



A very warm welcome to your Spring/Summer 2021 Wealden District Police Community Newsletter.

Our latest newsletter encompasses just some of the work your local Neighbourhood Policing Team have completed in the last few months - including recent patrols and crime updates, patrol results and significant arrests, as well as valuable crime prevention advice and updates from Wealden District Senior Officers and more.

Message from your Wealden District Police Inspector Kendal Wells:



"I have really enjoyed the first few months in my role as the Wealden District Inspector – they have been challenging amidst the backdrop of the pandemic but I have been really impressed how the community has responded to each stage of the easing of lockdown".

"I have (virtually) met with a lot of our partners and members of the community over this initial period of working in Wealden, and believe we are starting to build some strong relationships to manage issues as they arise".

"There will always be more we can do and my team are constantly working hard to deliver on the concerns raised by the community".

"I would also like to thank our local communities for playing their part in helping to keep each other safe during the current pandemic - we know the last fifteen months has been an incredibly difficult time for everyone, but by continuing to follow the latest rules set out by the Government, together soon we can hope to see a start back to a more normal way of life".

Inspector Wells, who joined the Wealden Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) earlier this year; has been a Police Officer for over 16 years with the vast majority of that time being spent on East Sussex and has also been a Sergeant on the Wealden Neighbourhood team.

Covid-19 – The Next Steps

We know that the majority of Sussex are doing their best to follow the rules to protect both their fellow communities and the NHS – for which we thank you.

Coronavirus restrictions remain in place across the country, including for people who have been vaccinated.

In England:

- ✓ **You can meet indoors in a group of up to 6 people or a group of any size from 2 households**
- ✓ **You can meet outside in a group of up to 30 people**
- ✓ **Work from home if you can and travel safely**
- ✓ **If you have symptoms get a test and stay at home**

For the latest advice and guidance please visit: www.gov.uk/coronavirus



April - Specialist Enforcement Unit continue targeting criminals using the road network

A new Sussex Police unit which was launched to track and catch dangerous and wanted criminals using the county roads network has already made 81 arrests since it was launched in February of 2021.

The Specialist Enforcement Unit (SEU) carries out disruption and enforcement operations on roads across the Sussex, targeting those involved in serious, organised and violent crime.

The SEU, a mix of highly-trained police officers and detectives is equipped to be a one-stop-shop for road crime – with the ability to identify, intercept and apprehend offenders, as they travel, seize drugs and stolen goods, and to investigate the crimes through to conviction.

In January and February, the unit clocked up more than 3,760 officer hours on visible proactive work across Sussex.

They made 81 arrests for supply of class a drugs, money laundering, driving offences and tracking down wanted people, seized more than £20,000 worth of cocaine, £7,600 worth of cannabis and more than £4,000 worth of crack cocaine and heroin.

In addition more than £25,000 in cash and taken offensive weapons such as knives, hammers, catapults and CS spray off the streets.

They have also disrupted a number of active county lines drug supply groups, seized 41 vehicles, submitted 200 intelligence reports and safeguarded 18 vulnerable people working alongside colleagues from the force Road Policing Unit, Community Investigation Teams, Border Force, Kent, Surrey and the Metropolitan police teams.

The unit is the latest in a series of police enforcement teams to be launched across Sussex in the past year funded by the Government's Uplift programme and local precept investment.

The team is also made up of experienced police officers and detectives with a blend of specialist skills and who can use a range of tactics to tackle criminals using the road network, including advanced driving skills and the use of a police dog unit to track offenders and search vehicles.

Chief Constable Jo Shiner said: "The launch of the Specialist Enforcement Unit was all about providing extra, visible and robust policing on Sussex's roads, with the ability to deter, detect and disrupt those intent on travelling to commit crime.



"They use both marked and unmarked vehicles and are equipped with the latest technology to identify and intercept known offenders, target hot spots, and support colleagues in making the roads safer for everyone – one of our key priorities.

"I am incredibly proud of the positive results the unit has achieved so far. They were charged with relentlessly pursuing and catching some of our most dangerous and prolific criminals by denying them use of the roads and they are fulfilling that aim.

"From drugs and violent crime, to people trafficking, child exploitation and theft, most criminals have to use the roads which are therefore prime hunting ground for the police."

If you're concerned about drug-related crime in your area or think someone may be a victim of drug exploitation, please call us on 101.

If it's an emergency, please call 999. If you're deaf or hard of hearing, use our textphone service 18000. Or text us on 999 if you've pre-registered with the emergency service BT Relay online www.relayuk.bt.com/



April week of action focusing on the theft of catalytic converters

Did you know catalytic converters are stolen for the precious metals they contain? These metals have surged in value recently, leading to more offences committed by organised crime networks.



Wealden Police took part in a national week of action, mid-April with a focus on awareness, education, enforcement and intelligence gathering.

Officers from Sussex Police Neighbourhood Policing Teams, including teams in Wealden carried out various visits to scrap metal dealers to identify and develop information on who is buying and selling the parts, and to check everyone was operating with the appropriate licences. They also visited catalytic converter buyers, and made visits to vehicle dismantlers as well as stopping mobile collectors at the road side during the week of action.

During the week, a number of local scrap metal dealers also signed up to a database used by Wealden Police and partners to gather and share intelligence around catalytic converter thefts.

