

# Your Local Police Newsletter

November 2022

Dear Parishes,

This is a more generic newsletter for the Sevenoaks district, within are the updates that we think will be of interest to yourselves and residents.

## **Swanley & Local areas**

Ongoing enquiries are being made to identify youths involved in a disturbance in the Swanley centre on the 31<sup>st</sup> October where fireworks were set off towards members of the public. On the 15th November, the Community Policing Team had a successful arrest of a male responsible for a residential burglary in Dunton Green who was also wanted for a similar offence in Hertford. A short Police pursuit occurred along Wested Road, Swanley where a member of the public's car was hit but no-one injured.

Enquiries are being made into numerous calls for a nuisance bike and rider frequently seen around New Barn Road, Swanley Park. Unfortunately images sent into the Police often only show the rider wearing a balaclava so progressing the matter is difficult but we have a name in the pot for one of the riders who we will be monitoring.

## **New Ash Green & Local areas**

Extra patrols have been attending the New Ash Green area over the past 6 weeks in response to a rise in anti social behaviour type calls. We are pleased to say the level of reports coming in to the Police has fallen. Several youths identified from CCTV have been served acceptable behaviour agreements with parents present.

A male linked to a serious assault earlier in the year has now been charged for this offence. Flytipping in Crowhurst lane, located by Police, has been referred to the Environmental Health department of Sevenoaks Council who are investigating the matter through items located within the waste.

## **Sevenoaks & Local areas**

One young male was detained on the evening of the Sevenoaks Fireworks display for ignighting and throwing an adult firework on the High Street, they are subsequently being dealt with by the youth justice team.

Three town centre pubs in Sevenoaks gain "Best Bar None" accreditation.

Sevenoaks Best Bar None scheme was launched in the summer of 2022. Backed by the Home Office, the scheme works in partnership with the alcohol industry, local authorities and the police to promote responsible drinking and higher professional licensing standards in bars and pubs.

Town centre officer PC Nick Hubbard said: "Best Bar None creates strong links between licensees, the police and local authorities which are so important when it comes to promoting safe places to socialise. I'm delighted to award The Sennockian, The Oak Tavern and The Restoration their accreditations. All licensed premises have undergone a rigorous assessment and worked incredibly hard to achieve this benchmark standard and should be proud of their achievements. The scheme is in its infancy stage in Sevenoaks and has a vision to expand in the New Year.

The purpose of the Best Bar None Scheme

- To reduce alcohol related crime and disorder
- To build a positive relationship between licensed trade, police and local authorities and the private sector

- To improve knowledge and skills of enforcement and regulation agencies, licensees and bar staff to help them responsibly manage licensed premises
- Process of becoming recognised by BBN includes meeting minimum standards and culminates with an accreditation
- Responsible owners are recognised and able to share good practice with others
- Highlight how operating more responsibly can improve the profitability of an individual business and attractiveness of a general area.

#### Why should we have a Best Bar None Scheme?

- To promote the town as a safe place to go at night.
- It shows a willingness to address alcohol related crime and anti-social behaviour through the promotion of good practice and education.
- It is acknowledged by the Home Office as having a positive effect on the night time economy.
- It promotes a partnership approach to resolving issues.

Two suspected bulk shoplifters from London have been swiftly tracked down and arrested by a Sevenoaks patrol. During the afternoon on Sunday 20 November 2022, staff at Boots the Chemist in the High Street reported two women had left the store without paying for a large quantity of items. A Sevenoaks patrol quickly responded and with the assistance of CCTV operators, the two females were stopped on The Drive, Sevenoaks. Both were arrested and taken into custody. Police located and seized the stolen cosmetic items valued at around £2,000.

A female from Ilford was charged with theft. Her associate, a juvenile was given bail. The female is due to appear before Sevenoaks Magistrates Court on 08 December.

