

Police Community Support Officer Newsletter



GREAT CHART WITH SINGLETON - APRIL 2020

Firstly, and most importantly, I hope you and your families and friends are all well and keeping yourselves safe.

As this period of uncertainty continues, please be assured that Kent Police are working hard to keep the public safe amid the ongoing threat from the Coronavirus pandemic.

Please help us by adhering to the government guidelines:

Keep your distance – keep safe

Under current measures set by HM Government, we must all stay at home wherever possible, and avoid meeting with anyone outside our household. This includes friends and family.

Remember: You can spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms. Help prevent the spread of the coronavirus: Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home).

If you go out, stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people at all times.

Wash your hands as soon as you get home.

For more information visit [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

#StayHomeSaveLives

Local Incidents



Dogs – There has been an increase in dog on dog attacks over the last few weeks in the area. Dog on dog attacks are not normally a recordable crime.

Please find below a number of tips that may help to keep you and your dog safe:

- Due to social distancing, it is important keep at least two metres apart from others and avoid

situations where your dog might approach and greet other people or dogs. This means walking your dog on a lead when in areas with other people.

- Always keep your dog close especially if you're walking somewhere unfamiliar. You know your dog better than anyone else, but you won't always know what dangers could be just around the corner.
- If you do walk your dog off the lead, please bear in mind that other people and their pets can feel intimidated by dogs rushing toward them - be considerate and make sure to have your dog on a lead if you see other dogs or people in the distance.
- Large animals including cattle and horses can be spooked by your dog which could lead to injury for both the animal and your dog. Always put your dog on a lead if you notice any other animals roaming in the area.
- Smaller animals like sheep and their young can die if they're startled by your dog - try to find out whether there are any small animals grazing on your route before you set off, and if you take your dog off the lead - don't let them disappear into the distance.
- Finally, please make sure you always pick up after your dog.

Nuisance Vehicles – The CSU Tasking Team are working hard to eradicate the blight that is nuisance vehicles. Please continue to report these to us. If you can take a video of the incident or get number plates, then that would be a great help to us. However, do keep yourself safe.

Fraud and scams

Please find below an input regarding the current scams doing the rounds from our Fraud Prevention Co-ordinator.

My name is Emma Swietochowski-Hay and I am the Fraud Prevention Co-ordinator for the East Division of Kent Police. My role includes creating awareness of current fraud trends and scams and offering prevention advice as well as visiting vulnerable and repeat victims of fraud.

I have put together some of the most common scams circulating at present. During this current climate fraud has escalated and criminals are taking advantage of the vulnerable position we are in.

What are scams?

Scams could reach you by post, phone, email, text, when you are using the internet or on social media.

They will look and sound genuine and usually claim to be from a reputable company, service provider, bank, the police or a government service such as HMRC. They could even be someone asking for help.

*They will ask you to click a link, call a high-rate telephone number or encourage you to hand over personal information, bank details, bank cards or even cash. **Don't do it.***

From our colleagues at National Trading Standards, we have received the below which offers further advice around scams with COVID19 theme. Additionally, Friends Against Scams is a national campaign that you may want to get involved with and can find out more details by viewing their website which is displayed below in their message.

Wash your hands of coronavirus scams!

Friends Against Scams aims to protect and prevent people from becoming victims of scams.

Be aware of people offering or selling:

- Virus testing kits - these are only offered by NHS.
- Vaccines or medicine masks - there is currently no vaccine or cure.
- Cheapen or fake goods to protect yourself from coronavirus such as anti-bacterial products.
- Shopping or medication collection services.
- Home cleaning services.

Protect yourself and others:

- Don't be rushed into making a decision. If it sounds too good to be true it probably is.
- Only purchase goods from legitimate retailers and take a moment to think before parting with money or personal information.
- Don't assume someone is genuine. It's okay to report, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to hurt or harm you.
- If someone claims to represent a charity, ask them for ID. Be suspicious of requests for money or help. If someone attempts to pressure you into accepting a service they are unlikely to be genuine. Check with family and friends before accepting offers of help if you are unsure.

Be a good friend, help to protect your family, friends and neighbours from scams.

Read it. Share it. Prevent it.

#Coronavirus #ScamAware

CONTACT
For advice on scams call the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 0800 333 11 22.
To report a scam call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.
Contact your bank if you think you have been scammed.

NATIONAL TRADING STANDARDS
Scams Team

To learn more about the different types of scams visit www.FriendsAgainstScams.org.uk

Below is an alert from Action Fraud in relation to a phishing scam, where fraudsters are impersonating Tesco.

