

**GREAT CHART with SINGLETON PARISH COUNCIL  
OCTOBER 2023.**

As the Autumn approaches I will need to risk assess the trend of crimes that we will be facing in the area as we head into the darker evenings and criminals adjust their approach to targeting areas.

As the first signs of Christmas appear in our shops the time is right to start considering the crime advice to issue.

I feel there is no need to stress the areas of crime that we are continually vulnerable to, but this month focus on two areas where I feel the residents need to be alert and vigilant. That advice will be increased as we head into Xmas and both the risk with these crimes will increase in the run to Christmas. Criminals will ramp up their efforts we must match that.

### **THEFT FROM VEHICLES**

These are mostly avoidable and preventable crimes. With a few seconds of checking when a vehicle is parked a resident can avoid being a victim of crime. Please park as safe as you can. Lock the vehicle and then just stand and look into the vehicle for just a few seconds! Can you see anything? If you can, so can a criminal and you could become a victim of crime.

**Leave absolutely nothing whatsoever on show in a vehicle when parking especially last park up for the night.**

Typical items stolen. Wallets, purses, handbags, sunglasses, small change carried in the cupholders, laptops and briefcases.

**Remember the loss of a work laptop and or a briefcase/document case may see the victim of the crime also lose their job!!**

We must prevent these types of crime.

Criminals will return to an area where they have success and the message here to communities must be blunt and frank and needs to be.

If criminals think that residents are careless, forgetful, or even lazy about items left in vehicles they are going to come back.

If we do not win the hearts and minds of our residents this will always be a risk.

Vans with tools, equipment and goods left inside overnight are a risk. Of course, it is not practical to unload vehicles each night, so we must ensure those vehicles are parked and as secure as possible. Parking a van with rear opening doors tight up against something means the doors cannot be opened even if forced.

During the hours of darkness criminals walk the streets just trying car door handles. Every so often bingo! a door is left unlocked, and the criminal just sits in the vehicle and check glovebox and for any items in the car. They leave the vehicle with whatever they can find.

If a vehicle is locked and they can see a more attractive item to steal they will break the window and grab what they can.

If you sadly have to visit to a crematorium look at the sign in the car park.

### **CAR THIEVES OPERATE IN THIS CAR PARK**

Why? Well, it is very simple. We attend funerals, we are not at our best and we all dread our mobile phone going off in the service. We have checked it is on silent or switched off 10 times, but we are still worried, so we leave it in the car. Criminals know this. People leave coats and bags that they do not want to take into the service, criminals know this.

### **CARS IN LONG TERM CAR PARKS/SHOPPING CENTRES/RAILWAY STATIONS**

Criminals know these vehicles are unattended for a time, they will be looking!!

### **DRIVING TO REMOTE WOODLANDS AREAS**

We drive to woodland car parks and go for nice walks. We don't want to carry handbags etc around the woods. We leave them in the car, criminals know this! Please don't tell me don't worry I tuck in under the seat or lock it in the boot that is where the criminals will look first and because they know the vehicle is unattended for a time, they will use a hammer to enter the car!!

THE MESSAGE IS CLEAR, LEAVE NOTHING ON SHOW IN A CAR AND IF THE CAR IS GOING TO BE UNATTENDED FOR A LONGER PERIOD THINK WHAT YOU NEED TO HAVE IN THE VEHICLE.

**THINK LIKE A CRIMINAL PLEASE!**

**If you see persons trying car doors call 999 immediately this is a “CRIME IN PROGRESS.**



**The above can be avoided. THINK SAFE & SECURE PLEASE!**

## **THEFT OF INTERNET SHOPPING DELIVERIES FROM DOORSTEPS**

This crime trend is constantly rising and naturally as we head towards the run into Christmas will increase further.

The two parts to the risks are.

**Firstly** a passing “chancer and opportunist” just by chance seeing the parcel on a doorstep and taking the opportunity to pick it up.

**Secondly** and now more worrying the delivery vans are followed which means rural and outlying properties now become a risk.

I shall be continuing to give out advice and crime prevention. Please try to make safe delivery arrangements to avoid being a victim of crime.

