



**Kent
Police**



ASHFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Monthly Newsletter – South Willesborough & Newtown

Hello,

This is your monthly newsletter for August 2021 for the South Willesborough & Newtown ward from PCSO Oliver Welch.

Crime has remained low in the ward during the month of August with only several crimes of particular interest to bring to your attention. I must inform you of a burglary that took place within the ward and remind you to ensure that you leave your property safe and secure whenever you are out. There have also been several reports of criminal damage within the ward and again I must remind residents to remain vigilant and report any incidents of crime.

Anti-social behaviour with nuisance bikes in the area has continued this month and we have been inundated with reports of them driving around footpaths and fields in the area. I am working closely with my NHW colleague Peter New to gain images, videos and names of the offenders in order to deal with them appropriately. I have also had a meeting with Angela Burden from Ashford Borough Council to see what preventative measures can be put in place to stop the bikes gaining access to the land they are using.

Crime statistics can be found at: <https://www.police.uk/>

Alternatively, Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) send out regular updates in relation to crimes that have happened in the Ashford area. If you wish to receive these updates directly then please contact Andrew Judd who is the Volunteer and Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer. His contact details are as follows:

Tel: 01233 896151

Email: andrew.judd@kent.police.uk

**Address: Ashford Police Station,
Tufton Street,
Ashford
TN23 1BT**



I have included some examples of good work being carried out across the ward below. We have a very active twitter account that highlights on-going issues within the district and showcases the proactive work that officers carry out on a day to day basis. Should you wish to keep updated follow the account [@kentpoliceash](https://twitter.com/kentpoliceash)



Kent Police Ashford ✓ @KentPoliceAsh · Aug 4



Local #PCSO has been proactively patrolling #SouthWillesborough and #Newtown due to numerous reports of off road bikes in the area. This one was located, stopped and the rider issued with a section 59 warning. If seen again it will be #Seized. #CommunityPolicing #RideLegal OW



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14





Kent Police Ashford ✓ @KentPoliceAsh · Aug 7

...

Officers from #Ashford CSU observed this vehicle travelling in excess of the speed limit on the M20. It was stopped in the #Willesborough area. The driver was not insured. The car was seized and is now in a secure location awaiting collection. #CommunityPolicing 07-1167. JH



🗨️ 2 ❤️ 25 ↗️ 📺

🔄 You Retweeted



Kent Police (UK) ✓ @kent_police · Aug 9

...

A paedophile from #Ashford who paid women in the Philippines to make videos of child abuse that he directed has been jailed for nine years. kent.police.uk/news/kent/late...



🗨️ 17 🔄 14 ❤️ 57 ↗️



Kent Police Ashford ✓ @KentPoliceAsh · Aug 9

...

An 18-year-old man has been charged and remanded in connection with the rape of a woman in #Ashford town centre.

Read more about the case here:



Suspect charged with Ashford rape to appear in court

Following an investigation into the incident on Saturday 31 July, an 18-year-old man has been charged.

kent.police.uk

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Kent Police Ashford ✓ @KentPoliceAsh · Aug 9

...

Productive evening for #Ashford ASBOfficer and PCSO from Ashford CSU proactively patrolling the #Victoria and #Willesborough area. 2 vehicles shown on our systems as uninsured and untaxed - 2 vehicles #Seized ! #WalkingHome 🚶 #Taxt #InsureYourMotor



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29





Kent Police Ashford ✓ @KentPoliceAsh · Aug 14

...

Officer from #Ashford CSU patrolling in the #Newtown area due to recent reports of #ASB and nuisance vehicles being used on the footpaths. Please report this as it happens via 101/999 #ZeroTolerance



Kent Police Ashford ✓ @KentPoliceAsh · Aug 19

...

ASB Officer and PCSO from Ashford CSU were proactively patrolling the #Willesborough area to target nuisance vehicles. This vehicle came to our attention - checks were made and here is the result . No insurance + No Tax = No vehicle and a considerable fine from the DVLA #Taxit



Drug driving targeted in national campaign

Motorists are being urged to drive safely as part of a national campaign targeting those who take the risk of driving whilst under the influence of drugs.

From the Monday 23rd to Sunday 29th August 2021 officers from Kent Police will be out in force across the county, working with our partners to follow an intelligence led approach to target those who recklessly drug drive.