Over the week of action 3 people were also arrested in Sussex - one man on suspicion of theft from a motor vehicle and fraud by false representation; and one man on suspicion of theft from a motor vehicle.

A third man was arrested on suspicion of attempted theft from a motor vehicle, dangerous driving, driving without insurance, failing to stop, and possession of a Class A drug.

A fourth man attended a voluntary police interview in relation to five counts of theft from a motor vehicle, dangerous driving, driving with no insurance and failing to stop.

During the week, 250 car owners across Sussex also took advantage of free catalytic converter property marking carried out in partnership by garages and police across the County.

Catalytic converters can be forensically marked using special liquids with a unique code detectable under a UV light. This can make it harder for thieves to dispose of stolen catalytic converters, and can lead to the detection of crime and reunite people with their property.

Detective Chief Inspector Jo Grantham said: “Thefts of catalytic converters can not only have a serious financial impact on victims, but also an emotional impact as it can affect their day-to-day activity and livelihoods.

“This is an issue we take extremely seriously and this week of action is just a snapshot of the work we do to try and tackle the problem.

“We continue to gather information around thefts, and encourage people to report any offences or suspicious behaviour to us to help us build that intelligence, we also ask people to take a look at the advice and consider steps they can take to protect their vehicles.”

Wealden Police are encouraging car owners to:



Protect your car by asking your dealer if they can give you any advice on locks or guards that are approved by the vehicle manufacturer and tested to Sold Secure Gold.

Mark your catalytic converter with a forensic marker and register your converter to make it harder for thieves to dispose of.

Park your car somewhere well-lit and overlooked, among as many cars as possible. Try to park so the converter can't be easily reached - close to a wall or fence, or try not to park at the end of a row.

To report a crime or any suspicious activity, please contact us online or by calling 101; alternatively, information can be passed to police anonymously via the independent charity Crimestoppers online or by calling 0800 555 111.

April also saw a further 18 recruit constables taking their first steps in policing

The new recruits were formally sworn in as police officers on Tuesday (29 March) at a low key attestation ceremony carefully adapted to meet Covid-safety measures, with family and friends of the new recruits experiencing the proud moments via Zoom.

Deputy Chief Constable Julia Chapman said: "I am delighted to welcome these new officers to the force – and it was a pleasure to formally meet them all.

"They have commenced their policing career at a challenging time, and each is enthusiastic and determined to make a positive difference to communities and individuals when they join their new teams across Sussex in June.

"I wish them all every luck in their new career."



"I am proud that through the hard work and innovation of our training teams we have trained 279 recruit police officers since lockdown began in March 2020, as well as 70 PCSO apprentices, through adapting to meet social distancing regulations.

"In the last financial year this has seen a net increase of more than 179 police constables, ensuring we keep our frontline strong and deliver on our priorities to protect communities, catch criminals and deliver an outstanding service.

"This growth is set to continue in the new financial year, with an uplift of 117 extra police officers to be funded by the national recruitment campaign and the council tax policing precept."

The new officers will spend nine weeks training at the county police HQ in Lewes before joining dedicated coaching units in police stations countywide where they will continue their three year Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship on the streets, alongside a coach.

The Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship, is an entry route for non-graduates, allowing officers to work towards a degree in Professional Policing Practice. The entry route allows the officers to gain a thorough grounding in the skills and knowledge they need to meet the ever-evolving landscape of 21st Century crime.

To find out more about the latest opportunities to join Sussex Police as an officer, and the different entry routes available, visit us online here:

www.sussex.police.uk/police-forces/sussex-police/areas/careers/jobs/police-officers/

Help us to help you when you need us the most – Make the right call

If you need to contact us, and your call is not an emergency; to help keep our emergency lines open for those that need us most we have made our online reporting easier than ever.

ONLINE

Many crimes can be easily reported online 24/7. We will respond within 24 hours.



- ☒ Non emergency crime reporting
- ☒ Crime prevention, information and advice
- ☒ Something you have seen or heard

 Sussex Police **#MakeTheRightCall**

You can make reports to us online, as well as telling us about something you've seen or heard here www.sussex.police.uk/ro/report.

Using our website allows for each report to be prioritised, ensuring we can be where we are most needed.

You can also find an array of advice, support, and potential answers to many Policing queries on our website, visit www.sussex.police.uk.

Reports are dealt with by our control room in exactly the same way whether you report it online or call 101.

Thank you.

April also saw the launch of part one of Operation Sceptre this year – Tackling knife crime in Sussex

Operation Sceptre is a national campaign to raise awareness of the dangers of knife crime and ran from 26 April to 2 May, with various teams and officers across Sussex taking part, removing a total of 272 knives off the street through amnesty bins, weapon sweeps, and stop searches in the week of action.

As well as the above, officers in Sussex made a total of 18 arrests for offences including weapon possession, carried out 19 weapon sweeps supported by Sussex Community Search Team, and saw 254 knives placed in the amnesty bins across the County; as well as 21 stop searches being conducted, test purchasing activities were also carried out as well as proactive patrols.

During the week almost 4000 young people were engaged with by officers and provided with vital information and education around the harm knives can cause.

Locally officers from your Neighbourhood Policing Team took our Police engagement van to various locations across the district during the week of action, to raise awareness amongst those more likely to be involved, or pressured into using, or carrying offence weapons and knives.

