

## REPORT TO GREAT CHART with SINGLETON PARISH COUNCIL JUNE 2024

This month my report will reflect progress on my 2024 NHW plan to date. I put that plan to council at the start of the year and as we start to ease past the halfway point it is important to check progress to date.

I feel NHW and the working partnership with council is very strong and will continue to grow.

Two issues I will discuss at council will be the Ashford Police Establishment and working of the new policing model which was launched almost exactly one year ago in June 2023.

What was the police establishment and working model then. What is it now?

What has been the attendance at Council meetings in that 12 month? I think a Beat officer should attend once every 3 months according to the PCC.

The other matter of concern to me and is raised at most public engagement meetings is the difference between Ashford Police dealing of e-scooter problems and the rest of the Kent Police.

I am on record of saying there needs to be the 2024/2025 debate and with proper rules and regulations those vehicles may well feature in a greener transport policy/strategy. However, at present in the Ashford District the engagement and education strategy appear out of step with the rest of Kent and causing anger and confusion with residents.

17:31 Fri 9 Feb mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk 72%

## e-scooters – know the law

**What you need to know**

e-scooters are classed as Personal Light Electric Vehicles (PLEVs), which means they are treated as motor vehicles and subject to the same legal requirements, such as driving licence, insurance, number plates, lighting, road tax, crash helmets etc.

**Without these, e-scooters cannot be used legally on the road.**

The Government is currently trialling the use of approved rental e-scooters as environmentally friendly modes of transport in some specific locations in the UK.

For the rest of the country, under current law, e-scooters can only be used on private land.

**What should I do now?**

It's our priority to keep you and other road users safe. We are obliged to take action against anyone who is caught repeatedly using an e-scooter illegally or in a way that causes a nuisance to others. In these circumstances we have the power to seize the e-scooter under Section 59 of the Police Reform Act/165 of the Road Traffic Act – and we'd really prefer not to.

**Please make sure you only use your e scooter on private land.**

For more information about powered transporters and the law, visit [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)



**Kent Police**

**Protecting and serving the people of Kent**

## E-scooters – are you breaking the law?



**Can I ride my e-scooter to school or work?** No, it's Illegal...

E-scooters are classed as motor vehicles and are required to be taxed and insured. It's not possible to get insurance for privately owned e-scooters, which means it's illegal to use them.

**Can I ride my e-scooter on the pavement?** No, it's Illegal...

You cannot use e-scooters on public footpaths, cycle lanes or roads.

**What happens if I'm caught using my e-scooter in public spaces?** The scooter may be seized and as a result, destroyed.

If stopped by an officer, you may be asked to complete a breath and drugs test. You also risk a £300 fine and six penalty points on your licence for no insurance.



**Kent Police**

**Think before you buy:**

The number of electrical scooters being used on our streets has risen, as well as reports of serious injury and fatalities.

For more information and advice on the use of e-scooters visit [www.kent.police.uk/road-safety](http://www.kent.police.uk/road-safety)

# E-scooters seized during Dartford event

## Policing news

✓ Published: 14:25 07/06/2024



*Some of the seized e-scooters*

Ten e-scooters have been seized by officers during a joint event in **Dartford**.

On **Wednesday 29** and **Friday 31 May 2024**, officers were deployed in the **High Street** alongside cadets and staff representing Dartford Council.

The teams were there as part of ongoing work to inform the public about the updated Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in the town.

While there members of the public were able to talk to them about local issues as well as give their support for their work on tackling e-scooters in the town.

The PSPO has been in place in the town centre since 2017 and was introduced to tackle anti-social behaviour. The order was amended in February this year to include a restriction on riding e-scooters in the main pedestrian area of the town centre.

The order can be enforced by council staff as well as Kent Police officers.

While the constables were in the town centre they seized 10 e-scooters which were seen being ridden illegally.

Kent Police issued six traffic offence reports to some of the riders alongside council staff who issued five fixed penalty notices for breaching the PSPO.

Dartford Community Safety Unit Inspector Lee Cheesman said:

'It is illegal to use e-scooters in public spaces and not only poses a danger to members of the public but can also cause injury to the rider.'

'Kent Police continues to work with partner agencies to ensure that Dartford remains a safe, pleasant and vibrant town to visit, and we will not tolerate any anti-social behaviour. We will continue to take a robust stance on anyone intent on causing issues in the town.'

## Clampdown leads to seizure of 30 e-scooters in Maidstone

Policing news

Published: 14:27 06/02/2024





Thirty electric scooters have been seized as part of an ongoing clampdown on their illegal use in **Maidstone**.

Seven of the e-scooters have already been destroyed, during targeted action by officers to identify and stop riders seen in town centre roads and other public areas.

It is currently against the law to use e-scooters on public streets, pavements, or cycle lanes.

They are only permitted on private land, with the landowner's permission, and in parts of the country where the Government has permitted trials.

Since **10 December 2023**, patrols have been making proactive checks across several areas of Maidstone town centre, following concerns over the safety of riders, as well as pedestrians including elderly people.

Those found breaking the law have been stopped in places including **Lower Stone Street, Palace Avenue, Tonbridge Road, Gabriel's Hill and King Street**.

Pedestrianised areas such as **Week Street** have also been targeted, where eight e-scooters have been seized.

## Hazards and consequences

Maidstone Chief Inspector Mark McLellan said: 'The dangerous, illegal, and inappropriate use of e-scooters can pose serious risks to the safety of older and vulnerable pedestrians, and they are also a hazard to other road users, such as cyclists and motorists.'

'At the end of last year, our officers led a month-long campaign in Maidstone to raise awareness with the public about legislation surrounding the use of e-scooters.'

'We are continuing to stop riders to give advice and reminders around the current legislation, and anyone who is found to have ignored previous warnings faces being fined and having their e-scooters seized and destroyed.'

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These will be two of the issues that I will be focused on towards the start of the second period of 2024. I do not anticipate these questions being warmly received by Ashford Police.

**Thank you for your support.**

**Peter**

**Peter New**  
**Community Neighbourhood Watch**