

# Your Local Police Newsletter

February 2023

Dear Parishes,

This is a more generic newsletter for the Sevenoaks district, within are the updates that we think will be of interest to yourselves and residents.

## **Swanley & Local areas**

Two females were arrested in Swanley and detained in custody being involved in a County Line Gang supplying class A drugs to Swanley. One of the females was a resident of Swanley.

Local PCSO responded to a high risk missing person possibly in possession of a knife and suicidal. The PCSO located the person at Swanley train station on one of the platforms where he spoke with them, calming them down until officers could arrive and use their powers under the Mental Health Act to detain the person to prevent them coming to any harm.

## **New Ash Green & Local areas**

We have seen a slight rise in issues in the Darent Valley area with some stolen motor bikes being recovered stored at a yard and a robbery that took place on a young male where his phone was stolen, investigation is ongoing.

The vacant environmental building has been subject to break ins and damage. We have reported this to the council who have (we've been told) secured the property.

Thefts from outbuildings are still occurring but not on the same frequency, an operation has been running for patrols to attend the area as part of a tasking. CCTV that has been reviewed has unfortunately not provided facial recognition of the suspects. From the varying reports it is unclear if there is more than one team committing offences as there has been a mixture of vehicle descriptions and numbers of persons involved.

## **Sevenoaks & Local areas**

A stolen digger that was taken from a Sevenoaks address was located by the Rural task Force in a garage in Otford, enquiries are ongoing and a public appeal put out for any information.

A spate of theft of golf clubs from motor cars in and around the town centre is currently being investigated. Public awareness around leaving valuables in cars has been raised through Police social media sites.

Local PCSO attended call for an elderly male believed to have fallen over, the PCSO managed to gain entry to the house and locate the male who had fallen into a critical state of ill health and neglect – fast actions from him with Social Services secured the male being admitted to hospital for ongoing care.

We continue to get reports of cars meeting on the spur road of the M25 Badgers Mount (racers meet) often the reports are going through to the Metropolitan Police as the location sits right on the border. We are looking to work with them to gain intelligence and prosecute offences where possible. There is a tendency that the group move to another area as soon as Police attend using the M25 as an easy access route to other counties.

## February Sevenoaks Town Police Newsletter

### **Suspect in court following robbery and burglary in Sevenoaks**

A suspect has appeared in court following a robbery and burglary in Sevenoaks.

In the early hours of Friday 27 January 2023, two phone shops in Orpington and Sevenoaks High Street were alleged to have been targeted by three people. Mobile phones, tablets and other property were reported stolen from both premises.

Just before midnight on the same day, two people entered a fast food restaurant in Otford Road. It is alleged a member of staff was assaulted, before a quantity of cash was stolen. The injured victim later went to hospital for medical attention.

Arrest

On Thursday 16 February a man was arrested.

Jack Lockwood of North Downs Crescent, New Addington was later charged with robbery, causing grievous bodily harm with intent and possessing an offensive weapon in a public place. He was also charged with conspiring to commit burglaries in Orpington and Sevenoaks.

The 32-year-old appeared before Medway Magistrates' Court on Friday 17 February. He was remanded to a hearing at Maidstone Crown Court on 17 March.

### **Repeat shoplifter identified following theft of over £2k of over the counter meds**

With the help of facial recognition local town centre police have identified a repeat offender whom on 23/10/22 and 08/01/2023 and 29/01/2023 targeted Waitrose stores in Sevenoaks and Tonbridge and stole over £2000 of over the counter medications. Police have made contact with the out of county offender who is handing himself in for interview.

### **Police identify thieves that have been persistently targeting Sevenoaks town centre**

On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January at 16:00 hours 2 suspects hit Boots, Sevenoaks stealing £520 of skincare products. On the same day at 16:30 hours suspect 1 then struck at the Oliver Bonas shop, stealing 2 handbags worth £84.

On Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January at 14:30 hours suspect 1 returned to the town and stole £220 of vitamin products from Boots, Sevenoaks.

On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 14:45 hours suspect 1 offended again targeting Boots, Sevenoaks and fleeing with £345.50 of skincare products.

Local town centre officer has identified both suspects, one of which was arrested as part of Operation LEO – a policing operation to reduce crime, increasing positive outcomes and bringing offenders to justice. The other is being actively sought.

Police will be seeking a Criminal Behaviour Order at court to ban both from the town centre. A CBO replaces the Anti-social Behaviour Order (ASBO) and the courts treat breaches of such orders very seriously.

### **Great store security work uncovers thief who is now behind bars**

Waitrose security discovered a theft when they noticed a gap in the shelf of the alcohol aisle. Upon CCTV review the offender is seen to steal £360 of alcohol (Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023). The local town centre officer attended the store and identified the offender and linked him to offending across the district.

On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February a man was arrested as part of Operation LEO – a policing operation to reduce crime, increasing positive outcomes and bringing offenders to justice.

Stephen EWINS of Swanley, Kent was later charged with 2 counts of theft. The 36 year old man was remanded before Sevenoaks Magistrates' Court on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February where he received a 28 day prison sentence.

EWINS has also since been further charged for another Theft and a breach of Criminal behaviour Order. He will be produced from prison to appear before Sevenoaks Magistrates court on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> of February 2023, where he will likely be further sentenced.

### **Operation Leo - Reducing crime, increasing positive outcomes and bringing offenders to justice.**

On the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023 Sevenoaks police had 2 "all out" days of action with a policing operation set up to identify more offenders in relation to retail crime and increase positive police outcomes by interviewing and bringing these offenders to justice.

Prior to the "all out days" police completed research and development and managed to identify numerous offenders to target for arrest/interview. Police prioritised arrest for the most prolific offenders causing most harm to the town. 4 arrests were made and interviews were arranged with 4 other offenders committing 7 shoplift offences between them. On the days of the OP police also had a pursuit with a stolen vehicle (vehicle recovered) and were also proactive on foot in the town identifying two prolific shoplifters and deterring another with a stop search.

OP Leo was a "roaring" success. Credit to all departments (community police officers, victim based crime officers and town centre officers) from Sevenoaks Police as this was a very busy couple of days.

## **Edenbridge & Local areas**

A group of youths that were persistently causing problems at the Leisure Centre have been identified and the first steps in the issuing of 'acceptable behaviour agreement' to them and the parents has taken way. This has seen a reduction in the problem. More significant matters reported such as damage in the park to lighting and graffiti is still being investigated and will be progressed with the Youth Justice Team if suspects identified.

Work is being undertaken through the Community Safety Unit and Sevenoaks Council to evict unlawful residents from one of the local traveller sites. Letters have been issued to residents lawfully there to attend a residents meeting to discuss how improvement on the site will be undertaken.

A suspicious male who has been pestering vulnerable persons in the town for gardening work has been identified, their actions have not met the threshold for criminal investigation at this time but Police will be issuing a Community Protection Notice as a deterrent to their behaviour and escalating action if they persist.

### **Crime Prevention & General Advice**

Please keep us updated on any forthcoming meeting events in your communities. Although low on numbers we will still strive to attend these events.

*If you want local alerts to your area and to be able to reply with any relevant information please sign up below.*

[My Community Voice Kent: Home Page](#)



Is there a speedwatch group in your area that is now dormant? Would you like help to set up a new one or revitalise an old one. Contact speedwatch [www.communityspeedwatch.org](http://www.communityspeedwatch.org) or e-mail Sevenoaks CSU [csu.sevenoaks@kent.police.uk](mailto:csu.sevenoaks@kent.police.uk) for assistance.



**Kent  
Police**

Call **101** for non-urgent issues.

Call **999** in an emergency.

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