

Recent flooding

Northamptonshire was one of 10 counties that experienced their wettest September since records began in 1836, recording three times their average September rainfall. This caused flooding to many residential and business properties as well as schools and caravan parks. As our area continues to experience more frequent and severe climate events associated with climate change WNC are working with partners to seek sustainable, long term solutions for tackling flooding issues.

Councillors were recently shown an example of natural flood plain techniques on the Lamport Estate, where restoring a tributary's natural course, "scrapes" - shallow ponds - and "leaky dams" will help prevent flooding further down in the Nene Valley by slowing the movement and volume of water. These natural flood techniques also provide habitats for declining bird species - all tools to guide action for nature recovery as part of WNC's Local Nature Recovery Strategy | West Northamptonshire Council (westnorthants.gov.uk)

West Northants Climate Summit

This one day event at Delapre Abbey was the first of a 5 year programme, attended by over 50 councillors from town and parish councils and West Northants. It was good to see your chief officer and RFO there and other parish councillors from the Brunston and Crick ward. Topics included food consumption and waste, biodiversity and communicating climate change. On waste, it was surprising to learn from WNC that only one third of residents who are supplied with food waste caddies (residents living in flats are not supplied with them) actually use them. If all residents who could dispose of their food waste in caddies this would save WNC £6m per year and given the financial pressures the Council is experiencing this would be a very welcome saving.

With parish councillors from Crick, Yelvertoft, Braunston and Kilsby parish councils I am setting up a group to share ideas as to how to progress climate communication in our communities. Any town councillors would be very welcome to join our bi-monthly meetings - our first meeting is on 6th November at 10.30 am.

Land at Malabar Farm, Staverton Road, Daventry

A reserved matter application proposing 128 dwellings, associated access routes, landscaping, open space and drainage was approved at the meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee at their meeting this month. All the dwellings will be affordable and will comprise 9 1-bed apartments, 47 2 bed dwellings and 72 3 bed dwellings. The homes are part of the delivery of 1,100 new homes granted outline planning permission in 2021 on land allocated as the Daventry South West Urban Extension. Choose agenda document pack - Strategic Planning Committee 15 October 2024 - West Northamptonshire Council

The Cottage 25 Drayton Park 2024/4114/FULL

Following contact with a neighbouring resident I have sent in objections to this application in support of the comments expressed by DTC and residents. I have asked the case officer whether he has requested a tree survey or arboricultural assessment given that the Canal and River Trust has commented that they are unable to give a substantive response without this information. A tree survey or assessment is also required by the Drayton Park Design Statement SPD if any planning application which will remove or impact on trees and hedges, as in this proposal.

Pension Credit eligibility

It's been estimated that over 19,000 pensioners in the Daventry constituency are at risk of losing the winter fuel allowance, following the government's decision to cut the allowance unless a person is eligible for pension credit. Thousands of pensioners who are eligible for pension credit who do not claim this benefit, believing for example that their savings are too high. It's now even more important now that residents check whether they are entitled, in order to continue to receive the winter fuel payment.

With the guidance notes and claim form together coming to a hefty 48 pages it is easy to make an error. This could mean someone who is in fact eligible has their claim rejected – about one third of pension credit applications are turned down. Seeking help to complete the form is the better option and an adviser will be able to give an indication as to whether the claim will be successful. The Citizens Advice office in Daventry can help with pension credit applications – tel 01327 701646 Citizens Advice West Northants and Cherwell (citizensadvice.daventryanddistrict.co.uk) There is also a lot of information on WNC's website about cost of living support WestNorthants.gov.uk

Highways investment

In July WNC announced an additional £10m was to be invested into improving roads. The funding is coming from the capital budget used for improving local infrastructure. While this is of course welcomed it is not known how much of the extra funding will be used for pavements and paths as well as surface dressing for roads, bridge maintenance and resolving drainage issues.

Opposition councillors were very disappointed at last month's Full Council meeting that the administration did not support a motion asking that WNC explore the viability of spending 25% of the £10M additional investment in highways for improving pavements and footpaths. So far WNC refused to disclose how much of the £10M will be spent making it safer and more attractive for residents to walk on poorly maintained pavements and footpaths. [Agenda for Council on Thursday 26th September 2024, 5.00 pm - West Northamptonshire Council](http://moderngov.co.uk) (moderngov.co.uk)

Cllr Rosie Humphreys

28th October 2024

REPORT TO: Town Council – 28th October 2024
REPORT ON: Recommendations from Committees
REPORT BY: Responsible Finance Officer
REPORT DATE: 25th October 2024

Planning & Development Committee – 2nd October 2024

No recommendations.

