

Police Community Support Officer Newsletter

GREAT CHART WITH SINGLETON - SEPTEMBER 2020

This monthly report goes out 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
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>

Over the last few weeks there have been concerning reports regarding a second wave of COVID-19. There is a now a 'rule of six' that prohibits social gatherings of more than six people. This came into effect on Monday 14 September. It 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. Please bear this in mind when you arrange to meet up with friends and family members.

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

Autumn is finally here! This week has seen a big change in the weather. However, it was great that we were able to enjoy the warm weather for most of September. Now that the nights are starting to get dark earlier, please find below some tips to keep yourself safe whilst at home.



- Only answer the door to someone you are expecting.
- Use peep holes or if possible, check through windows to see who is at your door.
- Always use the door chain when answering the door to any caller.
- Check identification details by phoning the genuine telephone number from the telephone book or website, not the telephone number on the ID card.
- Keep all doors and windows locked.
- Never let anyone in your house unless it is someone you know and trust.
- Get outside lights fitted to give a better view of anyone who may be on your doorstep.
- If in doubt or worried do not let anyone into your house.

Local Incidents



The Oast Play Park – Unfortunately, unpleasant graffiti appeared on the children’s equipment at the Oast Play Park (which can be found at the bottom of Singleton Hill.) This was reported to Ashford Borough Council. As I understand it, a caring resident did go and remove what they could – a big thank you for that. I have been paying attention to the Oast Play Park and will continue to do so.

Singleton Lake - There was also new graffiti on one of the signs at Singleton Lake. This, again, has been report to the council.

Regular patrols are carried out around the lake by Kent Police, and officials from Ashford Angling Society regularly attend the area too. During September, two Section 59 warning were issued to two individuals that were seen riding around the lake on motorbikes, causing a nuisance. One PSPO was also issued to an individual who was fishing there without a day ticket or rod licence.



During September, number plates were stolen from a vehicle that was parked near Singleton Lake. Number plate theft has recently been on the rise. Due to increasingly advanced technologies in ANPR in use by the police, criminals can no longer get away with creating fake number plates. So instead they are stealing and cloning them. If you do become a victim of this crime you should inform the police and the DVLA as soon as possible.

To help prevent your number plates being stolen you could thief-proof your plates by doing the following:

- Use anti-theft number plate screws (cannot be unscrewed) to indefinitely hold your plates in place, or anti-theft number plates (although expensive/not widely available) that break up into several pieces when attempted to be removed.
- Consider where you park to deter thieves - avoid quiet, dark roads/alleyways which are more likely to be targeted.

Great Chart Playing Field - I have had another report of cannabis taking at the playing fields at Great Chart. I have attended the area on a number of occasions and spoken to people that I have seen there. Cannabis is a Class B drug and is illegal.

Speed Checks – During one of the weekends in September, a colleague and I were out and about in Hawkeye (our camera van) along the A28, Great Chart bypass, and in Singleton carrying out speed checks. Kent Police Speedwatch has been sent details of the vehicles that were clocked exceeding the speed limit. We are hoping a carry out regular speed checks in the area as we want make our roads safer.



PREVENTING FRAUD

Kent Fraud Alert System



How we are trying to prevent fraud with the Banks

Kent Bank staff and Kent police team up to stop £742,259 of fraud in the first half of 2020

Bank branch staff in Kent, stopped £742,259 of fraud in the first half of 2020 through the Banking Protocol, a scheme that alerts Kent police to suspected scams.

- The scheme has led to 6 arrests in the first 6 months of 2020. A range of scams that trick elderly and vulnerable customers into withdrawing cash from their branch have been prevented, including courier scams, romance fraud and rogue traders.
- Customers helped through the initiative are typically aged 65 or above.
- The Banking Protocol scheme is now being expanded to telephone and online banking.

The Banking Protocol is a UK-wide scheme that enables bank branch staff to alert their local police force when they suspect a customer is being scammed. Police will then visit the branch to investigate the suspected fraud and arrest any suspects still on the scene.

The scheme is often used to prevent impersonation scams, in which criminals imitate police or bank staff and convince people to visit their bank and withdraw or transfer large sums of money. These can include courier scams, where those targeted are persuaded to take out a large sum of cash and hand it over to a fraudster posing as a courier. They can also include safe account scams, where the victims are told their money isn't safe in the account it's currently in and needs to be transferred to another account.

The initiative has also been used to prevent romance fraud, in which fraudsters use fake online dating profiles to trick victims into transferring money, and to catch rogue traders who prey on the elderly by demanding cash for unnecessary work on their property.

Branch staff are trained to spot the warning signs that suggest someone may have fallen for one of these scams and make an emergency call to the police. 130 calls have been made to Kent Police in the first six months of this year through the scheme.

Customers helped through the Banking Protocol are typically aged over 65, demonstrating how these scams are often targeted towards the elderly and vulnerable. A great number of vulnerable people have been referred to Kent Police by the banks as possible victims of fraud and these have subsequently received support and assistance.

Ashford Mediation Service – A free and impartial service that could help resolve issues within the community, the family unit or the workplace.

ASHFORD MEDIATION SERVICE
'KEEP ASHFORD TALKING'

The Ashford Mediation Service provides a free, confidential and impartial service to help people to settle their differences around noise, parking, aggressive behaviour, pets, family issues, boundary disputes and much more. By involving us early, matters are unlikely to escalate and interventions by the authorities can be avoided.

We help to settle disputes:

- In the community
- For families
- In the workplace

92% success rate

Over 100 cases per year

26 years in operation

There are 130,000 residents in the Ashford Borough Council area.

We have 25 trained, volunteer mediators

Our Mediation process is designed to allow both parties to talk about their problems and to reach a solution with mediators who listen, support and guide.

In a community what you see as perfectly acceptable, can often be seen by others as annoying. Noisy children, dogs barking or parking issues are often a problem between neighbours

KEEP ASHFORD TALKING is our Initiative to work across the community in a collaborative way to better address the difficulties that face us all. We work with a wide range of community groups and organisations to create a more harmonious living environment for all who live and work in the borough and beyond.

While each case is different, it usually takes three to six sessions with each session taking up to an hour

Contact us on 01233 896237 or Follow us on Facebook and Twitter

Halloween

Halloween 2020 may be different this year due to COVID-19.

Regardless, we know that many residents are worried about people coming to their door at Halloween, particularly those calling late in the evening.

You do not have to answer the door to them.

You can make this clear by printing off and displaying the leaflet that I have included at the end of this email in your window or door.

Future Events

Unfortunately, due to the coronavirus pandemic the following events have been cancelled.

Pop Up Café,

Wednesday, 14th October 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.

Sorry, no trick or treat

I



**I will not open
my door to you**

