

Lewes District Prevention Team Community Newsletter

Spring 2020



A statement from Lewes Prevention Inspector Ripley – May 2020

I'd like to open our Spring Newsletter with a big THANK YOU to residents of Lewes District for everything that you have done to keep people safe during the Coronavirus lockdown.

It has been a challenging period for everyone; my officers have had the unenviable and difficult task of explaining the government guidelines to the public and managing expectation. It has been interesting to hear people's thoughts and feelings around how we should police the lockdown and I've ensured that your feedback has been shared with my Commanders.

The priority of my team is to keep people safe and I'm grateful for your patience and compliance; this is new to all of us and my team have appreciated the kind support that you have given them.



My thanks go to all key workers across Lewes District who have stepped up in unprecedented times to maintain 'business as usual' in our communities. I've heard of inspirational acts of kindness and I'm reassured by a strong sense of community within our neighbourhoods.

I was inspired by how the Lewes community came together to shine a light through difficult times; Clap for Carers and the recent Light Up Lewes event demonstrated how communities stand shoulder to shoulder to help and support each other to adapt and adjust to a new normality.

My local team has achieved some very positive results around drug dealing, burglary and violent crime, as well as tackling anti-social behaviour in our towns and villages.

Back in August 2019 I launched the Multi-Agency Team in Seahaven to bring agencies together to prevent and respond to harm, keep people safe and feeling safe and safeguard vulnerable people. My team continue to work together out of Newhaven Fire Station - Saxon House and they have achieved some great results, in particular around engagement, diversion and support of young people leading to a reduction in anti-social behaviour crime and disorder at hot-spot locations in Newhaven.

At the end of March 2020 I launched the Lewes Multi-Agency Team. We are working together in Lewes Town Centre with a common purpose of reducing Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Disorder within our neighbourhoods. As a team we have identified and reported a suspect for anti-social behaviour and criminal damage in Green Wall and The Depot, and are taking proactive steps to curb anti-social behaviour as the lockdown measures are gradually eased.

Rest assured that despite Covid-19 we will continue to respond when you need us and will continue to tackle the problems that matter to you the most.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Business crime updates – advice for local businesses and business owners during the current Covid-19 pandemic



Local businesses are being urged to ensure their premises are sufficiently protected during the Covid-19 outbreak, following an increase in organised acquisitive crime across the county – including burglaries of business premises – as such the district has seen an increase in police patrols and proactive targeting of known local criminals.

Detective Chief Inspector Alasdair Henry, burglary prevention lead for Sussex Police, said: “We take burglary very seriously. Staff across the force are working hard to prevent an increase in burglary and we are ready to respond to any spikes in such criminality.

“We are urging business owners to ensure that they have sufficient and robust security features in place and that they are in full working order. Security cameras should be checked and owners need to make sure that any service doors are both secure and locked”.

“Owners of high value jewellery are encouraged to ensure it is securely locked away in the house, ideally in a safe or similar secure storage, rather than being left in drawers or cupboards.

Residents should ensure that doors to their homes are kept locked, especially overnight, but also when they might be out enjoying their gardens, and that they have measures in place to keep their residence secure.

It is vital that we all work together to disrupt organised crime and prevent opportunistic burglaries. Our Sussex Police website provides some excellent detailed advice on how to protect your property from crime”.

“Please do not hesitate to report suspicious activity to us. This includes reporting people trying to sell items that you suspect are stolen.

If you have any information concerning burglary or people selling stolen goods, please get in touch with us immediately online on our Sussex Police website, or by calling 101.

You can also report anonymously to the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or by visiting their website www.crimestoppers-uk.org/”.

Always remember: In an emergency, such as a crime in progress, or burglary where suspects are still on the scene, please dial 999.



Thank you too, to our Police Specials and Volunteers

As well as thanking members of the public who are following the latest Government guidelines, Sussex Police is also highlighting the work of the Special Constabulary – its volunteer police officers who, alongside police officers and PCSOs, are working on the frontline.



Specials have contributed 410 shifts - a total of 3,411 hours - of their own spare time to support this national effort since the lockdown was put in place earlier this year.

