

REPORT TO SWAN C. C. SEPTEMBER 2023.

Dear Council, I trust you had the chance to take some leave and recharge the batteries during August as we head into the final months of 2023. Sadly, criminals don't stop for a moment.

The plan I produced in January 2023 of how I would work was based on 2 important events which would occur during the year.

Council elections and the Kent Police new policing model for how the force would operate. I have put reports before council on that policing model and refer to our local BEAT OFFICER JOSH WHEATLEY later in the report.

It was essential I stayed focused on the routine business whilst the above events happened and then bedded in.

My work has been and will be still focused on these main themes of crime trends.

Thefts from CARS/VEHICLES. Thefts from SHEDS, GARAGES, and OUTBUILDINGS/EXTERNAL STORAGE.

Thefts of INTERNET PARCELS from doorsteps, the vans are now followed so no isolated premises are even safe.

DRUGS/ ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR/CRIMINAL DAMAGE. Also, to monitor any new crime trends that have occurred in the wider district and could arrive in SWAN C C area.

Matters that also raise concerns among the residents are CATAPULTS and ESCOOTERS.

Finally, the constant battle against SCAMS. At last, this issue is now on the Government's worry list and the national TV and Newspapers joining the debate, warning and helping the education process can only assist.

There are so many examples of Scams however to show you the speed at which these criminals react is shown in this report.

Barely had the announcements finished being made that the WILKO stores chain were in trouble (and we have a store in Ashford) than the "Scammers" began to target the community with scams linked to the store chain.

A combination of scams was into communities within hours especially offering a closing down type bargain.

I have spoken before about so many issues that become a 'business opportunity' for these criminals. This linked to the pressures residents are under with the cost of living and the need to look for bargain shop offers can create a 'perfect storm for criminals to action.

Sadly the misery of rising mortgage interest rates offered another opportunity for scammers as residents struggled with this worry in their households.

Kent Fraud Alert System



Wilko fake websites

Lookout for fake websites impersonating Wilko. The company has stopped selling goods online & is also no longer offering home delivery or click and collect services, so if you see anything like this, it is a SCAM. One fake site had a sofa for sale at £25 and an adult's electric bike also for sale at £25.

How to avoid copycat websites.

- Make sure that the website address (URL) is correct and matches the site you intended to visit. Copycat websites often have similar URLs to the legitimate sites, but with small differences such as spelling errors or a different domain extension.
- Check for the padlock icon in the address bar which indicates the connection is secure. However, don't rely on the padlock icon alone.
- Legitimate websites usually have contact information such as a phone number, email address, or physical address. But some copycat websites might have contact details, so don't rely on them alone either.
- Be wary of websites that have poor grammar, spelling errors or low-quality images.
- Check for reviews of the website. These can give you an idea of other people's experiences with the site and whether it is trustworthy.
- Don't rush. Take your time to research the website and make sure it is legitimate before making any transactions or providing personal information.

(Source trading Standards)

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

Preventing fraud

Together,
let's stop
scammers.



Remember, ABC:



never Assume



never Believe



always Confirm

Get the latest
scam advice:



@KentPoliceECU



**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   

Kent Fraud Alert System



TO STOP FRAUD™

Mortgage Scams

Criminals are using mortgage offers “as low as 2.39%” to lure people into phishing scams. They request that you click on a link that takes you to a realistic looking website that is under the control of the criminals, who are looking to steal your personal and financial data.

Remember if it looks too good to be true then it probably is. Always forward suspicious emails to report@phishing.gov.uk Your reports have resulted in the removal of 235,000 malicious websites as of May 2023.

If you think that you may have been a victim of this or any other 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.

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Get the latest scam advice: 
[@KentPoliceECU](https://twitter.com/KentPoliceECU)

SCAM WARNING

Mortgage scams

Action Fraud has received 536 reports in two weeks relating to fake emails purporting to be from mortgage lenders. The emails claim to offer limited-time deals to low rate mortgages. The links in the emails lead to malicious websites designed to steal personal and financial information.

If you have any doubts about a message, contact the organisation directly. **Don't** use the numbers or address in the message - use the details from their official website. Your bank (or any other official source) will never ask you to supply personal information via email.

