

Parish Council monthly update

Benenden

March/2020

Your Local PCSO is : Simon HUMPHREYS

Ward News:

The PCSO's are maintaining as much high visibility within your communities where possible. They have been tasked to pay particular attention to areas where there is likely to be a higher footfall, such as supermarkets and local parks to ensure that the Government Social Distancing rules are being applied.

If you see them out and about taking your 'once a day exercise' then give them a wave and a smile – it is always appreciated.

Regarding Crime for your ward and any developing trends, we would like to advise you of the following;

Residential Burglaries and Thefts from Motor vehicles : Please see Advice from our dedicated Crime Prevention PCSO below.

Criminal Damage and Public Order incidents for this Month and February 2020 have shown a small increase – These were not isolated to specific areas, with no trends emerging.

Remain vigilant in reporting any suspicious or Anti Social activity in your area and we will continue to assist where we can.

Rest assured there is a long list of crimes that evidence no increase or even a decline in specific areas. We are taking this opportunity to raise awareness for your area regarding crime prevention. Prevention is key.

Of Note; There has been a distinct increase across the Tunbridge Wells District of thefts from allotments. I have tasked each ward PCSO to make contact with the Parish Councils to offer Crime Prevention advice and this to be disseminated to the community – If you have any questions or wish to have further information – please do not hesitate to contact you Ward PCSO. They will be able to furnish you with advice and support around this specific Crime – please refer to the below advice as well.



**Kent
Police**

For more information about policing in your area, visit **www.kent.police.uk**

To report a non-urgent crime online, visit **www.kent.police.uk/contactus**

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Crime Prevention Advice

External

1. A garden / site clear up. Please ensure there is nothing lying about that can be used to cause damage , or to assist with gaining entry to your house or property. Quite often offenders will use your garden tools and items left lying around to assist in entry.
2. Security lighting and CCTV. Please ensure if it is fitted it is of a suitable height that cannot be reached and damaged.
3. The installation of a ring type door bell. These can notify you of anyone at your door and also has a CCTV facility.
4. Suitable locks on the side gates to prevent access to the rear by unwanted persons.
5. Replace, or repair the broken fence panels.

Internal

1. The installation of a safe / strong box in the loft which is secured to a joist and hidden by the insulation.
2. The installation of an alarm. I have included a link to show what is available and what they do.

<https://www.which.co.uk/reviews/burglar-alarms-and-home-security/article/burglar-alarms-and-home-security/burglar-alarms>

Ensure that an alarm box is fitted and it is in a prominent position. A visible sensor that can be seen if anyone looks into the house if they are close enough is a deterrent.

3. The installation of blinds / shutters.
5. Consider the installation of locks on bedrooms. If you are out all day it is worth considering the locking of the bedroom doors. If someone enters your house, it is all about slowing them down and making their life more difficult.

Property

1. Please photograph and catalogue all items of value. Note any serial number and identifying mark.

They can be marked with; UV Pens / Smart Water



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As I am sure you are aware with COVID19 the Police Service are doing all that they can to support their communities at this time.

With a number of restrictions being placed on all emergency services, we are still trying to maintain as much contact and reassurance as and where we can.

The details for your local PCSO has been added to the Newsletter and so any concerns or queries can be directed to them. They will do their best to offer guidance and safeguarding advice on anything you might have to report to them. I would advise that we are doing as much of our work over the telephone as we can to reduce the risk of exposure to anything for our staff and for the members of public that they are dealing with.

We do ask that you come together as a community and be aware of, for example, any vulnerable members of your street or villages. There are many services being set up as we speak to offer support to anyone who is considered as High Risk or vulnerable. We are working closely with housing, as well as agencies and charities who deal specifically with the elderly or vulnerable.

I am saddened to report that there are criminals who are trying to benefit from the current climate. We have attached a number of leaflets regarding these scams and ask that they are spread far and wide amongst your communities, ensuring that we reach as many of their target members as possible. Our advice is that if you have any concerns regarding cold callers on the phone or in person, then do not engage. The likelihood of banks or companies contacting you regarding moving money or paying fines right now is very low. We recommend that you do not engage, certainly do not pass on any personal details over the phone, and hang up or close the door (at best, do not even answer the door) You can then at a later time call and make checks with your banks or companies to see if they have legitimately tried to make contact with you.

We do advertise as much as we can regarding the scams that are taking place on the likes of social Media, Twitter and such like, but this is often not reaching the intended target audience. Therefore please make contact with people who you know may be vulnerable to these scams, family members, friends or neighbours.

Finally we would like to reiterate the current Government guidance around Social Isolating and imploring you to adhere to these rules, we can come out of this, but it needs us to pull together and ensure we are protecting those from the spread of this.

Stay at home:

- 1) Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home)
- 2) If you go out, stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people at all times

Wash your hands as soon as you get home

- 3) Do not meet others, even friends or family.

You can spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms.



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<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>



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