



Kate Richards PCSO 46059656
Community Safety Unit
Ashford Police Station | East Division

**Police Community Support Officer Newsletter
September 2020**

Hello,



I am your local Police Community Support Officer for your area. For those of you that don't know me, my name is PCSO Katherine Richards, but most people call me Kate.

This is my report for this month, which I put out at the beginning of the month, so you are all be aware of what I have been up to in and around your areas and what crimes have been happening. My report goes out to the Parish Councils, Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators, and any other members of the community who may be interested in receiving it. This can also be shared on your parish websites and your social media sites. **Please share.**

I would just like to let you know that I will be your point of contact for your town and parishes.

The areas that I cover are **Tenterden, St. Michaels, Rolvenden , Newenden , Weald South and Isle of Oxney areas.**



It's been another busy month with a variety of different calls, from locating owner of this water bourse with the use of the Rural Farm Watch group and Rural Tasking team. Local farmer found it dumped on his land and after us carrying out checks, we have recovered it and owner has had it returned as had been previously reported as stolen.



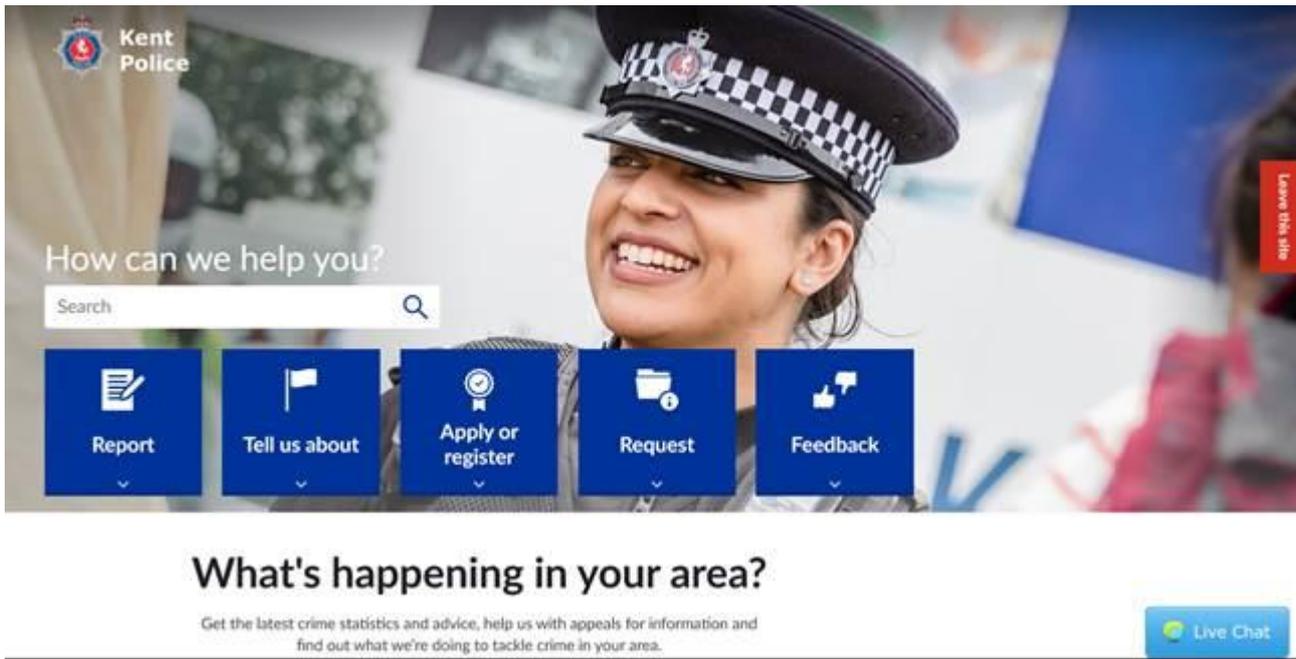
We have had various break in's in the past month in rural location, so please report anything you see of people acting suspiciously or out of place, as this can sometimes paint a picture.

It's been nice to see local business i.e. shops pubs and restaurants have been starting to get busier and the communities starting to come out more. I really do enjoy being able to catch up with the local residents on my patch, and please if you see me come over for a chat. Social distancing rules still apply, for updates please see the government website.

As parish meetings start to get back to normal, I will try and attend when I am able depending on operational needs.

Please can I make everyone aware on how you can report crimes and what maybe happening in your area.

- 101 - non emergency line for reporting information or can ask for myself to contact you.
- **999** - emergency line - crimes that are happening there and then i.e hare coursing, someone breaking in, you feel alarmed or distressed.
- **Live Chat** - www.kent.police.uk



Click on the Chat Button - this is a quicker way of reporting and what is happening, and a person at our control room will be able to take your query talk you through and help you.

We **do not** monitor parish / Town Facebook or Twitter sites and this is not a suitable way of reporting things, other wise we are not aware.

- **Report** - this is on the same front page of the Kent police website - another easy way to report somethings to us. It will ask you various question and take you to the relevant agencies, to deal and help you with the problem. Some things that are reported to us are not always a police matter and could divert you to the council for example...

Things that need to be reported to the council that they deal with and is not necessary a police matter are the following: -

Nuisance Noise

Nuisance noise is any loud or persistent noise that causes you ongoing concern or affects your quality of life. Your [local council](#) should be your first contact for reporting nuisance noise as this isn't usually a matter for the police. However, if the situation feels like it may get heated or violent as a result of the noise we will intervene.

