

REPORT TO SWAN C.C. APRIL 2023

I apologise I am not with you tonight, but I am booked to speak at another function. I am pleased to report to Council that steady progress continues with Neighbourhood Watch in the area. I have carried out numerous public engagements meeting residents across the whole district and each time I have strengthen SWAN C C area.

These remain the risks and I do not see changing through 2023.

1. Garages, sheds, allotment sheds and any form of external storage.
2. Cars, nothing must be left on show when parked.
3. Vans with tools and equipment stored inside when parked overnight.
4. Parcels form doorsteps, the delivery vans are now followed.
5. Number plate thefts to facilitate driving from a garage forecourt without paying.
6. Number plate thefts to cover other more serious crime.
7. Catalytic converter thefts.

I am however, very concerned at Bogus callers/Rogue traders/Unsolicited work offers.

No ID?

Assess, Challenge, Alert

**Challenge those not wearing ID.
Everyone's safety matters**

- **ASSESS:** activity, behaviour and context of a person.
- **CHALLENGE:** be firm, friendly and fair.
If you are not comfortable to challenge someone then discreetly alert a colleague or supervisor
- **ALERT:** quickly and discreetly.
If you're not happy about an individual's response then make sure to dial **999** immediately

Sadly so many of the pressures on residents with the cost of living and the energy crisis provide so many 'business opportunities' for criminals to strike at the most vulnerable in the community.

Beware of suspicious callers

Most people who call at your home are genuine.

But sometimes people may turn up unannounced and try to:

- Trick their way into your home to steal valuables or money
- Sell you services or items you do not want or need
- Carry out unnecessary repairs to your home at inflated prices.



If concerned about someone calling at your home, **don't open your door.**

You can also:

- Ask for identification and call their company yourself (not on a number they provide) to check they are genuine
- Never leave your door unattended
- Ask the visitor to return another time when someone can be with you.



**Kent
Police**

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   

My work as reported at last committee with **OPERATION GUARDIAN ANGEL** has been put into operation to ensure that every possible assistance is given to residents who support/look after the elderly, disabled and persons with anything that renders them vulnerable to criminal actions.

Be under no illusions whatsoever criminals will find and locate our vulnerable members of the community and they will look to strike.



The poster features two logos at the top: on the left, the 'KENT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH' logo which includes a circular emblem with three people and the text 'NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH' around it; on the right, the 'KENT POLICE' logo with a crown and a shield emblem. The main text is in large, bold, black letters on a yellow background.

NO CANVASSERS OR CALLERS

We do not buy or sell to callers at the door.
We do not require services of any kind.

CALLERS ARE ONLY SEEN BY APPOINTMENT

WE WILL ALWAYS ASK FOR IDENTIFICATION!

I cannot stress enough that in your role of councillors you may be approached at anytime especially on business where you may not be expecting to have to give and offer help, guidance and advice on matters of scams. None more so during these coming weeks that will find you engaging with residents on the doorsteps.

There is no disgrace in just asking for residents to do nothing whatsoever and taking the time to check. Residents seeing you take your time and check will drive the advice home. Scams etc are becoming so good there is no need to rush advice. **DO NOTHING** is still a very sound option.

Kent Fraud Alert System



TO STOP FRAUD™

Rogue Traders

We have seen an increase in reports of this type of criminality recently.

Opposite is our leaflet on how you can protect yourself against these types of scams.

If you think that you may have been a victim of this type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.



Protect yourself and others against rogue traders

Most people who call at your home are genuine. But sometimes people may turn up unannounced and try to sell you services or items you do not want or need or carry out unnecessary repairs to your home at inflated prices.

If you're concerned about someone calling at your home, **don't open your door.**

You can:

- Ask for identification and call their company yourself (not on a number they provide) to check they are genuine
- Ask the visitor to return another time when someone can be with you
- Get three written quotes
- Ask family and friends for recommendations
- Agree payment arrangements and start and finish dates in writing beforehand, and never pay in full until you're completely satisfied with the work.

Preventing fraud

Together, let's stop scammers.