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Finance, Policy & Assets Committee – 14th October 2024

Note: Agenda item FP2410.5 (ii) is to be discussed within the main Agenda item TC2411.7

FP2410.5 POLICIES.

RECOMMENDED	(i)	Risk Management Scheme, as amended be approved.
	(ii)	To approve in principle the Sexual and General Harassment Policy and Procedure for the purposes of consultation with the Council's employees and
	(iii)	based on 'no objection' being raised by a majority of employees this policy and procedure be approved.

FP2410.8 PLAY AREA – THE HOLLOW

RECOMMENDED	That the Council approve a budget of up to £500k for a project to create an adventure play area for all age groups.
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Planning & Development Committee – 23rd October 2024

No recommendations.

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REPORT TO: Town Council – 28th October 2024
REPORT ON: Sexual and General Harassment Policy and Procedure
REPORT BY: Chief Officer
REPORT DATE: 10 October 2024

Please find attached, guidance on new legislation regarding Sexual Harassment and a draft Policy and Procedure for consultation with workforce.
This legislation comes into effect on 26th October 2024 and the draft policy has been reviewed and recommended for approval by the Finance & Policy Committee, following consultation with the staff.

Newsletter: Employment Law Update Sept24

FOR CONSULTATION Sexual and General Harassment Policy and Procedure Sept 24

You will note within the policy there is a requirement for the policy to be reviewed on an annual basis and training to be given to all staff, members and volunteers.
In order to comply with this new legislation it is recommended that the Council purchases online training at approximately £300.

Training Budget Detail:

2024/2025 Budget	£500
Spend to Date	£466
Budget Remaining	£34
Training – Earmarked	£1306
Total monies available =	£1340.00

Recommendation: Council considers authorising the use of £300 in earmarked reserves to purchase online training to fulfil the Council's policy and comply with recent legislation.

I am writing on behalf of Staverton Parish Council (SPC) to ask for your advice and help regarding the footpath that runs from our village to Daventry.

The footpath is now about a metre wide after West Northants Council (WNC) recently edged it out to its original size, from a badly overgrown tarmacked track in parts about six-eight inches wide. SPC asked for this to be done to promote non-vehicular access to Daventry and any of the facilities that will be developed within the Daventry South-West Sustainable Urban Extension (SW SUE) and vice-versa. Although improved, the path remains of low quality and is too narrow for pedestrians and cyclists to walk side-by-side without risk of falling into the road (as I have done).

The path runs as far as the Toll House lay-by on the North side of the A425, where it ends. An excellent-quality combined cycleway and footpath has been constructed along the South side of the A425 and is linked into the rest of Daventry's cycleway/path network. The problem is that pedestrians and cyclists are obliged to cross the A425 to get from one part of the path to the other. There is no access from the North side to the controlled crossing further towards Daventry. The crossing is in a 40-mph zone that carries a significant degree of unacceptable risk, especially to children and the elderly.

SPC argued at the time that a crossing should have been included in the original planning approval but the reasons why it did not happen are unclear. Recent negotiations between SPC and WNC are best summarised by James Povey (Transport Strategy and Development Manager, WNC):

"With respect to active travel improvements between the development and Staverton Village, the draft Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for Daventry we have consulted on has identified a set of improvements. This includes a controlled crossing of the A425 at the new roundabout for the development and widening of the existing footway on the northside to create a cycleway. This LCWIP is due to be adopted by early 2025. The LCWIP scheme proposals are subject to funding".

This outcome would be extremely welcome but it is unknown whether this funding will ever materialise. SPC cannot fund it, but we have enlisted the support of our unitary councillors, including the Chairman of WNC, Cllr Jo Gifford, who may have discussed this issue with you already, and the support of Daventry's MP, Rt. Hon. Stuart Andrews, who helpfully advised me of £10,756,633.16 in this development's S106 fund. When Mr Andrews wrote to the developers, Mr Jennens, the Engineering Manager from Spitfire Homes wrote that:

"If money could be made available from the S106 Contributions by the Council to the value of Constructing a new footpath we would be able to construct a footpath. Sorry I can not offer any more help, but would suggest that the Parish Council put pressure on the District Council to see if any of the S106 monies could be released".

