of crimes including burglary, violence, domestic abuse, sexual offences and theft.

They also offer practical help and work closely alongside our SAFE scheme, which provides a trained carpenter to visit you after a burglary to help keep your home secure.

Last year the team wrote over 4500 letters, made over 3000 phone calls and made over 680 visits to people.

It can be emotionally challenging for the team but it is so rewarding that we are extremely proud to have volunteers who give up their own time to help.

There is excellent work going on behind the scenes in Bassetlaw, which is helping to make a difference to thousands of lives. Thank you.

Bassetlaw crime figures

Please find below the figures for December 2005. I am particularly pleased to draw your attention to vehicle crime, which saw a dramatic reduction across Bassetlaw throughout December. We often see a rise in vehicle crime over the festive period – so it was great to see this reduction. Thank you for taking on board our crime reduction advice.

West Bassetlaw (Worksop area)

Crime type	Reported incidents in December 05	Reported incidents in December 04
All Crime	418	442
Violence	85	79
House burglary	16	11
Shed burglary	19	18
Theft from vehicle	17	59
Theft of vehicle	15	20



East Bassetlaw (Retford area)

Crime type	Reported incidents in December 05	Reported incidents in December 04
All Crime	435	473
Violence	70	85
House burglary	22	23
Shed burglary	24	42
Theft from vehicle	38	44
Theft of vehicle	23	34

**Divisional Commander for Bassetlaw, Newark and Sherwood
Chief Superintendent Richard Johnson**

