

The monthly newsletter from the Community Safety Unit at Kent Police:

The Easter Holidays have been keeping all of us in the Community Safety Unit busy. During this period, we have been involved in an operation called Op Idaho. The aim of this was to address and target a number of areas where there have been issues with nuisance youths. We conducted high visibility patrolling within these areas in order to stop and disrupt any anti-social behaviour and to deal with any issues that may have arisen.

LOCAL INCIDENTS

Catapults - I am aware of ongoing catapult issues in the area. Please can I urge you to report any catapult incidents to us immediately. I would like to reassure you that this is very much a priority with Kent Police.

Fire – I have been made aware of a number of fires that were started in open areas around Singleton and Great Chart over the Easter period. Even though no-one was hurt and the fires contained, this could have been much worse. If you see any suspicious behaviour that you are not comfortable with then I urge you to contact us.

Horses – We have had an incident reported to us involving a horse, its rider and a vehicle. As a motorist you should:

- Look out for horses being led or ridden on the road,
- At left hand bends and on narrow country roads – take extra care and keep your speed down,
- When you see a horse rider on the road – slow down,
- When behind a horse rider – give them plenty of room and be ready to stop,
- Do not sound your horn or rev your engine – horses are powerful but vulnerable animals that are easily frightened by noise and may panic around fast moving vehicles,
- When overtaking pass wide and slow,
- Horse riders are often children – so take extra care,
- Watch out for horse riders' signals and take notice of requests to slow down or stop.

Remember the horse is an animal, not a machine, and therefore can react unexpectedly to a number of situations.

Theft of vehicle – A report of a vehicle being stolen has been made to us. I have listed below some useful tips when it comes to keeping your car secure:

- Garage your car whenever possible.
- Park in a well-lit area.
- Steering locks and gear locks are inexpensive and easy to fit.

- Consider installing an immobiliser or an alarm – and use it!
- Fit locking wheel nuts – they are inexpensive and easy to fit.
- Keep your keys in a safe place at all times.
- Remove keys from the ignition when you leave your vehicle – even for a few seconds.
- Have your registration number or part of Vehicle ID number etched onto the glass surfaces.
- Don't leave valuables in your vehicle.
- Consider marking all your property – especially the items you frequently take in the car.
- Lock all doors, windows and sunroof every time you leave your car, however briefly.
- Lockable fuel caps are advisable.

Theft from work vehicles – we have had a report of a break into a van. If you are a tradesperson then van security is a priority, especially if you're keeping your tools in your van. Below are a number of easy steps that you can take to help protect the security of your van:

- It might sound obvious, but it's sometimes easy to overlook: make sure that all of your van's doors and windows are locked when you're not inside the vehicle, even if it's just for a minute. You might just be nipping out, but as thieves become more sophisticated, it can take them barely any time to make off with your valuables. This is especially pertinent now the warmer weather is here as windows are opened more.
- Inside the van itself, make sure that tools and other objects are properly secured. Consider using padlocks or specialist locking devices to make your tools as difficult as possible to remove from the vehicle.
- When you're parking your van, even for short periods, you should think carefully about where you stop. Parking with the rear or side doors against a wall or very sturdy railings will help to ensure that they can't be prised open. Where possible, make sure you park in well-lit areas with lots of foot traffic, and ideally with CCTV cameras in sight.

Nuisance vehicles - At Singleton Environmental Centre, there have been a number of reports of quad bikes / dirt bikes driving around on the open areas. If you witness this activity, then please report it to us on 101. Under Section 59 of the Police and Reform Act 2002 officers of Kent Police are able to seize and remove a vehicle, which he or she believes is being driven inconsiderately or carelessly and causing, or is likely to cause, alarm, distress or annoyance to members of the public. Our

Community Safety Unit has recently issued a considerable number of 'Section 59s' and will continue to do so in order to prevent this anti-social behaviour.

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

Over the last month the Community Safety Unit were visited by representatives from Crimestoppers and Fearless.org. If you are unaware, Crimestoppers is an independent charity that gives people the platform to report crime, 100% anonymously. Crimestoppers can be contacted either by phone on 0800 555111 or online <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>. The website also gives personal safety tips, information on how you can protect your family, business, home and vehicle as well as other advice.

Fearless.org is a site which is more directed at teenagers / young adults. On this site you can access non-judgemental information and advice about crime and criminality. Again this is 100% anonymous. This is a very resource as it provides information about all of the different types of crime and where to access further information, advice, help or support.

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.