The fake Tesco emails are offering 'free vouchers' during the coronavirus outbreak and you are asked to click on a link, which takes you to a convincing looking phishing website that is designed to steal your login, personal and financial information.

If you receive one of these, please do not click on the link and delete it and report to Action Fraud.

! Coronavirus Scam Warning

Watch out for these fake Tesco emails

Action Fraud has received 30 reports about fake emails that purport to be from Tesco. The email states that the supermarket is offering free vouchers during the coronavirus outbreak. The link in the email leads to a genuine-looking phishing website that is designed to steal login credentials as well as personal and financial information.

Don't click on the links or attachments in suspicious emails and never respond to messages that ask for your personal or financial details.

CITY OF LONDON POLICE
National Fraud & Cyber Crime Reporting Centre
www.actionfraud.police.uk

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Criminals are exploiting the COVID-19 pandemic to defraud innocent people, including sending fake emails and texts purporting to be from government. Avoid clicking on links in emails as they could lead to fake websites, and contact organisations directly using a known email or number.

UK CORONAVIRUS SCAMS

CITY OF LONDON POLICE
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Watch out for fake GOV.UK emails about Council Tax reductions

- Don't click on the links or attachments in suspicious emails and never respond to messages that ask for your personal or financial details.

Learn more: actionfraud.police.uk/covid19

OFFICIAL

Criminals are experts at impersonating people, organisations and the police. They spend hours researching you hoping you'll let your guard down for just a moment.

They can contact you by phone, email, text, on social media, or in person. They will try to trick you into parting with your money, personal information, or buying goods or services that don't exist.

If you are approached unexpectedly remember to:

- **Stop:** Taking a moment to think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe.
- **Challenge:** Could it be fake? It's ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.
- **Protect:** Contact your bank immediately if you think you've fallen victim to a scam and report it to Action Fraud.
- You can also report suspicious texts by forwarding the original message to 7726, which spells SPAM on your keypad.
- The police, or your bank, will never ask you to withdraw money or transfer it to a different account. They will also never ask you to reveal your full banking password or PIN.
- Do not click on links or attachments in unexpected or suspicious texts or emails.
- Confirm requests are genuine by using a known number or email address to contact organisations directly.

Reporting a scam

If you think you or someone you know has been a victim of a scam, report it immediately to www.actionfraud.police.uk

If you have paid money or shared your bank details, contact your bank's fraud team straight away.

Always remember the advice of "Take Five which is Stop, Challenge and Protect" and are own ABC message:

- A- never **assume** a caller, email or text is genuine.
- B- never **believe** a caller, email or text is genuine.
- C- always **confirm** by contacting a trusted number, family member, friend, your bank's fraud department or the police to check if it's genuine.

Get the latest scam updates and advice

- Follow [@KentPoliceECU](https://twitter.com/KentPoliceECU) and [@kent_police](https://twitter.com/kent_police) on twitter
- Sign up to the Kent Fraud Alert System – stephen.kelly@kent.police.uk
- Visit www.actionfraud.police.uk

If you would like some further prevention advice or online leaflets, I am able to supply this for you. Alternatively, if you would like a Fraud Prevention Presentation or input in any of your local groups, care homes or sheltered living accommodations please send myself or your local PCSO an email and we can get this organised for you.

If you have any questions or queries, then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Stay Safe.

Emma Swietochowski-Hay 59657

Fraud Prevention Co-ordinator

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Please follow us on Twitter @KentPoliceECU



Neighbourhood Watch

Please find below an input form Peter New, one of Ashford's Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators:

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT FOR PCSO MONTHLY REPORT

APRIL 2020

I am pleased and proud to write this article in support of my PCSO colleagues who work tirelessly for the community in a town that is growing by the week.

There is no doubt we are working and living in the strangest, difficult and indeed challenging of times.

The type of work that I would normally be undertaking with PCSOs, for example public meetings with the community, bike marking sessions and general interaction with residents across the Ashford District, have been curtailed. My PCSO colleagues have been switched to duties that are required in the lockdown we are all in.

That has not stopped constant interaction between us by email and phone so that we are ready and good to go when life returns to normal and we can work closely together again to benefit the community.

There is good proactive work being undertaken on the "new builds" sites across Ashford so that NHW Membership grow as the developments grow and as new residents move in.

It is clear what the type of incidents and what the areas of risk now are during this lockdown period.