They will be proactively patrolling and targeting high risk locations to identify and prosecute motorists who are impaired by drugs.

Officers will be carrying out roadside drug wipes and field impairment tests at all times during the day and night to ensure those who break the law are arrested, charged and put before the courts.

Drug driving is recognised nationally as one of the four main causes of death or serious injury on the roads. These main factors are also known as the 'Fatal 4'. When driving under the influence of drugs you can impair your awareness, judgement and reaction times and put yourself and other road users at risk.

Chief Inspector Elena Hall from Kent Police's Roads Policing Unit said: 'The impact of drug driving can be devastating and our officers are committed to keeping the roads across Kent safe.

'Drivers need to remember they are not only risking their own life, but the lives of their passengers as well as other innocent motorists or pedestrians.

'If you are caught drug driving you could face prison time, an unlimited fine and a driving ban. There is no excuse for driving under the influence of illegal substances.'

Officers will be working closely with both Kent County Council and Medway Council throughout this week of action.

Kent County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, David Brazier, said: 'Taking drugs and driving can have serious consequences, apart from the fact it is illegal.

'Being under the influence of substances can cause blurred vision, erratic and aggressive behaviour, nausea, hallucinations, panic attacks, paranoia, shakes, dizziness and fatigue.

'I would urge everyone to think about how they might be able to react in an emergency and understand what is going on around them.'

Cllr Phil Filmer, Medway Council's Portfolio Holder for Frontline Services, said: 'There is never an excuse for driving under the influence of any substance. Not only is drug-driving illegal it's incredibly dangerous and can have a devastating impact on people's lives. I would encourage residents to act responsibly and help reduce the number of incidents on our roads.'

Below is advice from our Crime Prevention Advice Officer

This month I will tailor the advice to **residential burglaries**:

- Keep keys and valuables out of sight, away from doors and windows – but know where they are in case of emergency
- Watch out for bogus callers and always ask for identification if an unexpected caller comes to your home. If you are unsure, don't let them in and report it to the police straight away
- Lock sheds and garages and put away tools and equipment after use
- Security mark valuable items using a UV pen or forensic solution
- Consider installing a burglar alarm, if you don't already have one

Facts supplied by Police.uk:

- Burglars target homes that they think will contain valuables. A giveaway is leaving packaging from expensive items outside your door
- Burglars often look for homes with windows or doors left open or with vulnerable features that they can exploit
- Burglars are aware of the times when someone is expected to be away from their house such as during the school run or holidays
- Burglars typically do not want to be seen or heard and if they feel that they would be noticed by a neighbour or passer-by then they are more likely to feel exposed and may move on to find somewhere else to burgle
- Burglars often choose a home because they've spotted a specific vehicle, motorcycle or bicycle they want to steal – and the keys are more than likely to be inside the residence
- [Sheds and garages](#) are often vulnerable as they are not that secure and contain tools which the burglar can use to assist them to gain entry to a home

It may be useful to consider looking at the home security checklist below:

How to check the security of **your** home

This checklist will help you check how secure your home is, and gives useful advice on ways to reduce opportunities for thieves.

For more home security advice visit www.securedbydesign.com or call **101** to contact your crime prevention design advisor.

Check the front of your property

Is your front door...		If 'no', consider that:
Visible from the footpath at the front of your home?	Yes/No	It may deter thieves if visitors at your front door can be seen by neighbours or passers by
Fitted with a rim latch and mortice deadlock that complies with British Standards Institution (BSI) requirements, see www.bsigroup.com	Yes/No	This is the best type of security for your home; British Standard locks have been security tested and are the basic standard you should have on a main door
Fitted with a spy hole?	Yes/No	Spy holes allow you to view a visitor before opening the door
Fitted with a door chain?	Yes/No	Door chains enable you to open your door and check ID without giving visitors access

Check your windows and patio doors

Are your windows...		If 'no', consider that:
Fitted with locks?	Yes/No	Window locks restrict access to your property
Fully closed and locked when your property is unoccupied?	Yes/No	Windows should be fully closed and locked with keys to keep thieves out
Fully closed and locked when you go to bed or are in your garden?	Yes/No	Keeping your windows on the latch does not mean they are secure

Are your patio doors...		If 'no', consider that:
Fitted with anti-lift devices on sliding doors, and additional locks?	Yes/No	These measures can reduce the risk of your patio doors being levered and lifted out

Check the rear of your property

Burglars often enter properties from the rear, where they are less likely to be spotted by other people.