Sevenoaks Town centre officer PC Hubbard said "Part of my role is to identify and bring to justice the offenders causing the most harm to the district. These two suspects are likely part of a group of organised individuals that have been identified in relation to a run of high value shop theft offences involving cosmetics. The economic impact of these types of thefts is profound. Retailers face increased costs for lost product, security, and labour, which leads to higher prices for consumers and ultimately, lower sales. Retail crime is not a victimless crime. It is a crime a gateway crime that is intrinsically linked to more serious offending."

### **Edenbridge & Local areas**

Edenbridge Fireworks was a great success with no incidents occurring that were reported to the Police.

Christmas Lighting up event on the High Street was attended by the CSU and other partners. It provided a good engagement opportunity and a quantity of timer switches were provided to members of the public for home security along with personal attack alarms in line with our commitment to reduce violence against women and girls.

The area is still subject to calls in regards to nuisance bikes but there has been a significant reduction in this call type along with ASB in the Spittals Cross area. We still encourage residents to report all incidents so that we can maintain a current picture of issues in the area.

### **Crime Prevention & General Advice**

As the darker evenings are upon us and people start their Christmas shopping, we are urging Kent residents to ensure their homes are as secure as possible to deter thieves.

So far this financial year, Kent Police has recorded 3,107 residential burglaries and officers recognise that the autumn and winter months do tend to see a spike in reported incidents. The extra hours of darkness combined with residents being out enjoying festive events can give thieves the time they need to break into homes and steal valuable items.

Officers at Kent Police recognise this trend and every year, between November and January, take the opportunity to remind people of the ways in which they can improve on their home security and offer advice online and via social media to help prevent as many burglaries as possible. The public are also urged to be vigilant and report anything suspicious straight away.

Shoppers getting in early with their Christmas gifts are encouraged not to keep valuables on display in their homes near to windows and doors, and to ensure any packaging is not left outside, which is inviting for thieves. Homeowners are also advised to make sure windows, side gates and garages are securely locked, and burglar alarms are on. You should also consider marking valuables to assist with identification if stolen.

But, we'd also like to reassure residents that since 2019, Kent Police has had a dedicated team of officers and detectives who focus heavily on catching burglars and putting them before the courts. They have secured more than 1,500 years in prison sentences.

Just this week, the team secured a six-year prison sentence for a prolific burglar in Tunbridge Wells.

Michael Maloney from Nettle Way, Minster-on-Sea broke into homes in the area while the owners were out and stole valuable items such as jewellery and cash.

Three suspects are also due to appear in court having been charged with burgling homes in Ashford and Borough Green. The trio allegedly smashed windows to gain entry and stole items of high value, such as jewellery and bank cards.

Superintendent Pete Steenhuis said: *'Preventing burglaries and bringing offenders to justice is a top priority throughout the year for Kent Police. However, we have historically seen an increase in reports during the weeks between Halloween and Christmas.*

*'Our focus is on catching and convicting offenders whilst encouraging people to take simple crime prevention steps to keep their properties secure.*

*'Burglary is a terrible crime that can leave victims feeling scared and anxious long after the offences have taken place and we want to do all we can to make this even less likely to occur.'*

*'Any suspicious behaviour should always be reported via the Kent Police website or call 101 if you do not have access to the internet. In the event of an emergency, or if a crime is in progress, always call 999.'*

The new My Community Voice two-way messaging service is also a great way for people to receive regular alerts and advice on the issues that matter most to them. Register your details at [www.MyCommunityVoiceKent.co.uk](http://www.MyCommunityVoiceKent.co.uk).

For more advice visit [Kent Against Burglary | Kent Police](#)

Incidents can also be reported to the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555111 or completing their online [form](#).

Is there a speedwatch group in your area that is now dormant? Would you like help to set up a new one or revitalise an old one. Contact speedwatch [www.communityspeedwatch.org](http://www.communityspeedwatch.org) or e-mail Sevenoaks CSU [csu.sevenoaks@kent.police.uk](mailto:csu.sevenoaks@kent.police.uk) for assistance.

