

REPORT SINGLETON & GREAT CHART PARISH COUNCIL JANUARY 2025

May I open by saying I hope all councillors and your families had a wonderful Christmas and may I wish you all a very Happy Healthy New Year.

I am pleased to bring forward my personal action plan for 2025 and how it fits into the overall strategy and picture for your Council area.

Well done! for producing a newsletter and thank you for the space, it provides a vital communication to residents many of which may only have a landline phone

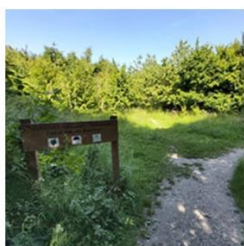
Throughout 2024 the Community events in the village halls were another essential link in the overall Neighbourhood Watch strategy.

In late 2024, at another council's meeting, I had a bruising and frank exchange with the senior officer for Ashford Police and one of my points I raised was the complete lack of attendance at both Parish and Community Council meetings. Sadly, my challenges and questions led to the officer making a complaint which I have robustly defended. My record and performance are there to be examined by anyone. It is unacceptable to me for the hours I put as a volunteer in that since the launch of the new Policing Model for Kent Police in June 2023 we have not had a Beat Officer visit the council, the lack of attendance at council meetings in 18 months by a Beat Officer is unacceptable. Yes, crime is low, but I wanted an officer bedded in and settled and enjoying the council and community backing that I enjoy.

I was disappointed to be told by KALC representatives that the attendance at their meetings has also dropped away in the last 3 months of 2024. These are incredibly important meetings I am at a loss that officers cannot attend.

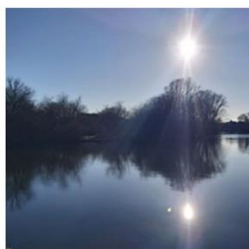
Since me raising the issues I have now heard that at last some councils are being approached to forward their meeting dates for 2025. Also, a new list of officers covering areas is on the police web site with a larger number of officers listed.

If you type in Singleton on the Kent Police web site, the following comes up.



Singleton West

[View on a map](#)



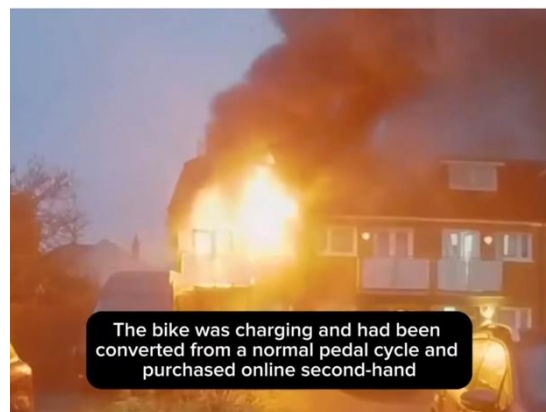
Singleton East

[View on a map](#)

| |
|---|
| Katie Reed Sergeant |
| Brandon Harris PCSO |
| Ricki Apps PCSO |
| Adele Tyrer Temporary Sergeant |
| Catherine Stevens Community Liaison Officer - PSE |
| Daniel Brown PC |
| Emmanuel Dalli PC |
| James Murrell PC |
| Jason Bushell Acting Inspector |
| Josh Wheatley PC |
| Matt Potticary PC |
| Scott Packman PC |

I await to see results unfold throughout the year. This will be an issue I raise with the crime commissioner at my next meeting with him as I cannot believe this is how Beat Officers would work

As always alongside crime prevention I have always built in safety too. You will have all seen my continued work on e-scooters and fire safety involving the charging of e-scooters and electric bikes. The London and Kent Fire Brigades are helped with considerable guidance.



This does not have to happen in Ashford District for us all to learn and be aware

The warning signs your e-bike or e-bike battery is a fire hazard

Heat: It's normal for batteries to generate some heat when charging or in use. However if your device's battery feels extremely hot to the touch, there's chance it's defective and may start a fire

Bulging: A battery bulging or swelling out of shape is a common sign of it failing. If your battery looks swollen, you should stop using it immediately. Similar signs include any type of lump or leaking from the device

Noise: Failing lithium batteries have also been reported to make hissing or cracking sounds

Smell: If you notice a strong or unusual smell coming from the battery, this could also be a sign of it failing

Performance: A failure to fully charge or an excessively longer charge times can be a sign that your battery is failing

Smoke: If your battery or device is smoking, a fire has already started and you should get out, raise the alarm and call 999

Remaining on the theme of fire.

I was alerted and provide support to a family struck by fire in PARKLAND DRIVE
CHILMINGTON





I was grateful for swift action by vigilant NHW members and uplifted by the support of the community that the family received. I also believe that sometimes a picture can say a thousand words to focus our minds.

I have often said at CMO meetings “I am a builder of communities as well as trying to keep them crime free and free from the fear of being a victim of crime also “

I am again in touch supporting the family as they rebuild their lives to go forward.

The strength and support of a community at times like this is essential.

I will close by starting 2025 as we finished 2024. I hope you find NHW an investment in our community and residents for the time you give me at meetings. Importantly also for the support you give the work and to me personally.

So along with my plan we head into 2025 with a very clear view of the work ahead.

Your annual meeting is where you tell your residents this is what you have done and are doing for them.

My 2025 NHW PLAN is this is what I will do, and this is how I will do it. Reporting to the outcome at the Annual Meeting of the electors is my icing on my cake.

Regards
Peter

Peter New
Community Neighbourhood Watch