As suggested by Mr Jennens, SPC continues to maintain that development of the path and crossing is a reasonable use of S106 funds on the grounds that the people who come to live in SW SUE would benefit from active transport to Staverton Park and beyond, and whose allocation can be altered by agreement.

The reason why SPC is asking for your help is that although the path as far as the lay-by lies mostly in Staverton Parish, topography mandates that the crossing will have to be within West Ward, Daventry. For that reason Daventry Town Council has a very strong case of its own to support allocating a fraction of the S106 fund to provide a safe controlled crossing within its own constituency for the benefit of its own constituents in Daventry SW SUE.

I would be very grateful if you and your fellow councillors could consider supporting this course of action and look forward to hearing from you at your convenience.

REPORT TO: Town Council – 24th October 2024
REPORT ON: Transfer of Land Request
REPORT BY: Chief Officer
REPORT DATE: 24th October 2024

Prior to Daventry District Council transferring multiple areas of land to Daventry Town Council, Daventry District Council had agreed to transfer a plot of land to a resident in Frobisher Close, Daventry. Unfortunately, this parcel of land was erroneously transferred to the Town Council and the resident, having paid the District Council for the land is looking to have the mistake rectified. As the homeowner had bought and paid for the land prior to the transfer, its theirs and this is just an admin error, the easiest way to resolve the issue is for DTC to transfer to the homeowner and all legal costs be borne by West Northamptonshire Council.

Legal instruction has all now been prepared.

Recommendation: Members acknowledge this has been an administrative error and agree to sign the land transfer agreement TR1 in the presence of the Chief Officer



