

# Police Community Support Officer Newsletter

GREAT CHART WITH SINGLETON - OCTOBER 2020



Hello there. I am the local Police Community Support Officer for your area. This is my monthly report which is sent to the Parish Council, Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators, and other members of the community who may be interested to receive it. The report is a general overview of what I have been doing this month and gives crime prevention advice.

Crime statistics can be found at: <https://www.police.uk/>

Alternatively, Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) send out regular updates in relation to crimes that have happened in the Ashford area. If you wish to receive these updates directly then please contact Andrew Judd who is the Volunteer and Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer. His contact details are as follows:

Tel: 01233 896151  
Email: [andrew.judd@kent.police.uk](mailto:andrew.judd@kent.police.uk)  
Address: Ashford Police Station,  
Tufton Street,  
Ashford  
TN23 1BT



**CORONAVIRUS** – Due to new guidelines being announced by the Government regularly with regards to COVID-19, please refer to their website for the most update to date information at

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Each area now has a local COVID-19 Alert Level. There are 3 local COVID Alert Levels which are known as 'tiers'. The current Local COVID alert level for Ashford is **MEDIUM**.



On the Government website there is a postcode checker which gives you the COVID alert for the area and tells you what you can and cannot do. This can be found using the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/find-coronavirus-local-restrictions>

Please remember to adhere to the 'Rule of 6'. This means that – apart from a set of limited exemptions including work and education – any social gatherings of more than six people will be against the law.

# Coronavirus (COVID-19)

There are three simple actions we must all do to keep on protecting each other

-  **Wash hands**  
keep washing your hands regularly
-  **Cover face**  
wear a face covering in enclosed spaces
-  **Make space**  
stay at least 2 metres apart - or 1 metre with a face covering or other precautions

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## Local Incidents

**Wyvern School / Rainbow Centre** I have received reports of vehicles incorrectly turning right along the A28 as they leave Wyvern School and the Rainbow Centre. This is an offence; it could lead to a fine of up to £1,000 and moreover a serious accident. Vehicles must turn left. Should you see vehicles turning right and can get the number plate, then please report this to Kent Police. I will be paying attention to the area. Please keep yourself, your family and other road users safe.



**Singleton Shopping Centre, Hoxton Close** I have received reports of nuisance vehicles attending the area every night. The issues include revving of engines, loud exhausts, vehicles that are left idling, loud music, wheel spinning and shouting.

There have also been reports of cannabis being smoked and drugs being dealt. Should you witness any activity such as this in the area then please report it to Kent Police. I will continue to pay attention to the area and, with that in mind, I will be there on the 19/11/20 between 11am and 12pm. Please come and see me in you wish to have a chat.

**Hillcrest Allotments** Unfortunately, last month, several sheds were broken into at the allotments with tools and other items stolen.

I would urge residents to security mark their property and put signs up that it has been done to deter offenders from stealing it.



**E-Scooters** There has recently been an increase in the use of e-scooters I would like to make it clear to all that they must only be ridden on private land. They are not to be ridden on any public path or road at any time. Unfortunately, these e-scooters are currently classified as Personal Light Electric Vehicles (PLEVs), so they're treated as motor vehicles and are subject to all the same legal requirements – MOT, tax, insurance and specific construction. Because they don't always have visible rear lights or a number plate, they can't be used on the road. So I must ask that they are only ridden on private property, otherwise as PCSOs we can issue a section 59 which enables us to give the owner of any vehicle a warning saying should they be caught riding their vehicle again in an antisocial manner (including the e-scooters being ridden on paths and roads) they can be seized.



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### Scam calls - Fraudsters impersonating Internet providers

**Preventing fraud**

Together, let's stop scammers. 

**Remember, ABC:**

-  never Assume
-  never Believe
-  always Confirm

Get the latest scam advice:   
[@KentPoliceECU](https://twitter.com/KentPoliceECU)

There have been several reports over the past week from people being telephoned by scammers (automated calls) purporting to be from their internet providers. The scammers are saying that the persons internet will be cut off due to illegal activity or low activity. They are then directing them to press the dreaded button 1, where the fraudsters will either try to obtain personal data or normally request you to allow them access to your computer by allowing them to download malicious software. This is with the intention of taking over your system and obtaining access to your online banking etc. when they will then steal your monies.