CRIME

# **Parcel thefts rise from doorsteps as gangs follow courier vans**



Remember last Christmas in Ashford, criminals who had become frustrated at following a van to pick up parcels suddenly just highjacked the vehicle and drove it off when the driver was engaged at a front door.



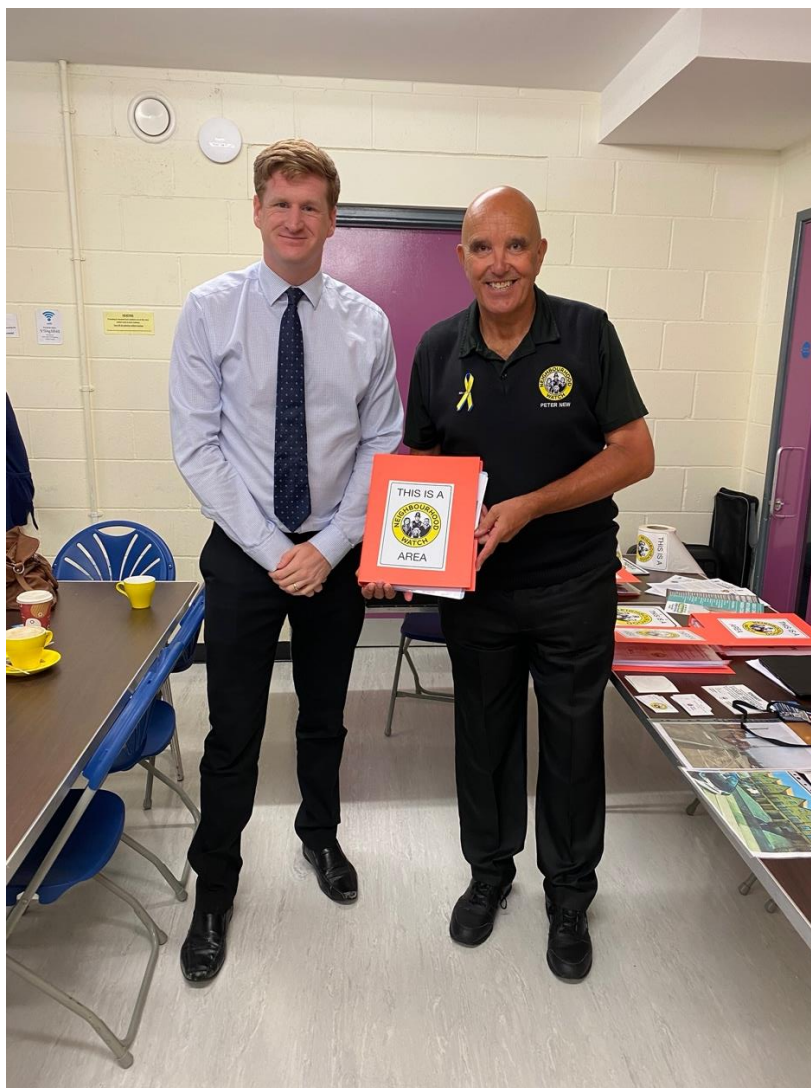
I have had the opportunity to engage with the Crime Commissioner Matthew Scott when you had your meeting with him and update him on the work that I am undertaking especially engaging and working with local Community and Parish Councils none more so than yourselves.

Other areas covered were **Operation Guardian Angel** supporting the elderly, disabled and vulnerable in our society. **Operation Everest** which tries to alert and protect the Nepalese members of our communities who are often especially targeted by criminals plus a whole range of topics.

As reported to council my work will continue on new build developments part of my new build project work in Ashford which is **Operation Horizon**.

That work which is not only about keeping new residents' crime free and free from the fear of being a victim of crime but also my work helps to build communities and community cohesion.

That is especially important where new residents have come from much farther afield than the local Kent areas.





**Matthew Scott, PCC for Kent is in Singleton, Kent.**



19 Sep · 🌐

I was in Singleton today with representatives of Ashford Police to meet with Great Chart with Singleton Parish councillors. We had a good discussion about crime and antisocial behaviour in the area, and local policing.