West Northamptonshire Council

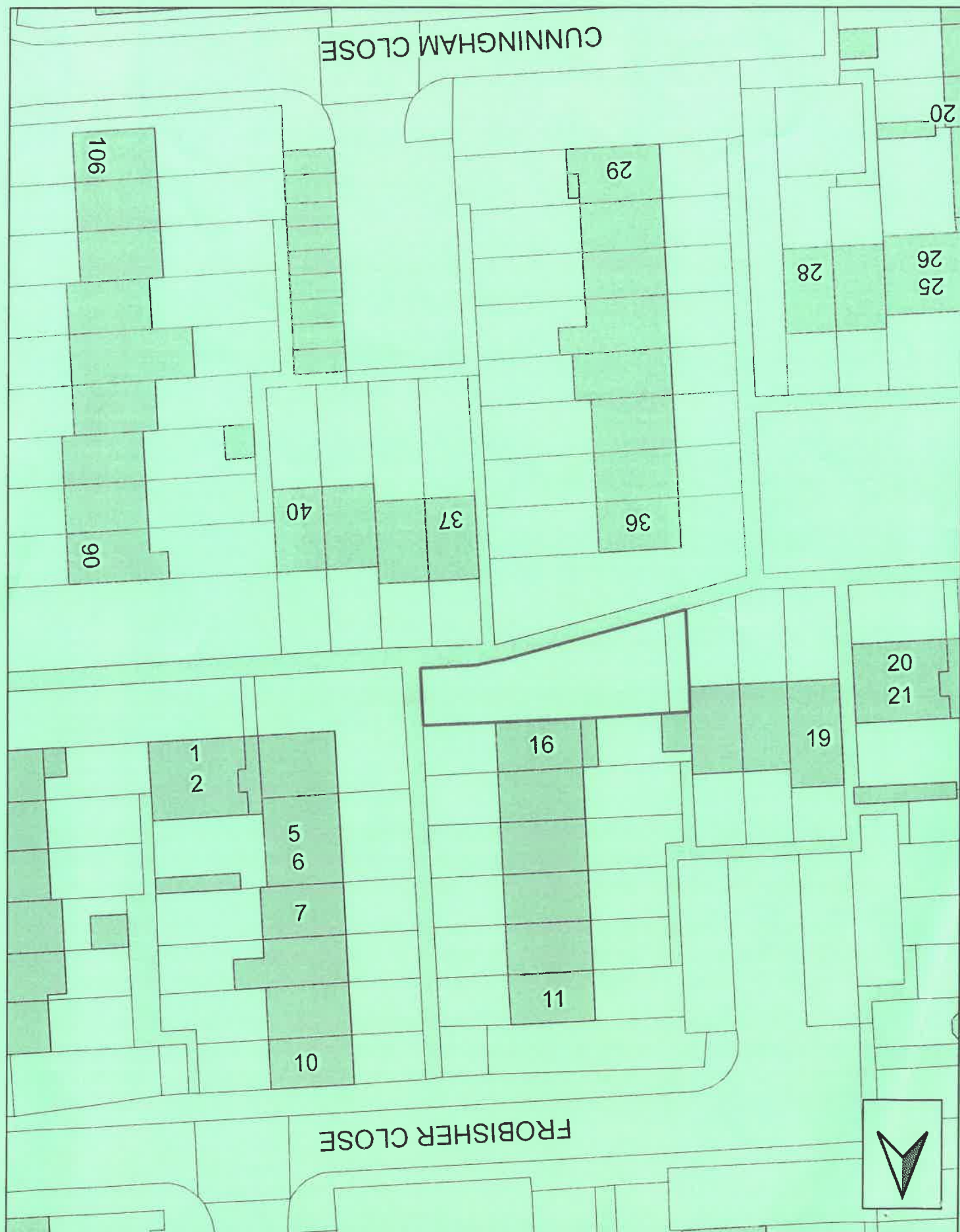
Title: Land adjacent 16 Frobisher Close

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Drawn: LP

Scale: 1:500 @A4

Date: 08-10-2024



REPORT DATE: 24th October 2024

To combat the problem, it is proposed that the Police will continue with enforcement on the core group and that targeted intervention is commissioned to engage with the remaining 30 children and young people to establish their needs and tackle the issues to prevent further ASB/crime.

Youth Budget 2024/2025:

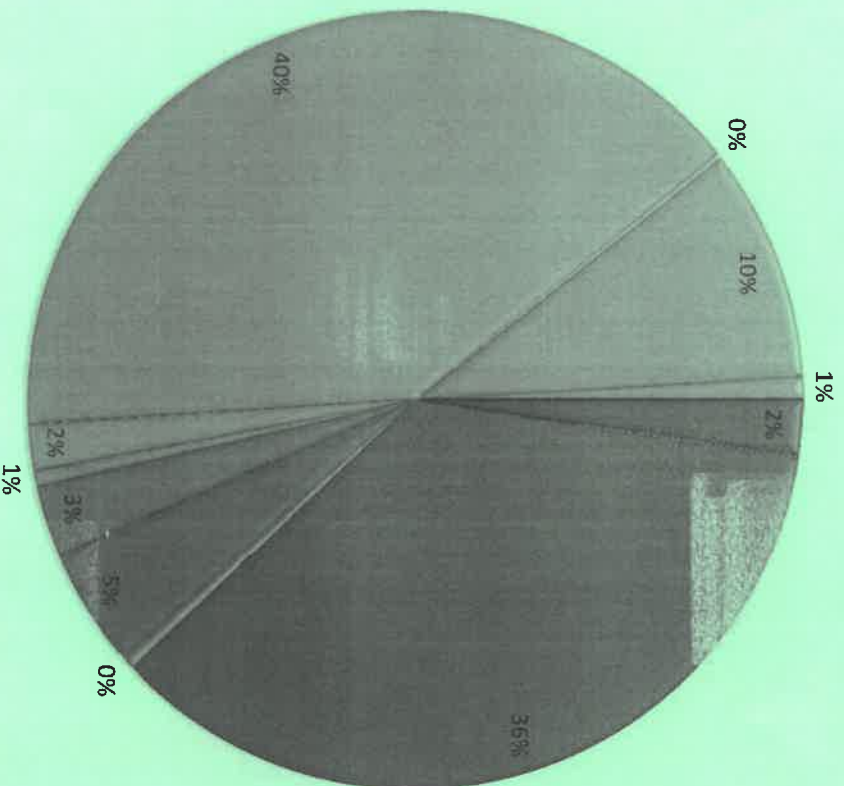
PCSO Sponsorship 2024/2025:

Actual Last Year	Actual Year to Date	Current Annual Bud	Budget Variance	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent
28,058	10,330	45,981	35,651	0	35,651	22.5%
Total Overhead						
28,058	10,330	45,981	35,651	35,651	35,651	22.5%
4268 PCSO Sponsorship						
Expenditure Detail						

behaviour.