The force also has 61 student police officers currently undergoing a condensed nine-week training course; adapted for current conditions, who will be ready to deploy in June this year with dedicated coaches as part of the Government’s on-going programme to recruit additional police officers across the Country.

Every Mind Matters – Looking after your mental health

All over the country, people are staying at home to protect the NHS and save lives.

It's not always easy – we can feel frustrated, miss loved ones or get anxious. But we're in this together and there is support out there. It's important to remember it is OK to feel this way and that everyone reacts differently, remember; this situation is temporary and, for most of us, these difficult feelings will pass.

Every Mind Matters gives you simple and practical advice to get a healthier mind and get more out of life – from how to deal with stress and anxiety, to boosting our mood or sleeping better. It will help you spot the signs of common mental health conditions, get personalised practical self-care tips and information on further support.



You'll also learn about what you can do to help others, and how to look after each other.

Every Mind Matters is here to help, giving you access to simple steps to help deal with stress, boost your mood and feel on top of things.

Visit <http://www.everymindmatters.co.uk> for support and top tips to look after your mental health during this current climate and get your personalised Mind Plan.

Lewes Police Teams continue to be humbled by your well wishes

We would like to take the opportunity to thank each and every one of you in our communities who have stopped us on their daily exercise to brighten up our day with well wishes, also to those who have written in to the Police stations, or helped to donate various items to key workers, as well as vulnerable members of our community – thank you all for your kind messages of support and well wishes during these difficult times.



This month the team were most humbled to receive handmade treats and snacks, to fuel them for the day, as well as various thank you and rainbow cards to brighten up their day – thank you from all the officers, staff, and teams at stations across the Lewes district!



As we head into Summer months, the safety and welfare of local communities continues to remain our top priority.

We would like to reassure our communities, that there are no crime types that we would no longer respond to and we will not stop arresting people – you should continue to call 999 in an emergency where a crime is in progress or there is a threat to life.

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 lines and resources - our online services offer you the option to self-report, which will be then be prioritised and actioned.

Help us help you by using our website for all non-emergency help and support; where not only can you find our most up to date crime prevention advice, but you can also quickly search for advice and securely report non-emergency crimes to us.

Community engagement throughout the last few months

Engagement is still the uppermost priority for us during the Covid-19 lockdown – although the way we engage with our communities has changed, our priorities and policing approach during the lockdown remains the same; we are still patrolling, we are still engaging with the public and we are still taking appropriate enforcement action to disrupt criminals and protect your communities.

PCSOs play a key part of your local policing service - working alongside and supporting police officer colleagues in solving local problems; by addressing local issues by getting out into towns and villages across the district on high visibility foot patrols, gathering intelligence, meeting people and offering advice and support to members of the public.

What follows is just a snapshot of our patrols and engagement over the last few months:

- PCSO Disney continued patrols of Seaford following reports of door step scams, and offered residents of the town advice and support
- PCSO Fenn met with Kingston Pavilion Committee members to talk about crime prevention following the sports areas being closed
- Following your reports of youth related ASB and continued use of park areas in Newhaven, PCSOs Nicholson and Disney provided additional patrols around areas of concern to prevent further issues
- Following your reports of suspicious vehicles in the Peacehaven and Seaford area, patrols were stepped up on the coast, resulting in 2 people being arrested and charged with theft from residents in the area
- Patrols of our rural villages, including Newick, Chailey and Plumpton have increased to keep an eye out for any suspicious activities that present a risk to small businesses whilst they are currently closed
- PCSOs Osborne and Cox continued their regular patrols across areas of Peacehaven and surrounds, ensuring youngsters were adhering to the Covid-19 guidance whilst local parks are closed
- PCSOs Kent and McNirlan have been monitoring anti-social behaviour from nuisance motorbikes in Saltdean and Peacehaven, patrols at peak times, as well as teaming up with Operation Blitz patrols has seen a decrease in ASB reports in the area



- PCSO Castle took to Lewes town with PCSO Osborne, to check in on closed businesses in the town centre, checking that premises were secure following reports of break into closed businesses in other districts
- The team were joined by colleagues from Roads Policing to conduct speed checks in Ditchling following concerns from residents about the increase in speeding through the village
- Rural patrols of Ringmer, Barcombe and Cooksbridge continued following burglaries of farming equipment in the area, farmers and residents have been given rural crime prevention advice and contact details of rural PCSOs on the district, and together with residents we continue to work together to prevent further harm
- Throughout the last few weeks, Officers have offered support to local businesses and supermarkets following the recent changes to how we shop, and to assist staff in encouraging Covid-19 measures

Follow your local team on social media for daily snapshots of patrols and engagements across the Lewes district.

