

Police update for Fawkham and West Kingsdown

Fawkham Parish annual meeting April 19th 2023

As you will be aware the last year has seen the Community Safety Team greatly diminish, not only in Sevenoaks but across the County as we await the roll out of the new Neighbourhood Police Model in June 2023. With the loss of your designated PCSO's we were left with three operational PCSO's for the district. They have been busy, as have the remaining Police staff based at the district offices. We live and work now in a time of continued financial cutbacks, so Kent Police Force look much more strategically at where resources are utilised. The Kent Police Control strategy reflects what the Government asks us to focus on with the emphasis of Violence against women and girls at the centre of all we do.

The new Neighbourhood Policing model will start in June 2023, it will see once fully staffed 12 Police officers on a Beat Team for the Sevenoaks district, managed by a Sgt and Inspector. As with the PCSO's they will take ownership of wards and provide a proactive, visible, and accessible presence for local issues.

Moving with technology has seen the ability to contact the Police through live chat, reporting incidents and crimes online and the use of My Community Voice that forms part of the engagement strategy for the new Neighbourhood Model. We would ask residents of the Parish to sign up through the Kent Police website and be able to receive local alerts for their area when relevant the option to reply to messages with information.



Some data for the last year for Fawkham provides the following figures between the last financial year and the previous-

Residential burglary has increased 11 to 28 a significant rise.

Criminal damage has remained the same 35 to 38

Theft offences have risen from 36 to 53

Theft of motor Vehicle 21- to 22

Crimes against society (drug, weapons & public order) has reduced from 53 to 46 &

Anti-social behaviour calls reduced by 36% from 53 to 46.

Any amount of crime or disorder is too much, and we do work continuously to detect and prevent crime.

A recent operation to tackle a continued trend of theft from out buildings and garages is looking to have some successful outcomes with suspects identified and interviewed, they are currently on bail waiting for a CPS decision to charge.

We are still very dependent on the public reporting incidents as otherwise we do not know what is occurring in the area. Platforms such as crime stoppers allows anonymous contact if information is required to be sent in. Street safe again accessible through the Kent Police website VAWG pages allows for the public to report incidents or locations of concern.

The Community Safety Unit in June will remain at the Sevenoaks District Council but no longer staffed by Kent Police Officers as it has been. We will however still be working closely with our partner agencies to deal with local problems and issues.

Kind regards PS 10781 Kevin Savill