Spotted a suspicious email? Forward it to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS) - report@phishing.gov.uk



**Kent
Police**

Contacting Kent Police

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These criminals especially alongside ROGUE TRADERS and BOGUS CALLERS pose a constant threat to residents especially our vulnerable and elderly in the community.

You will recall I set up OPERATION GUARDIAN ANGEL to assist our vulnerable members of the community linking in with relatives and younger family members as we try to support independent living for those vulnerable and elderly in our communities.



Work carried out not more than a 2 minute walk from this meeting, to assist a SWAN C.C. resident who was being targeted by scammers and bogus callers

Now to introduce our Beat officer.



SOUTH WILLESBOROUGH BEAT OFFICER JOSH WHEATLEY

I am delighted to introduce via this meeting and your newsletter our Beat officer who joins SWAN.C.C. area as part of the new policing model for policing in Kent going forwards. P.C. JOSH WHEATLEY is our officer and Josh is a first class, very experienced officer and I have worked on public engagement meetings with him in other parts of the Ashford District.

The new policing model will develop over time and as Ashford are not yet at full establishment, they will welcome new members to the policing team at Ashford over the coming months.

We are still encouraging all contact to be directed into the csu.ashford@kent.police.uk email box which will ensure we can continue to respond in the most effective way during this period of transition.

The key contacts for each strand of the policing model are:

- Beat Officer team (ward-based engagement and problem solving) – Sergeant Richard Batten
- Neighbourhood Task Force (district problem solving and partnership work) – Sergeant Kim Cameron
- Child Centred Policing Team – Sergeant Katie Reed

I work closely with Sergeants Batten and Cameron the latter especially in the Violence Against Women and Girls work.

Each ward across the district will now have a nominated Beat Officer and their primary role is to work within their local communities.

The two areas I wish to concentrate on from the above model are the

BEAT OFFICER TEAM and the NEIGHBOURHOOD TASK FORCE.

I know both Sergeant Richard Batten and Sergeant Kim Cameron and I have worked with both.

Josh is in the Beat Team, and they can call upon the Neighbourhood Task Team when required.

I think it very important to clarify the word Beat Officer. Sadly, resources do not allow P.C. Josh Wheatley to just police and patrol the South Willesborough and Newtown area and to give a full picture of the area he will cover I have set out the parts of the Ashford District which fall into his Beat Officer role.

Firstly, the areas Josh covers

PC Josh Wheatley	<p>Singleton East Singleton West Park Farm North Park Farm South Washford Farm Roman Stanhope Beaver Norman Aylesford and East Stour</p>
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Secondly the Villages and Parish Councils he covers so that should give council a feel for the size of the tasks in hand for Josh and why he will need the total support of The SWAN Community Council, every councillor, myself with Neighbourhood Watch but most importantly each and every resident and family in the area.

<u>Josh Wheatley - Urban SOUTH</u>	<u>Villages / Parish councils</u>
Singleton East	Great chart & Singleton
Singleton West	Great chart & Singleton
Park farm North	Kingsnorth Parish council
Park farm South	Kingsnorth Parish Council
Washford farm	Kingsnorth Parish Council
Roman	Kingsnorth Parish Council
Stanhope	Stanhope parish council
Beaver	
Norman	
Aylesford and East Stour	South Willesborough & Newtown

I am sure Josh will be introducing himself across the district at every opportunity plus attending SWAN Council meeting whenever possible.

Josh knows he will get my total and full support with my Neighbourhood Watch network and from me personally across South Willesborough and Newtown Districts.

It is absolutely essential we continue to grow our Neighbourhood Watch. We have a Operational Neighbourhood Watch Scheme for each road in South Willesborough and Newtown.

The importance of the Council's newsletter's cannot be overstated in the overall strategy of crime prevention in the community.

A publication delivered to each resident's home. As new technology is brought to bear to communicate with residents, I commend the council for its vision and diligence to commit time, resources and finance to a communication process that reaches everyone importantly to those that at best in 2023 only have a landline telephone and could so easily be left behind with our communications.

"Crime cannot flourish in communities that care". Working together we can demonstrate we care about the whole community and the residents who reside there.

Thank you for all your support as always.

Peter

Peter New

Kent Police Volunteer & Community neighbourhood Watch.

