

Blackburn town centre

Safe & Secure

Update

Winter 2021 / 22

CONTACT DETAILS

Catherine Price
Blackburn BID Manager
07860952352
catherine.price@newground.co.uk

Ronnie O'Keeffe, Chair
Blackburn Businesses Against Crime
07923239045
Ronnie.Okeeffe@bidvestnoonan.com

Blackburn town centre Neighbourhood Policing Team
Blackburn Town Centre Police Station,
St Johns Court
Ainsworth Street
01254 353311

Sergeant Steve Dundon
Stephen.Dundon@lancashire.police.uk

PC 8079 Emma Lougheed
emma.lougheed@lancashire.police.uk

PC 2520 Scott Leatherbarrow
scott.leatherbarrow@lancashire.police.uk

PCSO 7438 Veronica Roberts; PCSO 7482 Niall Webster; PCSO 7186 Karolina Ashworth; PCSO Halima Sidat

PC 4094 Tony Feather, Community Safety Officer, Blackburn with Darwen Council
tony.feather@blackburn.gov.uk

BLACKBURN **BID**
business improvement district



MAKING THE TOWN CENTRE SAFER & MORE SECURE

In partnership with Blackburn Businesses Against Crime, Lancashire Police, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council and The Mall Blackburn, Blackburn BID has been working hard to deliver against the priority of 'Making Blackburn town centre safer and more secure'.

Blackburn BID and BwD Council have jointly funded two town centre police officers for the town, and worked closely with the town centre policing team to set priorities and target hotspot areas. In August, PC Scott Leatherbarrow joined the team, replacing PC Paul Foster who moved to a different role. The town centre police officers have dealt with **645 incidents, made 83 arrests, and prepared 59 case files for court**, in the year to end of October 2021.

Daily security patrols have been provided through Prestige Security throughout the year to support businesses, town centre policing and help to deal with retail crime, anti-social behaviour (ASB) and begging. Up to the end of November Blackburn BID have provided **1558 hours of security patrols** to support BID area businesses. BwD Council has also provided security patrols to support the reopening of town centre businesses and provide confidence and reassurance to visitors that it is safe to return to the town centre.

Working with the town centre policing team and BBAC, Blackburn BID has also produced a Retail Crime Guide to support Blackburn town centre retailers and help promote partnership working with the police. All this, along with multi-agency problem solving and crime reduction initiatives, shows Blackburn BID and its partners are all focused on helping to make the town centre safer and more secure.



TOWN CENTRE CRIME UPDATE



Lancashire
Constabulary
police and communities together

From 1st January 2018 to 31st December 2021 there have been 19,925 incidents reported with Blackburn town centre as the location. This has resulted in 7,727 recorded crimes during the same period.

In 2021 there were 4,757 incidents reported which resulted in 1,702 recorded crimes. This is a reduction of 22.7% on 2018's reported incidents and an increase of 1.7% on 2019's reported incidents. August 2021 was the busiest month in 2021 with 184 recorded crimes.

2020 saw the lowest number of crimes recorded and incidents reported, which is consistent with numbers seen across the county as a result of the pandemic. 2020 is excluded from the comparison data in this summary.

Theft including shoplifting accounts for over 40% of the recorded crimes since 2015, with violence against the person offences accounting for 26.7% and Public Order offences being 10.63%.

Theft related recorded crime reduced in 2021 compared with 2019, but shoplifting offences formed the majority of these crimes with 65.8% being recorded as shoplifting.

in comparison with 2019, in 2021 there has been a reduction of 13.2% in recorded violence against the person offences, however there has been an increase when compared with years 2015 to 2017.

2021 saw a decrease in recorded Public Order offences of 33.9% compared with 2019, but an increase compared with years 2015 to 2017.

Arson/criminal damage offences and burglary account for just over 12% of recorded crime in the town centre. Both categories of recorded crime have been at their lowest levels in comparison with every year dating back to 2015 (not including 2020).

DISC SYSTEM

BBAC (Blackburn Businesses Against Crime) runs the DISC website and app, an information sharing portal covering crime, offenders and issues to be aware of in Blackburn town centre and across East Lancashire.

Members who sign up to the portal (via the website and/or App) can check for updates, report information about incidents and offenders for the benefit of other members, and receive notifications about offences and active offenders. Currently the website has over 250 regular users sharing information. You can find the website at www.disc-net.org/blackburn.

If you haven't signed up to the DISC system please contact Ronnie O'Keeffe (details on front page).

NBCS

BBAC and Blackburn BID are now joint members of NBCS, the National Business Crime Solution.

It's a not-for-profit initiative that works with the police and the business community to help tackle business crime by gathering data and sharing information across public and private sectors.

home.nationalbusinesscrimesolution.com

BLACKBURN BUSINESSES AGAINST CRIME

Blackburn Businesses Against Crime (BBAC) is a Crime Reduction Partnership, Chaired and Managed by Ronnie O'Keeffe. Blackburn BID Members are automatically a member of the BBAC as part of their BID membership. Blackburn BID pays a financial contribution to the BBAC in order that it can support town centre businesses and deliver crime reduction initiatives. BBAC works to support businesses in many ways including the shop watch radio scheme - with over 100 radio users in the town centre and retail parks, the pub watch radio scheme, training, crime prevention initiatives, and the DISC information.