CRIME

Main residences are virtually occupied by someone the whole time now. Just ensure that when you retire for the night those Patio/French doors and all ground floor windows are secured after you have enjoyed the warmer weather of the day.

*Please ensure **vehicles, sheds, garages, outbuildings and even gardens** are all as secure as possible. Leave nothing like bikes or mowers out in a garden if your fence is overlooked by the public. Also, vigilance in buildings such as **community halls, sports pavilions and clubhouses** where they could be **vulnerable to break ins** now that they are not in use. These are the risk areas now!*

***ALL THE ABOVE ARE ESPECIALLY VULNERABLE UNDER THE COVER OF DARKNESS
AND THAT RISK WILL BE HIGHER IN RURAL OUTLYING AREAS***



Thieves, chancers and opportunists, especially those who steal to fund drug problems, are really struggling under the lockdown. Please stay extra vigilant and keep prevention to the forefront of your thinking and make their criminal activities as hard as possible. If they get desperate, they will also get careless.

In rural and outlying areas there have been reports of vehicles in the early hours of the morning travelling around "scouting targets"; if you see these events or suspicious activities call the police immediately and use 999 if that is your judgement.

*As always be alert to **SCAMS by telephone and email** which are nearly now a daily event for us all. Coronavirus and the resulting lockdown may have reduced some types of crime, however coronavirus has also been seen by criminals and scammers as a "business opportunity".*

I was pleased to see the HOME SECRETARY refer to the scams and the criminal activity around those events in the Coronavirus briefing from Downing Street that she led on behalf of the Government.

We must ramp up our prevention, advice, warnings and alerts to match the criminals who have seen the virus as yet another "business opportunity".

REMEMBER THE HARDEST MATTER TO QUANTIFY IS... WHAT WE HAVE PREVENTED!!

RECRUITMENT FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

What is Neighbourhood Watch?

An active Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, which is free to join, can

- 1. Reduce crime and the opportunities for crime**
- 2. Help and reassure those who live in fear of crime**
- 3. Encourage neighbourliness and closer communities**
- 4. Help improve the local environment.**

Many of you across the district are already members of Neighbourhood Watch schemes and please continue to support your local coordinators as much as you can

NHW Recruitment has been severely affected as my preferred option is face to face on the doorstep when signing people on.

However, with good use of social media I have been able to have a steady stream of new members across the whole district.

Its free to join and allows members to receive crime reports, alerts and warnings to help people stay free from crime and free from the fear of being a victim of crime.

To become a NHW Member contact me on peternew1@aol.com or Andrew Judd on andrew.judd@kent.police.uk

LIFE AFTER CORONAVIRUS

As I said earlier in this article this has been the most challenging time for us all BUT could some good come from this all

Two years ago, when I first took this job on, some people did not know who lived next door, they now do shopping for them.

Cars were broken into everyday where people had left items in cars that should never be left in vehicles especially overnight. That has now virtually stopped. When lockdown is eased and finally lifted be as security aware with your vehicle as you are now.

There is the most uplifting community spirit out there at the moment! How do we maintain that?

The community and many agencies now know where our vulnerable people are with every form of disability that renders them at risk to criminals and scammers.

Bogus calling has virtually stopped but how do we maintain that.

Police colleagues are out there in the community, look at the drug arrests recently in East Kent as drug sellers and users look to move their evil product around.

Let us enjoy the time when the restrictions are gradually lifted but let's not just default back to where we were but let us retain the good and great things that have happened in our community during this difficult period where we have all pulled together.

REMEMBER THE MORE WE ARE THE STRONGER WE ARE AND CRIME CANNOT FLOURISH IN A COMMUNITY THAT CARES

If you're not in Neighbourhood Watch and you are reading this report, please consider joining.

Thank you for your support as always

Peter

Peter New (peternew1@aol.com)

Neighbourhood Watch Team

Future Events

Unfortunately, due to the coronavirus pandemic, the following event has been cancelled.

Pop Up Café,

Wednesday, 13th May 2020 – 11:00am to 1:00pm

Great Chart Village Hall, The Street, Great Chart TN23 3AX

TAKE CARE AND STAY SAFE



Catherine Stevens PCSO 46059869

Community Safety Unit | Ashford Police Station | East Division

Please **do not** use this email to report incidents.

Please follow us on Twitter @kentpoliceash or visit our website <https://www.kent.police.uk/>

You can also contact us by phone: 999 in an emergency when life is in danger or when a crime is being committed, or 101 to report crime & other concerns that do not require an emergency response.