Officers spent the morning (29th April) outside Waitrose in Uckfield, speaking to shoppers and raising awareness with parents, and those who have a child in their care, of the signs to look out for and what to do if they are concerned that a child in their care may be involved in knife crime.



Later that same day, officers continued their tour with the engagement van and parked up outside the council offices in Hailsham, again sharing advice and support, as well as patrolling through the town speaking to groups of youngsters around the dangers of carrying a knife, and giving them valuable advice in the form of informational postcards to take home; these included details of the law around knives and offensive weapons, as well confidential contact details for local charities which youngsters can talk to if they are concerned about speaking to the police or reporting directly to us.

Detective Chief Inspector Simon Yates said: "It's crucial that we continue to share our message that it is a misconception that carrying a knife makes you safer, as it actually puts you at increased risk of harm; carrying a knife for protection is not a defence in law and even being caught with someone carrying a knife can result in a sentence".

"During Operation Sceptre we intensified our activities to target offenders and remove harmful items from the streets, but I would like to stress that our activity to combat knife crime is part of everyday policing; we have year-round operations to address knife crime including engaging with young people in schools, targeted days of action, and work with partners to ensure people are signposted to help at an early opportunity".

Sussex sees a relatively low number of knife-related incidents, with 71 knife offences in the year to September 2020 per 100,000 people. This compares to the England and Wales average of 79 offences per 100,000 population. In the last year to March 31 2021, knife crime has decreased by 23% across Sussex, with the largest decreases seen in robbery with a 37.2% decrease in knife enabled offences.

What to do if you're worried

If you are under 18, you feel threatened, unsafe or scared about becoming a victim of knife crime you should try to talk with your parent or carer, or alternatively talk to Childline for help on 0800 1111 or online www.childline.org.uk.

If you are a parent or carer and you are concerned someone you care for is in danger of becoming a victim of knife crime, try to talk with them in the first instance or seek advice from Family Lives on 0808 800 22 22.

Who do I report knife crime to?

You can report knife crime online or by calling 101. **In an emergency always call 999**, you can also report knife crime anonymously to www.fearless.org/en/give-info

Community engagement and patrols throughout the Spring and Summer months - (February to June 2021)

PCSOs play a key part of your local policing service; and although we haven't been able to engage in the same ways as we have done previously, this hasn't stopped your local PCSOs getting out safety across the district on their regular patrols, working alongside and supporting police officer colleagues in solving local problems.

Not only by working closely with local and community groups, speaking to community, religious and business leaders, providing crime prevention advice, and reassuring the public; but in also addressing local issues by getting out into towns and villages across the district on high visibility foot patrols; officers are able to gather intelligence, meet people and offer advice and support to members of the public.

What follows is just a snapshot of some of the patrols and activities across the district in the last few months....

- PCSOs for Hartfield joined Wealden District Council (WDC) for proactive patrols in the area targeting vehicles carrying illegal loads and illegal weights
- PCSO Miranda continued his regular patrols of Hailsham town centre following reports of ASB around the High Street and shopping centre, work continues with local businesses around these issues
- Late evening patrols continued with PC Simmons and PCSO Davidson patrolling the grounds of Pevensey Castle following reports of criminal damage and theft from the historical site, additional patrols continued into half term following repeated reports of ASB and damage in the area
- Officers joined our RCT (Rural Crime Team) at Butts Brow, to speak to dog owners around keeping their dogs secure around livestock following reports of sheep worrying during lambing season
- PC Horscroft joined WDC during our week of action around catalytic converter theft awareness, conducting patrols in marked police vehicles of our more rural areas, including Forest Row and Blackham
- PCSOs Brashill and Duvall took the 4x4 across North Wealden, including to Groombridge and Withyham to visit rural farms and small business to offer valuable crime prevention advice
- PCSOs Choppin and Farrance continued their work around local schools, patrolling and speaking to parents about road safety in Buxted following the reopening of schools on the district
- Additional patrols were conducted in and around Ashdown Forest over the Bank Holiday weekends, with officers walking with visitors to talk about local issues including beauty spot thefts and vehicle interference
- Officers for North Wealden joined our RCT to visit farms on the district and gave out Selecta DNA marking kits for their farm vehicles as part of our continued work to help reduce rural crime on the district
- PCSOs Joseph and Cole for Polegate spent time with local businesses helping to reopen after the lifting of some restrictions, ensuring their premises were secure and safe from potential burglars
- PC Jeans for Crowborough continued to conduct patrols around school finishing times following reports of ASB and criminal damage around local schools late afternoon
- PCSOs for Wannock visited a small holding looking after animals, to share valuable crime prevention advice and tips to help protect their property, including advice around outbuildings and remote security devices
- PCSO Brashill conducted various patrols at different times of the day and evening following gatherings and reports of ASB in the area of Weir Wood Reserve



