

# Your Local Police Newsletter

June 2023

Dear Parishes,

This month has seen the launch of the new Neighbourhood model and beat officers. There is without doubt a settling in period for our officers to make connections and understand the demands from Kent Police joined with local issues. There are also many new administrative processes the Beat officers have to get used to, please bear with us they will be making contact with you over the summer months. Some have already booked in Parish meetings if they haven't they will be soon.

## **Swanley & Local areas**

Swanley beat officer PC 14930 Beck visited Orchards Academy and Parkwood Hall School along with child centred PCSO Darling to speak with the schools about any issues and offer interventions. The school has requested an input from the Violence reduction unit to provide an input on weapons/knives and the impact of carrying them. This is currently being organised, hopefully prior to the Summer holidays.

PC 14930 Beck has been patrolling St Marys Road during school kick out due to complaints about parents parking on zigzag and double yellow lines causing a lot of traffic.

PC 14930 Beck and member of police staff from Fraud team attended Hextable Village Hall for a senior day. We had a stall along with other organisations and were giving out advice about fraud and scams.

Beat officers were involved in ASB awareness week where we were supporting victims and encouraging reporting, community engagement, building confidence with police and partners and engaging with young persons. PC 14930 Beck done an Environmental Visual Audit within Grip Hotspot with Partners this involved the community warden, SDC, west Kent housing and probation. This entailed foot patrol from Swanley council along St Mary's Road down Hart Dyke Road and Lime Road. We looked at what can be improved in the area. PC 14930 Beck visited repeat victims, vulnerable adults of ASB. One of the areas visited was Swanley park and nursery where there has been several reports of criminal damage. PC BECK also was at a partners Stall at Swanley Market with SDC engaging with community.

There has been an increase in calls for young persons carrying catapults and causing criminal damage. We urge that this gets reported immediately so that police can attend and identify the individuals. We also have use of our CCTV in town which can help get stills to ID those involved.

PC WILSON 30058 assisted the Swanley police cadets on a local activity in the area of Swanley town going on a mobile patrol in the area to dissuade antisocial behavior.

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

Site visit at Westminster Fields Car Park, Horton Kirby with police, environmental health and the council. We have had continued reports of ASB in the Foxbury car park that we will be looking to take action over in the coming weeks.

The Hartley area has seen a trend of breaks to outbuildings, some suspects are on the radar of officers investigating but residents are reminded to keep outbuildings and garages secured well.

### **Sevenoaks & Local areas**

#### **PC HUBBARD update retail crime and minutes from the Town Team meeting with - Chief Supt, Neil Loudon**

May 2023 figures - Retail crime is still high with 21 offences recorded in the YC11 beat code, which covers Sevenoaks Town and St Johns area. However, this is 4 less offences than April of this year. Divisional Commander, Chief Supt, Neil Loudon attended the most recent Town team meeting to talk about the new neighbourhood policing model and also retail crime within the town centre.

The minutes of the meeting for the police were as follows:

Kent is split into 3 policing areas, "North, East and West" Divisions, of which Mr Loudon is responsible for the West with his principle towns being Sevenoaks, Maidstone, Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, Cranbrook and Swanley. The local District Commander for Sevenoaks area is Chief Inspector Lizzie Jones, and the Town Police Officer is Nick Hubbard. The meeting was advised that a new Community Safety Unit is being developed with objectives which are set out in the "Kent Control Strategy 2023" a copy of which is appended. In addition, the CSU will be responsible for local issues, such as ASB. The police maintain a range of statistics concerning the numbers of types of crime reported and success rates. These are on a rolling basis so that comparisons can be readily made. Presently the police have seen an upsurge in shoplifting in the area, and while that might be happening, they believe that the increase might well be due to increased reporting from the public, due to recent engagement with the larger stores. In Sevenoaks the police records show that the main victims of shoplifting are Waitrose, Sainsburys and M&S, with no mention of Boots. Anecdotally many retailers have a threshold of perhaps £100-£200 where they do not consider it worth pursuing a theft and this might be the reason. The police are working with major stores to bolster their resolve and own security arrangements. They are also working more closely with British Transport Police to crack down on "crime tourism". Mr Loudon advised, with great pleasure, that Kent Police is undergoing huge restaffing, with large intakes of new officers starting in the force, the most he has seen in his career, with 44 new officers coming under his control over the next few months. The

Neighbourhood Police Teams will include more beat officers, though some will have been PCSO's. The model is for the public to see a greater police presence on the streets and for every ward to have a named officer.

### **Sevenoaks police station front office**

The SDC police front office has been closed for several months. There is not a current plan to re-open them, but this is under review with chief officers.

### **PC HUBBARD latest update Vine ASB as of 16/06/2023**

Police have put a Dispersal Order in for this weekend as we are aware it is end of school for Year 11 doing exams.

Community safety unity (CSU) have a Task and Finish Group around the Vine, which includes the Town Council, Police, Kenward Trust, West Kent Youth Team and KCC Youth Services.

The CSU have also linked in with British Transport Police as most young people are from outside the area and go to schools in Tunbridge Well and Tonbridge. CSU have spoken to schools about the behaviours as it is the young people that are organising the meet ups.

Sevenoaks Town Council have updated their CCTV and Sevenoaks district council CCTV monitors young people through the high street and stations that head towards the Vine.

### **PSPO application – Vine**

A public spaces protection order is an order that identifies the public place and prohibits specified things being done in the restricted area and/or requires specified things to be done by persons carrying on specified activities in that area. The order may not have effect for more than 3 years and the Local Authority must consult with the chief officer of the police and the local policing body before issuing the order.

Failure to comply with a public spaces protection order is an offence.

### **Example**

The Public Spaces Protection Order can be used to stop a group from using a public square as a skateboard park and at the same time discourage drunken anti-social behaviour in the same place by making it an offence not to hand over containers of alcohol when asked to do so. It can also be used to prevent dogs fouling a public park or being taken into a children's play area within that park. The vine PSPO (Public Spaces Protection Order) is due to go to Cabinet on 7 July.

PC 14930 BECK attended Knole park for a netwalking event building relationships with local businesses and individuals.

A recent traveller incursion at the Hollybush sports centre was dealt with quickly by the local Council and then the Police. There is often an expectation that Police can just move travellers on straight away, but it

is not that straight forward, and we have to act within the law. The Council acted first serving a notice of eviction upon the first travellers to arrive. As numbers increased and problems began to occur around the café and sports areas the Police utilised their powers to move them on that is a more immediate power.

### **Edenbridge & Local areas**

My community voice meet at Waitrose speaking with residents and promoting MCV. PC Sexton and PC Owen attended Edenbridge Train station where they spoke to female commuters about how safe they felt in the area, this was part of our ongoing work for awareness around Violence against women and girls.

Ongoing issues of ASB have been raised at the Leisure center that will be looked into and the suspects hopefully identified.

### **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.

Seasonal reports of bikes being used off road are being made across the district. If you witness these types of incidents, please call them in. If possible, obtain any photos/CCTV. Often the bikes are driven to locations to be used if this is the case try and obtain the registration of the vehicles.

For landowners please make sure clear signage is up prohibiting the use of bikes on your land and make sure that access points are secure or offer deterrents to bike users.

*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**.