Is your back door...		If 'no', consider that:
Fitted with a five-lever mortice sash lock that complies with British Standards Institution (BSI) requirements see www.bsigroup.com	Yes/No	British Standard locks have been security tested and are the basic standard you should have on a main door
Fitted with a pair of stout bolts at the top and the bottom?	Yes/No	Bolts will enhance your home security and protect your door from being levered open

To the rear, do you have...		If 'no', consider that:
A lockable gate?	Yes/No	Gates locked from inside will restrict entry to your garden
A solid fence or hedge enclosing your garden?	Yes/No	Secure boundaries can prevent access from unwanted visitors
Trellis work or thorny plants along your garden boundaries?	Yes/No	Obstacles that prevent climbing are useful, particularly if you border alleyways or open fields

Home security measures

Do you have...		If 'no', consider that:
Security lights fitted to the front or rear of the property?	Yes/No	Lights can deter thieves and ensure entry points to your home are visible in the dark
Motion sensors to switch lights on automatically?	Yes/No	Lights turning on will alert you to movement outside
A burglar alarm fitted?	Yes/No	Alarms may deter thieves and can alert you, and others, if there are intruders about
Smoke detectors fitted on each floor of your home?	Yes/No	Smoke alarms can save your life – make sure you test them weekly and change batteries yearly or when needed

Please see www.securedbydesign.com for more ways improve the security of buildings and their immediate surroundings. Secured by Design's (SBD's) product based accreditation scheme – the Police Preferred Specification - provides a recognised standard for all security products that can deter and reduce crime.

We have seen a rise in the reporting of dog thefts not only in the Ashford district but across the UK. Below is some guidance in relation to keeping your dog safe when out and about.

I have also included below a number of helpful posters from the Kent fraud alert system which are worth taking the time to read.



Help keep your dog **safe**:

- Make sure your dog is microchipped and your contact details are up-to-date
- Keep good quality and up-to-date images of your dog taken from different angles, noting any identifiable markings. Consider tattooing to aid visual identification. This helps us to return your dog safely
- Avoid leaving your dog alone in a garden which is not secure, or in an area where it can escape or make it easy for people to take it
- Consider adjusting the security in your garden by using things like gate alarms or additional lighting
- If you do not have a solid recall, use an extendable lead
- Vary your dog walking routes, try not to be a creature of habit
- Be careful of strangers asking questions about your dog. Be cautious and consider positioning yourself in front of your dog if you feel uncomfortable
- Avoid leaving your dog unattended outside a shop, for example, and never leave your dog locked alone in a car
- Check social media privacy settings and avoid advertising your dog and your location
- If you suspect your dog has been stolen, report it immediately. Notify your local dog warden, vets and your microchip provider
- Consider using a mobile phone location application, for example, What3Words and Hollie Guard to aid response

If your dog is missing:

- Contact your local council dog warden in case the dog has been picked up as a stray.
- Check local vets, rescue centres and kennels to see if your dog has been handed in.
- Register your dog free of charge with www.doglost.co.uk
- Take regular images of your dog from several angles so a missing poster can be distributed.



**Kent
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Contacting Kent Police

Report a non-urgent crime online www.kent.police.uk/report

Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 www.kent.police.uk/contact

In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call **999**

If deaf or speech impaired, text 'police' and your message to **60066**

www.kent.police.uk   

Police do not monitor community Facebook, Twitter, neighbour next door apps etc...and these are not the correct way to report things going on, otherwise we are unaware and unable to help you in your community.

I hope you have found this newsletter interesting. Please feel free to share it with others

Contacting Kent Police

-  Find your answer online. Browse our A to Z question finder www.kent.police.uk/askthepolice
-  Email your local policing team. Visit www.kent.police.uk/yourarea
-  For non-urgent issues, call **101**
-  In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger, call **999**
-  If deaf or speech impaired, text 'police' and your message to **60066**
-  Find us on Facebook
-  Follow us on Twitter [@kent_police](https://twitter.com/kent_police) or find your local account at www.kent.police.uk/yourarea
-  Follow us on Instagram [@kent_police](https://www.instagram.com/kent_police)

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PCSO 57348 WELCH
Community Safety Unit
Ashford Police Station