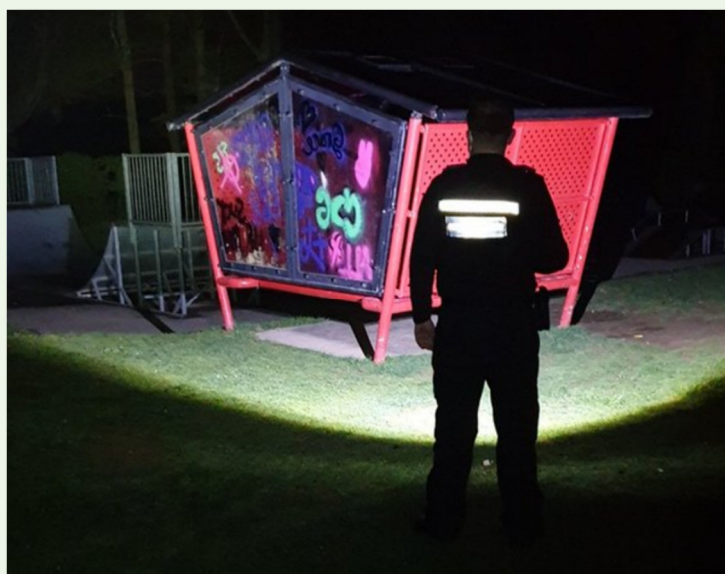
- PCSOs & Youth Officers went back to school at a primary school in Heathfield to help share valuable advice to years 5 and 6 about internet safety around mobile devices and more
- PCSO Duvall for Crowborough continued his patrols in the town centre, working with local shop owners to help identify repeat offenders
- Various patrols in areas of around the Arlington Reservoir and other beauty spots on the district were conducted and continue into the Summer months raising awareness of beauty spot theft
- Officers for Pevensey Bay joined CSW following the setup of a new community speed watch group in the area to discuss local issues
- Patrols in Uckfield were increased over half term following reports of unknown males trying car door handles, with officers looking into resident's CCTV/'ring' doorbells

Operation Blitz - Tackling anti-Social behaviour (ASB)

Although the recent lockdowns have contributed to a decrease in anti-social behaviour on the district; officers from your local Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) have still continued their targeted patrols across areas of Crowborough, Uckfield, Hailsham, Heathfield, and Polegate (and their surrounds), responding to community concerns, and your reports of anti-social behaviour and anti-social driving.

Locations of Operation Blitz patrols in recent weeks include:

- Areas of Birling Gap and surrounds following reports of ASB driving.
- Gleneagles Country Park, Hailsham in response to reports of ASB.
- Forest Row Skate Park, Forest Row, following reports of underage drinking, ASB and drug use.
- The Cuckoo Trail between Hellingly and Heathfield, following reports of ASB and criminal damage.
- Goldsmith's Recreational Park and Wolfe Recreation Ground, Crowborough, following reports of ASB.



Through public reporting, proactive patrolling of known areas of ASB, and positive engagement with groups of youngsters, officers have been able to take action and disperse a number of groups causing ASB in the above locations; (as well as other areas across the district) – With our weekly patrols also gaining valuable intelligence around drug use, and information on individuals causing ASB in your areas over the last few months.

In addition to tackling anti-social behaviour on the district, officers have also been monitoring and taking action against anti-social driving in areas of concern, and in locations reported by local residents.

This has already led to a number of vehicle stop checks, and vehicle seizures from areas including in Uckfield Town Centre, at Ridgewood Play Area Uckfield, and along Station Road Groombridge; to name a few.

Recently officers on ASB patrols have also been joined by local Street Pastors in Heathfield, working together to tackle local issues, and conduct joint patrols of areas to speak and engage with groups in the area causing issues.

Partnership working around ASB gives the team the opportunity to signpost groups and individuals to local youth groups and clubs, and give them someone to talk to should they need to; as well as to help disperse and tackle ASB in your towns and villages.

Operation Blitz is a designated ASB patrol, and an on-going drive each Friday and Saturday night (between 1800-0000), in which officers from your Wealden Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPT) take to the streets in areas which have seen an increase in ASB crimes, or youth related ASB, along with areas which have come to attention from community reports over the week.

Officers now focus their patrols on a different location each weekend; please sign up to our In The Know weekly newsletter for details of where patrols will be, along with officer contact details should you need to report ASB directly to teams out on the ground. Sign up here www.intheknow.community/.

Remember, outside of these times, please continue to report ASB to us on 101, or report online on our dedicated ASB reporting forms online: www.sussex.police.uk/ro/report/asb/asb/report-antisocial-behaviour.



Looking back at the Sussex Police Rural Crime Team's first year



Sussex Police's Rural Crime Team is marking its one year anniversary this June, after it was launched a year ago with the aim of cracking down on unlawful behaviour in isolated and rural communities.

The team has made great progress in tackling rural crime offences and building direct engagement with rural communities in Sussex.

It was made possible with the precept increase, as acquired by Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Katy Bourne. The funding has allowed for more enforcement and a greater local policing presence, part of which is rural crime.

The team has a specialist focus on agricultural, equine, wildlife and heritage issues and it was formed to serve the rural community, increase confidence and encourage reporting through preventing crime and carrying out more proactive investigations.

Made up of two sergeants, eight constables and six PCSOs, the team operates out of bases at Midhurst and Heathfield and takes a targeted approach to tackling rural crime based on the needs of each of the three policing divisions of Brighton and Hove, East Sussex and West Sussex.

As a result of the creation of the team, there are much greater links between police, partners and the farming and landowning communities with increased reporting of crimes and convictions.

Details [here](#), and you can follow our dedicated Rural Crime Team on Twitter here: www.twitter.com/sussexruralcops

Don't be a victim of vehicle crime at local beauty spots

People visiting Wealden's various beauty spots are being warned to remove all valuables from their vehicles – to prevent them from becoming a victim of car crime; as the weather becomes nicer, and visitors start to take advantage of beauty spots across the district; so unfortunately do thieves!