Common types of nuisance noise

Building and vehicle alarms

If the same alarm keeps going off this may qualify as nuisance noise, especially if it goes on for a long time and keeps people up late at night.



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Noise from pubs and clubs

Pubs, clubs and other venues can contribute to nuisance noise by playing music too loud or later than their licence permits. This can be made worse by people talking loudly as they leave the venue or keeping the party going by turning up their vehicles' music systems.

Construction sites

Construction companies and contractors must by law take all reasonable steps to control noise and work within certain times, usually from 7.30am to 6pm. If they want to work outside these times they must apply for a special permit from the local council.

What is the impact?

Having to tolerate either constant or intermittent nuisance noise can be exhausting, especially if it happens through the night.

It can also make people feel isolated and helpless, unable to relax in their own homes. This can have extremely negative effects in the long term, so we take reports of ongoing nuisance noise very seriously.

What you can do

If a building or car alarm is going off and there's clear evidence of criminal activity, such as a broken window or someone acting suspiciously nearby, call [999](#) immediately.

If there's no evidence of criminal activity, we would always suggest trying to talk peacefully to the person responsible for the noise. They may already be trying to fix it. Unbelievable as it may seem, they may not even be aware of the problem.

If the person doesn't want to stop the noise completely, try to reach an amicable compromise, such as no music after 11pm.

If you feel you can't talk to the people involved, or they won't listen, contact the Environmental Health team at your [local council](#). They'll be able to investigate and take steps to end the noise.

Fly-tipping and littering covers a range of items that people might discard in a public place, from large appliances like fridges to drugs-related paraphernalia like needles and syringes. Find out more below, including what you can do to help clean up your community.



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Common types of littering

While the police will take action if we witness it happening, littering should usually be reported to your [local council](#) as they can organise the removal of litter.

General littering

General littering includes the dumping of household rubbish, either in plastic bags or as individual items. It also includes dog fouling in public places.

Fly-tipping

Fly-tipping is the illegal dumping of large items or waste on public roads, land or into rivers. This could include large household appliances like washing machines or discarded materials from construction sites.

Hazardous items

Equipment used for taking drugs, discarded drugs and items used during sex, such as condoms, represent a serious health risk to the general public. Your local council will want to remove these and make the area safe.

What is the impact?

Fly-tipping and littering can be a health hazard, not to mention an eyesore. It can cause unpleasant smells, attract pests and create a dangerous environment for children, pets and wildlife in particular.

We've found that if the problem is not dealt with quickly, it can lead to an increase in fly-tipping in the area, making the unpleasant and unsafe area even larger and more obvious.

What you can do

If you've witnessed littering or people leaving a mess in public, please don't attempt to remove the rubbish yourself in case there are hidden sharp or dangerous items. Contact your [local council](#) who will arrange for the rubbish to be removed.

If you've witnessed fly-tipping or people discarding drug-related items, please photograph the discarded items if possible, and [find the right antisocial behaviour reporting service](#) using our online tool.

Digital Surgery - During the past months we have held 'digital surgery' with Sergeant Bloomfield. These 'surgeries' allow residents to contact us via live chat on the Kent Police website. They are a



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useful tool and I would encourage you to join in when they are taking place should you have anything that. I will update you all when we are doing another one for your local area, as we are rotating the areas that have a digital surgery. We have put this in place over the pass months, where we have been unable to attend town and parish meeting due to the COVID restrictions, or meeting have not been taking place in the usual way.

Please can I remind parishes that I will try and attend meets, as and when I can, and please do contact me if dates are coming up and you would like me to attend.



Ashford Mediation Service - helping people talk about and solve their problems and disputes

AMS is a charity that helps people across the Ashford Borough Council area with neighbourhood, family and intergenerational disputes; offering mediation services in the local community with the help of trained volunteer mediators. These services provide a way of enabling people to talk about problems and reach solutions, with the mediators. There are quite a variety of problems that the service can help deal with, such as:

- Noisy neighbours
- Children's behaviour
- Pets' behaviour
- Parking disputes
- Boundary disputes/shared driveways
- Harassment/Abusive behaviour

Early engagement of AMS when an issue arises is key to securing early solutions and preventing problems deteriorating to more damaging levels. As they deteriorate, they can often spread beyond the individuals originally involved to their extended families and friends and affecting other neighbours and the wider community. More extreme cases can turn from civil/community issues into criminal ones, an outcome that everyone wants to avoid.

Should you wish to contact AMS then please find below their details:

Ashford Mediation Service, Ashford Police Station,
Tufton Street, Ashford TN23 1BT
Tel: 01233 896237
Mob: 07845 914838
Email: info@ashfordmediation.co.uk Website: www.ashfordmediation.co.uk



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Neighbourhood watch

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

Community SpeedWatch

The Speedwatch groups in my areas have been busy again this month and are getting some amazing results. I have been out delivering warning letters to people who have been continuing to speed these are from the community speed watch team.



Officers have also been out in various locations which have highlighted to us, that there are problems with speeding and speeders have been handed tickets for their speeding. We will continue to be out and about where we can and help support the local Community Speed Watch teams. These are all valued members of our community helping to make your areas safe. It is sad sometimes to see the abuse that these volunteers sometimes get, these will be report.



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