

## **GREAT CHART WITH SINGLETON - JULY 2019**

Since the start of the school holidays, Police Community Support Officers have been involved in an operation with regards to nuisance youths. Traditionally the school summer holidays have been a busy period for Kent Police when it comes to youths - calls are made to us as a result of some of them causing a nuisance. The aim of this operation is to conduct pro-active patrolling during the school summer holidays. Therefore, if you experienced nuisance behaviour then please call us on 101.

Locally, I have been continuing to show a presence in all areas, both on foot and in a police vehicle, engaging with members of the community.

### **LOCAL INCIDENTS**

**Nuisance Vehicles** – During the month, I have been involved in an operation with other Police Community Support Officers to target nuisance mopeds and motorbikes. During this time a number of warnings were issued to those who were seen to be driving recklessly. As this is one of our priorities, I would encourage you to report any irresponsible driving of mopeds or motorbikes to us on 101, ideally as it is taking place. We can then deal with as appropriate.

**Theft of Motorbikes / Mopeds** – We have had reports of motorbikes / mopeds being stolen in the area. It takes a matter of seconds for a thief to steal a moped, scooter or motorcycle, especially if they are left either unsecured or with inadequate security. Please find below a number of tips that could prevent these being stolen:

- Park in a garage or in a busy, well-lit area if possible.
- Lock your bike and set the alarm and immobiliser if it has one.
- Use a motorbike cover as this makes it less attractive and also a time consuming obstacle for a thief.
- Attach your bike to something secure using a good quality ground anchor, padlock and chain.
- Marking as much of your bike as possible will make it more difficult for criminals to sell parts on, and therefore less attractive to steal. It will also help police identify parts.

**Suspicious Van** – We have had a report in the Great Chart area of a suspicious van. Should you witness any dubious behaviour, or anything you are not comfortable with, then please contact us.

**Thefts from Gardens** - In Singleton, Kent Police again have had reports over the last month with regards to hanging baskets being stolen. Ideally, baskets should be fixed out of reach, or secured by attaching the rim of the basket to the bracket. Security cable and locks for hanging baskets can be purchased for a very reasonable price on various websites. There has also been a report of fishing gear been taken from a shed. Please ensure your shed are locked and valuable items are secured.

**Singleton Lake** – As you may be aware, Singleton Lake is protected by a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO). This was put in place in 2017 to address the anti-social behaviour that was taking place around the lake. Briefly, this means there is a ban on fires, camping and loud music, while boating, physically entering the lake, and interfering with lifesaving equipment has been prohibited. Urinating, defecating and using foul or abusive language is also prohibited. Fishing has been restricted to authorised swims and can only take place from dawn to dusk. If anyone is seen breaching the PSPO then a fixed penalty notice can be issued to those 18 years of age and older. During this month, two fixed penalty notices for £100 were issued due to night fishing.

Should you wish to fish at Singleton Lake, please make sure that you have a rod licence from the Environment Agency in your possession as well as a day ticket. The day ticket can be purchased from

Angling Direct, Ellingham Industrial Centre, Ellingham Way, Ashford TN23 6LZ. Members of Ashford Angling Society do not need a day ticket but should be able to produce their membership card. Details with regards to the PSPO can be found on the Ashford Borough Council website.



Sadly, a report was made to us with regards to one of the Egyptian goslings. It appears it was hit by a missile from a catapult. Kind residents in the area took it to the local vets where it was looked after. It seemed to be making a good recovery but unfortunately it passed away. I cannot emphasize enough how dangerous and awful catapults are and again I encourage you to report anyone you see using one to us on 101.

**Bag Snatch** – As you may have seen on social media or online, a woman recently had her bag snatched whilst she was out in Singleton. I would like to reassure you that these incidents are few and far between. However, please can I remind you of the following tips that may help to keep you safe when you are out and about, especially when it is dark:

- Please be aware of what is going on around you - keep observing your surroundings.
- Be aware of anyone walking in your vicinity and pay special attention to individuals who change their behaviour upon spotting you.
- You should choose to walk in the most populated areas as it's much safer than secluded areas. Use residential streets and areas, even if this means you have to walk for longer periods of time without using shortcuts.
- Stay where there are other people and traffic whenever possible. If it is necessary to walk at night then choose well-lit up routes.
- Carry a charged mobile phone and some cash, and tell someone where you're going. Also let them know your estimated time of arrival.
- Remember - there is safety in numbers.

Should you like any further advice then please visit the Kent Police website at <https://www.kent.police.uk/advice/>

## **OTHER NEWS**

**Kent Fire and Rescue Service Open Day** - On 20th July, 2019, I attended the Kent Fire and Rescue Open Day at Ashford Fire Station with one of my colleagues. The Open Day was all about raising awareness of fire and road safety. We were there with our Police Ranger vehicle which was a great hit with the children. It was fantastic to see so many families there.



**Bike Marking Event** – On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> August, 2019, there will be a bike-marking event at Singleton Village Hall, run by the Parish Council. This will take place from 11:00 to 13:00. Simply bring along your bike and we will security mark it for you for free.

Please find below information regarding the Ashford Mediation Service (AMS). This is a charity that support Kent Police but work independently.

**Ashford Mediation Service - helping people talk about and solve their problems and disputes**



AMS is a charity that helps people across the Ashford Borough Council area with neighbourhood, family and intergenerational disputes; offering mediation services in the local community with the help of trained volunteer mediators. These services provide a way of enabling people to talk about problems and reach solutions, with the mediators listening, supporting and guiding them.

There are quite a variety of problems that the service can help deal with, such as:

- Noisy neighbours
- Children’s behaviour
- Pets’ behaviour
- Parking disputes
- Boundary disputes/shared driveways
- Harassment/Abusive behaviour

Early engagement of AMS when an issue arises is key to securing early solutions and preventing problems deteriorating to more damaging levels. As they deteriorate they can often spread beyond the individuals originally involved to their extended families and friends, and affecting other neighbours and the wider community. More extreme cases can turn from civil/community issues into criminal ones, an outcome that everyone wants to avoid.

Should you wish to contact AMS then please find below their details:

**Ashford Mediation Service,  
Ashford Police Station,  
Tufton Street, Ashford TN23 1BT**

Tel: 01233 896237  
Mob: 07845 914838  
Email: [info@ashfordmediation.co.uk](mailto:info@ashfordmediation.co.uk)  
Website: [www.ashfordmediation.co.uk](http://www.ashfordmediation.co.uk)

**CONTACT US**

Call 999 if a crime is in progress or life is in danger.

Call 101 to report a non-urgent crime or if you wish to speak to me – my force number is 59869.

If you're deaf or hard of hearing you can text 'Police' followed by your message to 60066.

Please also visit the Kent Police website which provides other details of other ways of contacting us.

Kind regards,



Catherine Stevens PCSO 46059869  
Community Safety Unit | Ashford Police Station | East Division