Beauty spots often attract thieves due to visitors leaving valuables in their vehicles unattended, with opportunists taking every chance they get.

Do not leave anything in your vehicle.

- A jacket or coat left behind may be of very little value to you, but a thief may think it has been used to hide a laptop or handbag and will break into your vehicle to find out.



- Take items with you rather than locking them in the boot, you can't be sure who has seen you.
- Before you leave home, think about what you need and leave any unnecessary items of value at home.
- Try to park in sign-posted parking areas, and be cautious about parking your car in isolation. Thieves can be put off when other people are around.
- Make sure you do not leave documents which have your personal details on in your vehicle.
- Do not leave your sat-nav in your vehicle and don't forget to remove the cradle and wipe the sucker marks from your windscreen.
- Remember to shut all windows and sunroofs and lock all doors. Activate the alarm and immobiliser. Make use of any security products you might have such as steering locks.

Should you witness anyone, or groups acting suspiciously around parked vehicles in beauty spots please notify a park warden, park staff, or call the Police; if you can obtain a description of any individuals, or a vehicle they may have used to arrive/leave, please take note of it when reporting - **If you believe a crime is in action, always dial 999.**

Summer campaign to crack down on drink and drug-drivers kicks off in conjunction with the Euro 2020 football tournament - #drinkORdrive



Both Surrey Police and Sussex Police will deploy increased resources to tackle one of the five most common causes of fatal and serious injury collisions on our roads.

The goal is to keep all road users safe, and to take robust action against those who put the lives of themselves and others at risk.

Working with partners including Sussex Safer Roads Partnership and Drive Smart Surrey, the forces are urging motorists to stay onside of the law – or face the penalties.

The dedicated campaign runs from Friday 11 June to Sunday 11 July, and is in addition to routine roads policing 365 days a year.

In the lead up to, and in the already into the first few weeks of the campaign, various road safety checks supported by Operation Downsway have been conducted across the Wealden district, these include:

- Wealden Police joined up with WDC to conduct vehicle safety checks for illegal loads during a week of action late April, including checks across North Wealden and Hartfield.
- Vehicle safety checks, including speed checks conducted by officers in Wannock, and Polegate in the week of the 10th May, in which a number of vehicles were recorded exceeding the limit and were given either words of advice at the roadside, or will be reported to Operation Crackdown.
- Joint speed checks with the Nutely Community Speedwatch (CSW) group over the weekend of the 18th May. During the checks, CSW volunteers recorded the speeds of drivers through the village, the majority of which were adhering to the limit, and those who were not will be reported to Operation Crackdown.
- Speed and drink/drug driving checks conducted in the Ashdown Forest area, and into Stone Cross during Global Road Safety Week (21st-27th May).
- Early morning vehicle safety and speed checks in the village of Hadlow Down on the 28th May supported by Operation Downsway.
- Summer drink/drug drive campaign patrols in Polegate on the 12th June in which a driver reported for driving erratically along the A27 bypass. The driver was safety stopped and was arrested for failing to provide a sample of breath at the roadside.



The consequences of drink or drug-driving could include the following:

- A minimum 12 month ban;
- An unlimited fine;
- A possible prison sentence;
- A criminal record, which could affect your current and future employment;
- An increase in your car insurance;
- Trouble travelling to countries such as the USA;
- You could also kill or seriously injure yourself or someone else.

Residents in Sussex can text officers on 65999 with the details of people they suspect of drink or drug-driving, or visit the Operation Crackdown website www.operationcrackdown.org.

You can also contact the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or report it online.

If you know someone is driving while over the limit or after taking drugs, call 999.

Spring/Summer significant arrests

The safety and welfare of our communities remains a top priority for the district, below is a snapshot of some of the significant arrests made over the last few months; a mix of proactive policing and community reports have led to these arrests, helping to keep your communities safe and remove dangerous drivers, drug dealers and repeat offenders from the streets and roads of your towns and villages.

March: Various officers were deployed from across the Force on the 28th March following 70-80 motorcycles riding dangerous on the A22 in the vicinity of Maresfield and Little Horsted.

Teams included Roads Policing, SEU and divisional units. The group of riders were monitored by NPAS and vehicle tactics were used to stop the main offenders including the use of 'Stop Stick'.

A total of four people were arrested, two of whom attempted to flee from the scene, and seven motorcycles were seized.



Chief Inspector Michael Hodder, of the Surrey and Sussex Roads Policing Unit, said: "The vast majority of motorcyclists who travel around Sussex do so in a sensible manner. However there are a small minority of bikers who believe they can drive in a disrespectful manner on the roads.

"This behaviour is completely unacceptable and causes upset and danger to local communities and road users.

"We will not tolerate this sort of riding and we will continue to robustly deal with those that flout the law.

"The safety of our communities is paramount and working with our local policing colleagues and partners, we will use all available tactics to take these riders and their bikes off our streets."

A total of four arrests were made:

- A 21-year-old man from Dorset was arrested on suspicion of dangerous driving and failing to stop.
- A 22-year-old man from Barking was arrested on suspicion of dangerous driving, driving without a licence and driving without insurance.
- A 26-year-old man from Islington was arrested on suspicion of dangerous driving, failing to stop and driving while disqualified.
- A 17-year-old boy from Edenbridge was arrested on suspicion of dangerous driving, driving without insurance, two counts of driving without a licence, possession of a class B drug, and failing to provide a specimen for analysis.