One such call claimed to be from Open Reach and from an address in London. They were challenged by the person they called, who started asking the scammers questions, the scammers immediately hung up.

If you receive any of these calls, please hang up immediately and report it to Action Fraud.

Never allow anyone remote access to your computer and never download any unknown software/apps that allows people access to your system. Remember your internet provider will never ask you for remote access to your computer.

If you are unsure and want to contact your service provider, then please call them via a trusted number. If possible, use an alternative phone than the one you were called on. If you do not have access to another phone then please allow time for your line to clear or call a family member or friend to confirm that the line has cleared, as scammers will try to remain on the line.



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### **Other News Stories involving Kent Police**

**Fly tipping** - Rural officers work with local partners to tackle fly-tippers across Kent.



Fines were issued to fly-tippers and arrests made as part of a week of action targeting metal and waste crime across the county.

Between 12 and 16 October 2020, officers from the Rural Task Force teamed up with local authorities in a bid to identify people disposing of waste illegally. In addition to stop checks and targeted patrols, the officers also visited a number of scrap metal dealerships to ensure they were keeping accurate records.

In addition to waste crime, the officers also dealt with people for other offences including driving under the influence, failing to have insurance and driving whilst disqualified.

Sergeant Darren Walshaw of the Rural Task Force said: 'We work closely with our local authority partners to tackle the issue of fly-tipping and send a message to those intent on illegally disposing of waste that it will not be tolerated.'

'Fly-tipping is not just littering; it is organised criminality. The problem blights communities and some waste, like asbestos, can pose a significant health risk to the public.'

'Everyone has a responsibility to tackle this issue and I would ask anyone having waste removed from their property to ensure that the person taking their rubbish is licensed to do so. Many are unaware that they may be fined if their rubbish is linked to their household, even if they have paid someone to dispose of it.'

'By working with our partners and local people we can make a positive difference and protect our countryside from fly-tippers.'

**Suspected Ashford car thieves charged** - Suspected vehicle thieves have been charged after a car was stolen from a driveway in Ashford.

Kent Police was called on 20 October 2020 after a car was seen driving dangerously in Orbital Park, Ashford at around 8.30am.

The car was located by officers and two people were arrested. One of the suspects has since been charged with dangerous driving and aggravated vehicle taking. He has also been charged with two counts of theft from a motor vehicle after items were reported stolen from cars on 14 October. The other suspect has also been charged with aggravated vehicle taking and two counts of theft from a motor vehicle.

**Cash and suspected illegal cigarettes seized in Ashford** - A large quantity of suspected illegal cigarettes and more than £25,000 in cash has been seized as part of a Kent Police investigation.

Officers stopped a car in Chart Road, Ashford at around 9.20am on Saturday 24 October 2020 and carried out a search of the vehicle under the Misuse of Drugs Act. A second search was then carried out at a property in Ashford on the same afternoon.

Around 5,000 packets of cigarettes and more than £25,000 in cash were seized and enquiries into their origin are ongoing. Mobile phones and a Volkswagen Passat have also been seized as part of the investigation.

A 46-year-old man from the Ashford area was arrested on suspicion of money laundering and has since been bailed until Monday 16 November.



**Van stop leads to seizure of 12 kilos of cannabis in Ashford** - Around 12 kilograms of cannabis has been seized after Kent Police officers stopped a van in Ashford.

Officers from Tactical Operations seized the drugs, worth an estimated £70,000, from the vehicle in Chart Road, Ashford at around 5.45pm on Wednesday 14 October 2020.

Following an investigation, a male has been charged with possession of cannabis with intent to supply.

**Hundreds of cannabis plants seized in Ashford** - More than 300 mature cannabis plants have been seized in Ashford following a pre-planned drugs warrant.

Kent Police officers from Ashford's Community Policing Team searched an industrial unit in Mace Lane under the Misuse of Drugs Act at around 4pm on Tuesday 13 October 2020.

Two men aged 20 and 26 were arrested at the scene on suspicion of drugs offences. They both remain in police custody whilst detectives continue to carry out their enquiries.

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### **Future Events**

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

#### **Pop Up Café,**

**Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> November, 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.