

# Your Local Police Newsletter

April 2023

Dear Parishes,

Firstly apologies for missing the March newsletter- this will be a spring edition!

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.

It has been the time for the Parish AGM's, I have endeavoured along with the PCSO's to attend as many as possible and apologise to those who we could not get to. Receiving face to face feedback be it positive or not is so important for us to understand how communities feel about problems in their areas.

## **Swanley & Local areas**

A large number of Anti-social behaviour warning letters have been issued to youths and their parents in the Swanley area following issues in the centre where frequent hoax calls have been made from a telephone kiosk. Also, to youths identified lighting fires in bins. Sometimes these measures seem disproportionate to the offence, but our current guidelines are to deter young people away from the criminal justice route.

The CSU supported trading standards in an operation targeting the sale of illegal tobacco, cigarettes and vapes from a shop in Swanley. This was not just a tax evasion exercise but a concern for health matter as most of the vaping material did not comply to any European standard.

Police worked with the town council in Swanley to move on an unlawful encampment, the travellers are in the area for a couple of funerals so although are moved are still in the Kent area.

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

A suspect who breached his criminal behaviour order by committing further a theft from a store in New Ash Green will be charged for that offence adding more to their penalty.

Current work is being undertaken to identify a new group of youths causing problems in the centre area around businesses and vacant properties.

Several thefts from the Co-Op have been reported to the Police although it is apparent that several businesses are reluctant to report incidents to the Police and report it to the Community Warden instead. Police are working with SDC to formulate a letter for local businesses to encourage reporting to Police direct, advice around dealing with persons causing problems and to support one another.

Large Nitrous Oxide gas bottles that have been located unfortunately as the law stands is not a police matter. Persons are at liberty to purchase the gas and use it without breaking the law. It is a shame they do not dispose of the cannisters that litter many areas. Legislation has and is being reviewed by Government around the use of Nitrous Oxide. (laughing Gas)

## **Sevenoaks & Local areas**

Proposals for a Public space protection order are being progressed through the Sevenoaks Council for the location of the Vine, it will aim to reduce anti social behaviour and the consumption of alcohol in the area if associated with ASB whilst allowing freedom for others using the location appropriately. In the interim period the Police have been utilising a Sect 34 dispersal order that is a temporary measure allowing Police officers to give a direction to persons to leave an area. This power is reviewed by an Inspector and is usually in place for up to 48 hrs at a time.

Best Bar None was also launched primarily in the town centre of Sevenoaks helping to provide safe areas of recreation for persons to eat and drink in. The scheme won an award for the best new national scheme.

**Sevenoaks town centre police have been working tirelessly to investigate town centre crimes and are pleased to inform you that we have identified several repeat offenders for numerous incidents and are looking to prevent offenders causing the most harm from returning through powers under the anti social behaviour act such as criminal behaviour orders and community protection warnings/notices.**

**What is a criminal behaviour order?** A criminal behaviour order (CBO) is a court order that restricts or prohibits an individual from engaging in specific behaviours or activities that are deemed to be criminal. CBOs are typically imposed on individuals who have been convicted of a criminal offence and are intended to prevent them from reoffending. The order may include requirements such as attending rehabilitation programs, staying away from certain places, and regularly reporting to the police. Breaching a CBO can result in arrest charge and imprisonment.

### **Repeat shoplifter identified for further offences in the town**

A male suspect has been caught on CCTV stealing numerous items from a Boots store in Sevenoaks on 22/02/2023. The offender has been identified and linked to 4 other offences in town and is actively being sought. Police will be seeking a criminal behaviour order at court to prohibit him from the town.

### **OP LISBON – Police arrest 2 males for distraction phone thefts in the town centre**

Two males have been jointly charged with the offence of conspiracy to Steal between February 5th and March 7th, 2023 in Kent. One of the males is also separately charged with the additional offence of Burglary on March 6th, 2023. The charges stem from several incidents where a male entered various businesses in Sevenoaks town centre and placed paperwork over employees' phones, stealing them. The suspect wore a black jacket with a white fleece lining, a navy-blue baseball cap, blue jeans, and black trainers. One other incident included a burglary at a residential property in Westerham. On March 6th, 2023, Police arrested a male after pulling over a vehicle, which was linked to a burglary on March 2nd,

2023. On March 10th, 2023, a second male was arrested by Police. Both have been charged and remanded into police custody and will appear at Maidstone Crown Court on 28/04/2023.

### **Police crackdown on female causing long term issues to businesses in the town centre**

Despite being previously served with a community protection notice, a woman with a history of offending in the town centre has been caught stealing from M&S in Sevenoaks on 12/03/2023. The female has been interviewed and reported for the latest offense.

The police are now taking action to prevent the woman from re-offending in the town or elsewhere by seeking a criminal behaviour order at court.

### **Police identify a suspect for 2 x burglaries in the town centre**

Two burglaries have taken place in outbuildings in Sevenoaks town centre, on the 14th and 16th of March, 2023. A male suspect on a bike has been identified as entering the unoccupied buildings in the middle of the night and stealing items from within.

Police are actively seeking the suspect, who has been identified. Please remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity. If you have any information regarding these incidents, please contact the police as soon as possible.

### **Police arrest suspect for theft of £2k of product from Waitrose**

Sevenoaks town centre officers arrested a suspect in connection with a theft that occurred at the Waitrose store on 14/04/2023. The suspect entered the store and concealed £600 worth of cosmetics in his bag. Thanks to local authority CCTV, the suspect was quickly tracked down, and the police were able to apprehend him in the town centre.

The stolen goods were recovered, and the suspect was taken into custody. Upon further investigation, it was discovered that the suspect had been involved in a similar theft that occurred on 04/04/2023, where he was reported to have stolen £1400 worth of goods. The male has been charged and bailed to court to appear at Sevenoaks magistrates on 15/05/2023

**PC Nick Hubbard says “We would like to remind the public that police are working closely with local businesses to ensure that our communities are safe and secure.**

**We want to assure you that we are committed to maintaining the safety of our community and will continue to work tirelessly to identify and bring to justice those who commit crimes in Sevenoaks town. We urge you to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity to us immediately.”**

### **Edenbridge & Local areas**

Officers from the Community Safety Unit attended the Youth Club at the Baptist Church on Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup> March. We are glad to see such a positive group within the community and so well attended by a very energetic younger generation.

Due to several reports of incidents involving weapons a section 60 stop and search power was put in place over part of the easter holiday. This enabled officers to have wider powers when dealing with persons and allowed searches if they were in a specified location.

Penshurst Village annual meeting was attended where concerns were raised on how hard it was to report incidents in to the Police and that members of the public now didn't bother. It is accepted that the 101 system is notoriously busy but for non emergency calls on line reporting will always ensure that we are kept informed of incidents in your area.

We continue to receive calls in relation to youths with catapults, this is across the area and not isolated. It is another problem for the Police as possession of a catapult is not an offence – it's what you do with it- making it difficult to confiscate them within the law.

### **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**.