May: A dangerous driver has been disqualified after he was recorded travelling at 115mph in a 40mph zone on Ashdown Forest.

Police were conducting routine speed checks on the A275 at Chelwood Gate on 14 September 2020 when the incident occurred.

Officers witnessed a blue BMW 135 overtake another vehicle, before continuing to drive at high speed, the vehicle failed to stop when asked to slow by officers, but the drivers VRM and speed were recorded...at 115mph, which is almost three times the 40mph limit.



Continued overleaf...

Spring/Summer significant arrests continued...

Following enquiries, and a police interview, the 26 year old male pleaded guilty to dangerous driving in court earlier this year, where he was given an interim disqualification ahead of sentencing in Brighton, and was further disqualified for 12 months, ordered to carry out 200 hours of unpaid work and pay fines totalling £190.

The arresting officer **PC Trundle said**: “Dangerous and antisocial driving affects everyone; not just those responsible, but also other road users and the communities which have to endure it. We are mindful of the impact it has on the welfare and wellbeing of Sussex residents, as well as the increased risk of collisions occurring.

“We continue to listen to our communities and respond by carrying out proactive patrols 365 days a year with two aims: to keep everyone safe, and to deal robustly with those who misuse our roads”.

June: Police conducting static checks In Pevensey were drawn to a vehicle travelling at 45mph in the 30mph zone.

Officers pursued the vehicle, which failed to stop, and it reached speeds of up to 80mph travelling towards Eastbourne, where it came to a natural stop due to traffic congestion; the driver was removed from his car and required to undergo a roadside drug test, which he failed.

Police discovered a small quantity of cannabis in the door pocket, and due to the overwhelming smell of cannabis, they executed a search warrant at his address in Pevensey.

There, they discovered a large quantity of cannabis throughout the house, the 38-year-old was subsequently arrested on suspicion of speeding, failing to stop for police, dangerous driving, drug-driving, possession of cannabis and cultivation of cannabis, he was later released on bail pending investigations.

June: A number of significant arrests of known individuals have been made across Wealden in the last 4 weeks for offences including; drug use, criminal damage and crime and disorder –following an incident in Uckfield Town Centre and a separate incident in Hailsham Town Centre.

Sergeant Gez Neilan of Wealden NPT said: “We have seen a small number of violent incidents in Wealden in June and we have responded quickly to these incidents and have already made several arrests”.

“We are now actively pursuing these investigations and assisting our colleagues in our investigations department to ensure these matters are dealt with robustly and appropriately”.

“We will not stand violent conduct occurring on the streets of Wealden. Where it has occurred we will respond to ensure that this behaviour is not allowed to continue by working to bring suspects to justice, and doing all we can to help protect the public in keeping you being safe, and feeling safe”.



Reporting: To help us to help you; we continue to encourage you to report any suspicious activities, behaviour, no matter how big or small.

As well as your information and reports playing a huge part in how we plan our local policing; all reports will also help us to bring the offender to justice and make sure it doesn't happen to anyone else.

If your call is not urgent and can be reported through our website, we ask you to do so in order to release the pressure on our emergency resources - online services offer you the option to self-report, which will be then be prioritised and actioned.

All emergencies, crime in action, or where there is a threat to life, always call 999.

Summer - Small and local business security and crime prevention advice

With restrictions on areas of retail and hospitality beginning to lift, we are urging small businesses to take the opportunity before reopening to review their security and premises, and to take steps to secure and protect their business in the coming Summer months.

You've invested a great deal of time, energy and money in your business premises, but burglars are cunning and make it their business to gain entry to it.

Before you lock up for the day, follow our advice below to help keep burglars out of your business.

Protect your business from the outside in:

- A well-maintained exterior free of rubbish and graffiti will reduce the likelihood of your business being targeted by criminals. So try to remove any graffiti. If any appears on a nearby wall or structure, call the local council who will send their specialist team.
- Identify areas that may be vulnerable to forced entry and have them made more secure.
- Make sure any service doors are locked and secure when not in use.
- Make sure you have a monitored alarm and that it's fully operational. For advice and approved suppliers of alarms and CCTV, visit the National Security Inspectorate and the Security Systems Alarms Inspection Board.
- Make sure your CCTV is operational, provides facial recognition as well as good quality images and covers any vulnerable areas. 24-hour digital CCTV is also highly recommended. You'll find useful advice on buying surveillance equipment, from the Surveillance Camera Commissioner <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/surveillance-camera-commissioner>.
- Make use of free or paid remote monitoring apps paired with cameras on your mobile device so that you can view areas of your business from home or at the weekend.
- Make sure that wheelie bins are stored away as these can be climbed on to gain access to the building, especially via the first floor.
- Make sure there is sufficient lighting around the premises, especially loading areas.
- Consider moving high-value goods away from display windows overnight, taking them home with you, or locking them away in a secure office or stock room.