Remember, ABC:

 **Never Assume**

 **Never Believe**

 **Always Confirm**

Get the latest scam advice:


 [@KentPoliceECU](https://twitter.com/KentPoliceECU)

Pressurised selling on your doorstep is a crime and you can report it:

- kent.gov.uk/tradingstandards or call 0808 223 1133
- For advice: www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/
- Follow [@kent_ECU](https://twitter.com/kent_ECU) or email kfas@ecis.police.uk



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Across Ashford District there has been a real spike in Bogus Traders/work force, especially in rural areas that border Willesborough.

Washing/repair of patios, roofs and a general trend in unsolicited work.

A £150 job becomes £2000 with elderly vulnerable pensioners driven to cash points to get cash.

Poor work and incomplete work plus vastly overprice work has struck across Ashford.

In plain English it is gut wrenching to sit with the victims. Some are so ashamed they do not tell their families, so the police are unaware, and I cannot get alerts/warnings out.

Some victims never ever regain their confidence, some are never really the same again or get over it.

These areas will be of major concern to me throughout 2023 and we will all need to be at our very best, alert, and vigilant.

I intend at a future meeting to bring a report about violence towards women and girls.

This is a National Police campaign especially in Kent. (VAWAGs)

I recently engaged with many SWAN C C residents whilst on a specific evening engagement at ADSA store.

It was alarming to hear how unsafe females feel in Ashford and how many mentioned the underpasses in the area.

Can I for the avoidance of doubt state that I stand against any violence against any person, this is just the start of work following the kidnap and brutal murder of Sarah Everard and the terrible loss of my colleague Julia James a serving PCSO murdered whilst off duty in Kent.

You will have followed the national debate; you will have followed the criticism of the police and especially the MET POLICE.

At the time of writing this report there was another incident of concern and I have added it to the end of this report.

I know this to be a very busy time for you all, however the time you make for me and the support you give my work and to me personally is uplifting.

I would like to say I see things easing on the horizon....I don't we will need to be at our best going forwards

Please stay safe and look after yourselves in the busy next weeks.

Best wishes.

Thank you

Peter

91725 Peter New Kent Police Volunteer & Community Neighbourhood Watch



South Willesborough and Newtown Community News ...

Peter New · 1 d · 

Dear Readers

URGENT POLICE APPEAL, CAN YOU HELP?

Please see police appeal below concerning incidents on Monday 27th March

First incident approx 0900 hrs in NEWTOWN ROAD and then later

Second incident on GODINTON PARK at 1005hrs in MULBERRY ROAD before person involved leaving the area via SPRINGWOOD DRIVE

Were you in the area at those times?

Did you see the person described? Maybe even in roads nearby?

Any further information, witnesses, CCTV, Camera doorbell or even by chance DASHCAM footage then please contact the police and quote 46/55559/23.

Can I especially appeal for vehicle drivers with Dashcams who were in those roads or nearby to please check your cameras as you may not have realised you captured the incidents or indeed the person prior to or after the events. thank you for your help and support

Peter

Peter New (peternew1@aol.com)

Kent Police Volunteer & Community Neighbourhood Watch.

Witness appeal following two suspicious incidents in Ashford

Witnesses are sought by officers investigating two suspicious incidents in **Ashford**.

Two women were reportedly harassed by a man on separate occasions on **Monday 27 March 2023**.

The first incident is reported to have happened in **Newtown Road** at about **9am** when the unknown man approached the woman and made suggestive remarks. He continued to engage her in an unwanted conversation for a short distance before he left.

The second incident took place a short time later at **10.05am** in **Mulberry Road** when it is believed the same man engaged another woman in an unwanted conversation and made suggestive remarks, before walking off towards **Springwood Drive**.

Both victims described the man as being white, about 5ft 8inches tall, with short dark coloured hair and wearing dark coloured clothing and shorts.

Detective Chief Inspector Stefanie Earl said:

'Given the close proximity of the incidents and the similar descriptions we are currently linking the two. We have been making enquiries to identify the man, including the examination of CCTV footage but would like to appeal for anyone who may have seen anything to get in touch.'

Anyone with information should contact Kent Police on [01843 222289](tel:01843 222289) quoting reference **46/55559/23**

Crimestoppers

You can also call Crimestoppers anonymously on [0800 555111](tel:0800 555111) or complete their [online form](#).