With the Covid-19 pandemic preventing face-to-face meetings, BBAC was able to meet for the first time in over 18 months, on 3 November 2021. There was a good turnout for the meeting, with information shared on prolific offenders operating in the town centre, and updates on town centre policing and delivery of the BID Priority of Safe & Secure provided.

TOWN CENTRE POLICE UPDATE

SGT STEPHEN DUNDON



As we are coming to the end of another busy year I wanted to give you an update on some of the activity we have been doing as a team over the last few months.

After a few technical issues, we have finally managed to set up a Lancashire Talking Group dedicated just to businesses in Blackburn Town Centre. We will use this channel to communicate directly with you about the activity of your town centre policing team. These messages will relate directly to what we have been doing around the town centre and you may have already seen one from me. If not, and you'd like to receive updates, please ensure you sign up at www.stayintheknow.co.uk/LancashireTalking and we will add you to the mailing list.

We also now have an officer based permanently in the Blackburn CCTV hub. PC 268 Caroline Lanciotti now works from the hub reviewing CCTV following incidents across most of East Lancashire and also supports the CCTV team in monitoring "live time" events that are happening. Being a Blackburn Officer she always keeps an extra special eye on our town centre cameras.

Finally, we have continued to conduct our regular "Operation Banner" patrols to support key events in the town centre. On 27th November we were on duty to help ensure the Christmas lights switch on event passed without incident. During that day officers dealt with 4 shoplifting incidents, conducted 2 x stop and searches, moved on 2 beggars and submitted 4 statements following breaches of town centre Public Space Protection Order conditions. All while providing businesses and shoppers the reassurance that we were out keeping you all safe.

I hope you have had a safe, great festive period and please feel free to contact me to let me know what you would like the team to be focusing on in 2022.

NEW NICE INVESTIGATE SYSTEM

Your security cameras can help Lancashire Police deter and rapidly solve crime. NICE Investigate is a Digital Evidence Management System (DEMS) which makes it easier for businesses and organisations to share digital (often CCTV) evidence with Lancashire Constabulary.

By registering with the system it enables Lancashire Constabulary to request the relevant footage from you via NICE Investigate. You will receive an email notification asking you to provide the relevant footage associated with an investigation. The footage no longer will need to be downloaded to a memory stick or burnt to a CD. The system enables you to send the footage via an online portal quickly and easily.

You can register in 5 easy steps:

1. To register your organisation email nice.register@lancashire.police.uk stating your business name and confirming which email address you want to register under.
2. You will receive a link to your designated email address – along with the detailed user guide.
3. Click on the link to access the Community Portal.
4. Select register now, follow the instructions and input the registration details
5. Once Registered select the cameras option from the menu and select the 'Add New Camera' Button – follow the instructions you will have received to add the cameras

For more information visit www.Lancashire.police.uk/contact-us/register-your-camera

STREET HOMELESS SUPPORT SERVICES

Blackburn with Darwen Council work with partners to deliver services aimed at supporting people who are sleeping rough or in emergency accommodation in order to find a housing solution, improve their health and well-being, and get them into education, training or employment.

A team of **Town Centre Navigators** are employed by Spring North to work in the town centre with individuals to coordinate care and support, provide encouragement and advocacy to enable the people they are working with to engage with support services and move away from living on the streets. They focus on developing a relationship with the individual offering personalised, creative, innovative and effective support. They maintain their relationships with clients, build trust and work in an inclusive and empowering way, acting as a single point of contact.

Change, Grow, Live, on behalf of the Council, employ a **town centre REACH worker** whose role it is to engage with people who are sleeping rough and spending time on the streets of the town centre but are not engaging with any support services, to build relationships and trust with those individuals and get them to a position where they are engaging with support services and starting to make changes to their lives. Our town centre REACH worker is Laura Heaven, who is keen to engage with town centre businesses and help where businesses are experiencing difficulties as a result of rough sleeping and ASB. Laura can be contacted at **Laura.heaven@cgl.org.uk / 01254 495014 / 07827 859 267**.

As part of the Government's winter Protect Programme, and provided by Blackburn with Darwen Council, 10 self-contained pods are sited on the grounds of the currently closed Shadsworth Leisure Centre in Blackburn. They will be available to house 10 homeless people until March 2022, to help protect them from the winter elements and the risk of COVID-19. The pods are intended to provide intensive support and accommodation for individuals who are street homeless with complex needs, with a view to them moving into more permanent supported accommodation thereafter. The pods were first provided during Winter 2020/21. The Council has a wider Severe Weather Emergency Provision programme to make sure everyone who is sleeping rough on the street has a bed during the winter months. Despite the provision, there are individuals who have refused offers of emergency accommodation, but the services continue to offer support with a view to getting them into accommodation.



RETAIL CRIME GUIDE & SUPPORT

Blackburn BID in partnership with the town centre policing team and BBAC have produced a retail crime guide to help town centre retailers dealing with retail crime such as shoplifting. If you have not received a copy or would like more copies for your staff room / staff rest areas please contact Catherine Price, Blackburn BID Manager.

If you are experiencing issues and would like a meeting with the Town Centre Policing team to see how you can work together, or for the team to come into a staff / management team meeting please contact Catherine Price, Blackburn BID Manager to make arrangements.