- Prune any overgrown bushes or nearby trees, as they can provide cover for anyone trying to hide from view.
- Doors and windows are particularly vulnerable – use security-rated products to make them more burglar-resistant. For more details visit Secure by Design online www.securedbydesign.com/.
- External shutters, although effective, may require planning approval. Use attack-resistant laminated glass in sturdy frames where possible. Alternatively, film can be applied to glass to make it more resilient.
- Anti-ram raider bollards mounted externally can be used to protect frontages but may require planning approval.
- Try not to keep cash on the premises and always use a bolted-down safe with a time lock and anti-tamper sensors that trigger an alarm.
- Make sure stockrooms are locked and, where possible, keep stock out of sight, if you have had a delivery, clear away any totes, or boxes from open areas.
- Smoke-generating devices that activate on unauthorised entry create a smokescreen and foil burglary. They're designed not to damage stock.
- Make sure your keys are not left on the premises and that only designated staff have access. In case of emergency, make sure there's a list of keyholders who can be contacted.

Should you witness anyone, or groups acting suspiciously around local shops and businesses, please notify a staff member, entre security, or call the Police; if you can obtain a description of any individuals, please take note of it when reporting - **If you believe a crime is in action, always dial 999.**

Update to Police stations on the district – Crowborough

In December of 2019, Sussex Police were granted permission to convert the old Town Hall into a new, more modern, police station for the residents of Crowborough.



Following various consultations, surveys, and work alongside numerous partners and members of the Crowborough community we are pleased to update with the following:

In 2021, work continues at pace to renovate the old Town Hall Council building and in the next few months a new Police Station will be opening in its new central location to service the community of Crowborough and surrounds.

We will be pleased to bring Crowborough residents more news on the progress made in our next update.

Welcome back – Communities Defeat Terrorism ACT (Action Counters Terrorism)



As we begin to resume socialising in our towns and villages, as well as spending more time in public spaces or safe planned events, we encourage everyone to remain vigilant.

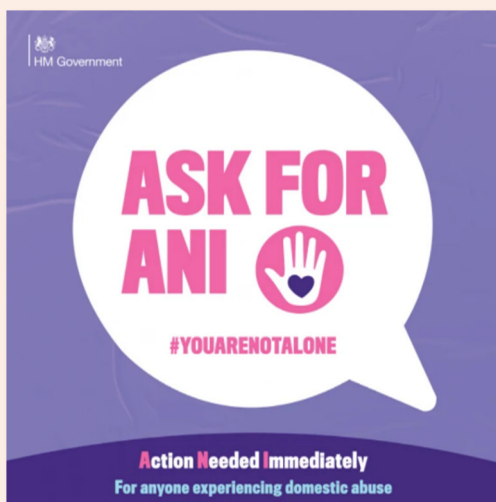
If you've seen or heard something that could potentially be related to terrorism, trust your instincts and ACT by reporting it - Your actions could save lives.

Report suspicious activities to those around you, a member of staff, an event steward, shop security staff or the police.

In an emergency always call 999

Ask for ANI – Support for victims of domestic abuse

Ask for ANI (Action Needed Immediately) is a code-word scheme launched by the Home Office in 2020, which can be used by **anyone** affected by domestic abuse and violence.



Victims of domestic abuse can safely access support from thousands of pharmacies across the UK, through the new code word scheme – offering a vital lifeline to those who are not safe in their own home.

The 'Ask for ANI' scheme allows those at risk or suffering from abuse to discreetly signal that they need help.

By asking for ANI, a trained pharmacy worker will offer a private space where they can understand if the victim needs to speak to the police or would like help to access support services.

Any information shared will be treated confidentially, and the pharmacy staff will be able to help you contact emergency police response, a helpline, or a specialist support service.

You can also find more support and advice from local organisations and charities in your area by visiting the Safe:Space Sussex website here: <https://www.safespacesussex.org.uk/> as well as contacting the freephone, 24 hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline number on 0808 2000 247.

Remember #YouAreNotAlone

Summer - Rural crime recording, and burglary reduction

We take rural crime very seriously, and our commitment to rural Policing remains a priority across the district.



Wealden District Police Inspector Wells said: “Reducing the amount of burglaries especially in the more rural areas of the District has been a focus for the team over the last year and there has been a reduction in the numbers recorded which are above the national average that has been seen, partly due to the 2020/21 lockdowns”.

“I continue to thank you all for your support in helping us tackle this problem through working with us and passing on valuable information and intelligence to us to help us focus our efforts; we continue to encourage rural communities to speak with their local Policing teams to share any new intelligence to help make Wealden a difficult place for potential burglars to operate”.

We know you’ve invested a great deal of time, energy and money in your farms, work places and local businesses, together we can help to prevent rural crime, please review our rural crime prevention advice below:

Farm shops and small businesses

- Consider moving high-value goods away from display windows overnight, or take them home with you at night
- Prune any overgrown bushes or nearby trees, as they can provide cover for anyone trying to hide from view
- Identify areas that may be vulnerable to forced entry and have them made more secure
- Install CCTV that comes with phone apps to view your premises remotely from your home, some even come with alert notifications to alert you to movements

Equipment and tool security

- Lock equipment away in a secure building or part of a building when not in use, and install a burglar alarm on buildings where equipment is kept
- Mark your tools and equipment and register your valuables using an accredited property database; take photographs and keep receipts related to your property so you can prove ownership
- Always lock farm vehicles when left outside and keep expensive items and vehicles out of sight when not in use
- Consider using hitch locks, wheel clamps or ground anchors

Estate and building security

- Keep the boundaries of your land and property well-maintained
- Keep all doors and windows shut and locked when not in use, and make sure frames in good repair
- Fit strong locks to sheds, garages and outbuildings, or consider security bars and grilles for vulnerable windows
- Use locking posts or temporary obstructions to control wide access points to yards
- Establish a single gated entrance and exit, removing all private access points that are not in use



Protect your land

- Look closely at the perimeter to ensure it is as secure as possible
- Restrict vehicle access by digging deep ditches
- Consider using large tree trunks, rocks, ditching and earth mounds around boundaries to prevent access
- Keep unused land maintained and free from litter and other waste

If you think an offence has or will soon be committed, let us know online/101, if you’re not sure it’s a crime, we’d rather hear from you and determine that ourselves – in a crime in action, always call 999.