Also good to see Peter from Neighbourhood Watch there too!





**Peter New**

Top contributor 3 d ·



Dear Readers

A standard agenda item at virtually ever council I work with is parking and drop offs/pickups at start and end of school.

For some reason around about 250yards from school all parking logic and kindness to each other vanishes.

The Highway Code is forgotten, people block driveways and generally there is an arrogance with some parents whose little "cherub" has to be picked up right outside school gates.

Another problem is why when people live 12 minutes from the school by car why do the leave 6 minutes to get there!

Your parish council are very concerned and worried about the parking issues and speed through the village.

Sadly as I said it is everywhere however the Ashford Community Safety unit has made a start and I hope I can get the to Aldington soon

Please try to park sensibly and above all considerately

Thank you for your help in this matter

Peter

Peyer New (peternew1@aol.com)

Kent Police Volunteer & Community Neighbourhood Watch.

I know this is an area of great concern to all councillors and I am trying to raise awareness and to try to request operational patrols just drive past/patrol at around afternoon pick up time.



Council may feel a need to write to schools in the area requesting parents be reminded of responsibilities and general kindness and considerations to the community



## School Parking

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Good afternoon Resident

We have had many reports of poor and inconsiderate parking outside of multiple schools across the Ashford district at both morning drop off and afternoon pick up times. This is a reminder to please consider where you park at school times -

- Do not park on double yellow lines
- Do not park on zig-zag lines
- Do not obstruct the school entrance and exit
- Do not block driveways or paths

This is for the safety of everyone in attendance at the school and for those residents living around the schools.

Both the Police and Civil enforcement officers from Ashford Borough Council will be attending schools in the Ashford district to monitor the parking situations and a zero tolerance approach will be taken should any offences be identified.

Officers from the Ashford Community Safety Unit have today attended John Wesley School, Great Chart accompanied by A Civil Enforcement Officer from Ashford Borough Council, where a number of motorists were spoken to and words of advice given. We will be back.

Do you have any issues of parking outside of schools. Can we make the school drop off or pick up safer?

Kind regards,

Ashford CSU.



If the council intends to write and engage with the local school there may be elements of the above you wish to consider in your letter which hopefully the school would circulate to all parents.

I am very pleased to finish my report to you as a council, that has supported me for several years now, that on Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup> of September I was invited to London for a National Awards event by the National Neighbourhood Watch committee.

My work on new build developments and community reach won the award from over 300 entries nationally and I was accompanied by my wife Susie to the very prestigious event.

Awards are a signal that the work is heading in the right direction however they are only as good as yesterday and the need to immediately focus on the future cannot be overstated.

My acceptance speech covered many of the areas that we are working together on. For me partnerships with councillors and the dedicated councillors is essential as we move forward in keeping communities and the resident as safe and secure as possible.

I shall continue to lobby for streets to be built for 2040 not 1960. For better lighting and for garage doors not car ports as they are becoming like shops with no tills and a criminal's paradise in areas where the bricks and cement are still wet!!





I would add this work is not rocket science it is the continued focus on the basic principle of keeping people crime free and free from the fear of being a victim of crime. You all know Chilmington is at the very heart of this work.

Essential to that is good solid communication with residents across a range of platforms and systems especially ensuring we never ever leave behind the person living on their own maybe older and vulnerable who may only have a landline for communication.

Yes of course it was a proud moment for my award, but it was only a moment in time reflecting the past and I already was dealing with crimes and crime prevention as the fast train from London brought me home.

We are only as good as yesterday. Our work will never ever be done or finished. Criminals will continue to strike as they traditionally have in the way they have especially in our rural areas however alongside those crimes is a very modern technical crime by very intelligent and resourceful of the criminal work.

We have only 2 council meetings before we enter 2024 but our commitment to work together must be front and centre of our planning and thinking.

Hopefully the Kent Police model will be further strengthened in Ashford by more officers by then.

As always, I place on record my very sincere and grateful thanks for all your work and continued support.

**Peter**

**Peter New**

**Kent Police Volunteer & Community Neighbourhood Watch**