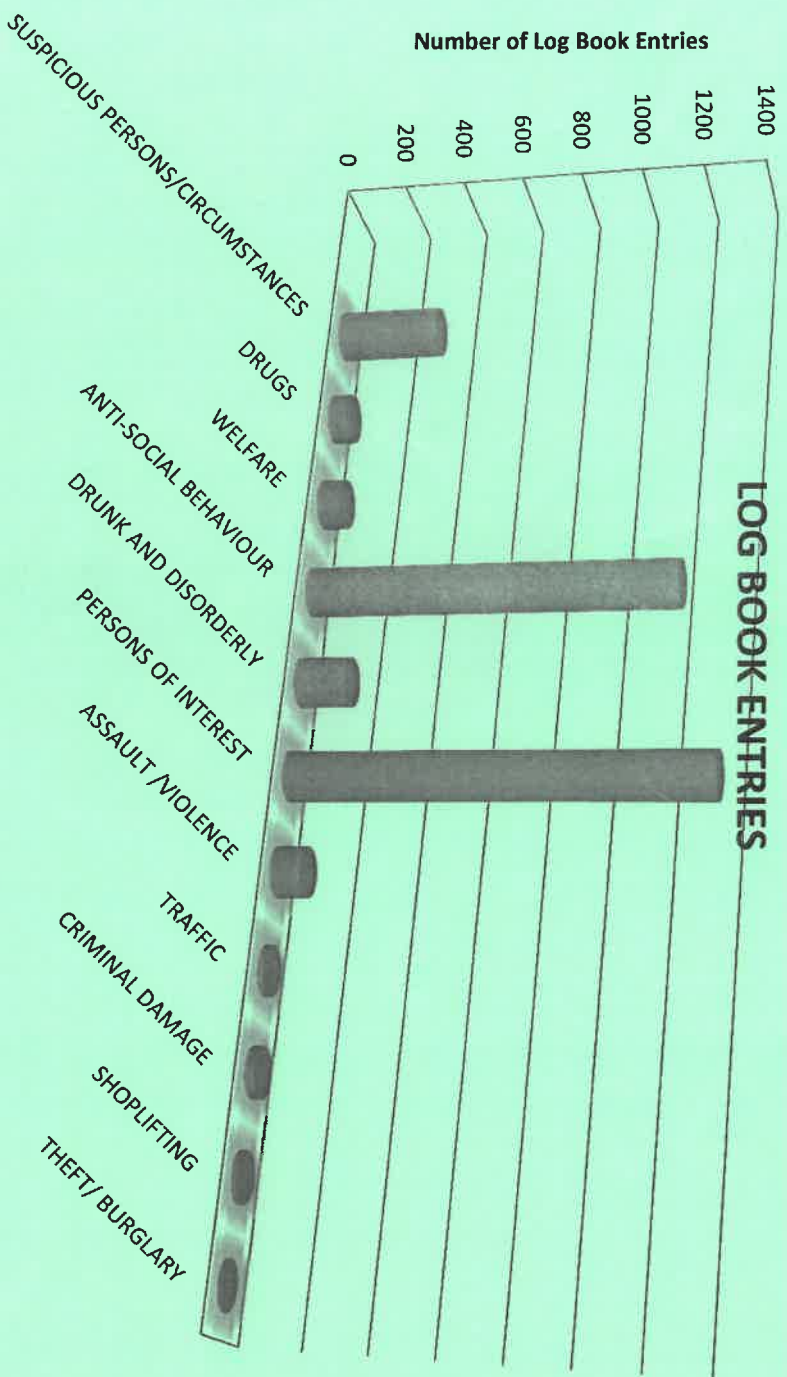
LOG BOOK STATISTICS FOR DAVENTRY CCTV September 2024

INCIDENT NUMBERS



- WELFARE
- ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR
- SHOPLIFTING
- DRUNK AND DISORDERLY
- ASSAULT AND VIOLENT BEHAVIOUR
- TRAFFIC INCIDENTS/ISSUES
- DRUGS
- PERSONS OF INTEREST
- THEFT / BURGLARY
- SUSPICIOUS PERSONS/CIRCUMSTANCES
- CRIMINAL DAMAGE

LOG BOOK STATISTICS FOR DAVENTRY CCTV September 2024



LOG BOOK INCIDENTS	SUSPICIOUS PERSONS/CIRCUMSTANCES	DRUGS	WELFARE	ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR	DRUNK AND DISORDERLY	PERSONS OF INTEREST	ASSAULT /VIOLENCE	TRAFFIC	CRIMINAL DAMAGE	SHOPLIFTING	THEFT/ BURGLARY
	328	65	79	1197	168	1347	100	21	32	17	5