You can also anonymously report rural crime to The National Farmers' Union's Reporting Line on 0800 783 0137.

SUMMER Operation Magpie, burglary awareness, advice and updates

Over the last year reports of burglary have dropped across Sussex. The lockdown measures that have been in place across the UK have undoubtedly contributed to this reduction and as lockdown measures continue to ease and with Summer approaching, we want to keep it this way.

Year to year (June 2020 – May 2021) across the Wealden district we have seen a decrease of 50.5% in burglaries, including residential, non-residential, and business burglary classes - (more crime statistics can be found on www.police.uk/pu/your-area/)

Breakdown by area in the last few months:

- 50% decrease in burglaries (all classes) in Hailsham*
- 65% decrease in burglaries (all classes) in Heathfield*
- 42% decrease in burglaries (all classes) in Crowborough*
- 42.9% decrease in burglaries (all classes) in Uckfield*
- 54.2% decrease in burglaries (all classes) in Polegate *during the period January 2021 – March 2021 vs the same period of 2020

Detective Chief Inspector Alasdair Henry said: "As the Government road map out of lockdown continues; with some people beginning to return to their place of work, the hospitality sector opening up more services, and local residents looking at taking a 'staycation'; means more people will likely be away from their homes, and properties will be left empty for longer periods of time.

"We should anticipate that burglars will see this change in lifestyle as an opportunity and emerge to target empty properties. We know the devastating and lasting effect that burglary has on victims and that it's a personal crime which is keenly felt."



To protect your property, you can find practical prevention here www.sussex.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/residential-burglary/ that covers everything from:

- Protecting your home including information on door and window locks
- Tips on how keep burglars out of your property
- Advice on keeping your shed or garage safe and secure

Please also look into registering your belongings on the Immobilise National Property Register. If your valuables are stolen it will allow you to tell the police, your insurer and second-hand traders to assist in recovering your property and help to trace offenders. www.immobilise.com/

Scam awareness - Support and advice

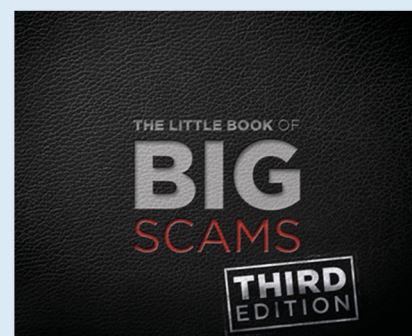
Residents can also view a digital copy of our latest Little Book of Big Scams and/or download a copy here:

www.sussex.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/media/downloads/sussex/advice/operations-initiatives-and-watch-schemes/operation-signature/the-little-book-of-scams

Alternately you can obtain one from your local front office/Police contact point in **Hailsham**, **Uckfield** and **Crowborough**.

The Little Book of Big Scams is a very useful booklet that covers different types of fraud and explains many of the scams currently operating in the UK.

We hope it will increase your awareness of scams, and teach you some easy steps that you can take to protect yourself, friends and family, and those around you.



SUMMER – This Summer follow our top tips for keeping yourself and those around safe from fraudsters and scams.



- Be suspicious of all 'too good to be true' offers and deals.
- Don't agree to offers or deals immediately. Insist on time to get independent or legal advice before making a decision.
- Don't hand over money or sign anything until you've checked someone's credentials and their company's.
- Never send money to anyone you don't know or trust, whether in the UK or abroad, or use methods of payment you're not comfortable with.
- Never give banking or personal details to anyone you don't know or trust.

-If you spot a scam or have been scammed, report it and get help. Contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or visit Action Fraud online www.actionfraud.police.uk/.

-Call us on 101 if you know the suspect, or they're still in the area.

-Don't be embarrassed about reporting a scam. Because the scammers are cunning and clever there's no shame in being deceived.

-By reporting it, you'll make it more difficult for them to deceive others. Contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or at Action Fraud online www.actionfraud.police.uk/.

You can also visit our website for the latest scam and fraud advice, support and top tips, including a monthly fraud newsletter here: www.sussex.police.uk/police-forces/sussex-police/areas/campaigns/campaigns/fraud/



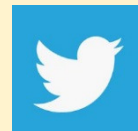
Are you in the know? Did you know that you can sign up to witness appeals, crime updates, crime prevention advice, local Police news and more via the community messaging service In The Know?

Visit: www.intheknow.community/ to sign up today.

To further keep up to date on your local Police team you can also follow your local Neighbourhood Policing Team on social media by clicking the icons below, for up to date community news, snapshots and events in your local area.



www.facebook.com/WealdenPolice



www.twitter.com/wealden