Police grants to local groups assisting others during Covid-19 pandemic – Police Property Act Fund

Did you know we are offering grants to local groups assisting others during Covid-19?

The Police Property Act Fund (PPAF) is made up of monies received by the police from the sale of found property and from property confiscated by order of court and then sold.

Across the Lewes district these past few months various groups have benefited from the funds made available, including; The Hangleton & Knoll Project and Lewes Coronavirus Volunteers - Trinity Church Lewes, who are providing vital services for vulnerable local people during the pandemic and we're only too pleased to be able to support their work by giving back to society from the proceeds of the Police Property Act Fund.

Another community group to also benefit is FareShare, who distribute surplus food supplies, donated by supermarkets, to front line charities and community groups. Their work is more crucial than ever before and they have just been awarded a grant for their ongoing efforts during Covid-19.



FareShare said: "We will be using the money to fit out our amazing extra volunteers with safety gear and training. This will help us get more food out to more people as quickly as we can."

The main aim of the fund is to support local projects undertaken by voluntary/charitable organisations that solely benefit the communities of Sussex - to find out more click the link www.sussex.police.uk/police-forces/sussex-police/areas/au/about-us/charity-and-community/police-property-act-fund-ppaf/ or search 'PPAF' on the Sussex Police website.

Ringmer Meet and Greet – Virtual meet and greet for Ringmer residents Sunday 7th June 2020

My name is PCSO Abi Castle and I am your new local officer for Ringmer. I would like to introduce myself to you all, as well as my team and the work we do. I have been your local officer since February 2020, and in that time I have been doing my best to get to know the local area.

I ran a community meeting in March, where I was able to meet some local residents and hear their concerns and ideas. Unfortunately due to the current global situation, I am unable to run another face-to-face meeting for those who missed out.



Virtual meet your PCSO

10am – 2pm

With Ringmer PCSO Abi Castle,
on Sunday 7th June



In these difficult times, I want to ensure your voices are heard and so on **Sunday 7th June 2020**, I will be dedicating 4 hours between 10am-2pm to respond to your concerns via email.

Please email me on abigail.castle@sussex.pnn.police.uk before the 7th June to let me know about issues occurring within the local area, ideas for future police engagement, and anything else you may wish to make me aware of.

I operate as a part of your local Lewes Prevention Team. We cover all areas of Lewes, Ringmer, right up to Wivelsfield; as well as down through the coast, including Telscombe Cliffe, Peacehaven, Seaford and Newhaven.

I look forward to hearing from you, and being able to respond to as many questions as possible on the day, all the best - **PCSO Castle**.

Support and advice for victims of domestic abuse – At home, shouldn't mean at risk

Encouraging the reporting of domestic abuse and ensuring any victims can receive help and support during this period remains a policing priority - During this Covid-19 pandemic, limited contact with the outside world may make you or someone you know feel unsafe because of the increased risk of domestic abuse.



No one should live in fear of a partner or family member - We are still here for you 24/7, in the same way we always are, call us for help or 101, or 999 in an emergency and we will respond, if safer please contact us online.

DCC Shiner said: "In the past few weeks, we have started to see an upwards trend in domestic violence crimes following a dip and we expect this to rise further when lockdown measures are eased or modified.

We have adapted to ensure we can support people at risk and find them a safe space. We will always pursue offenders."

Some of the specific measures in place include:

- dedicated 'domestic abuse' cars across Sussex, responding to medium risk incidents - Emergency response officers will always respond quickly to high risk incidents.
- a new specialist team able to deal with any non-urgent cases by appointment and this has included a new video appointment service where conversations can't take place face to face.
- the launch of awareness at local supermarkets, with signage at entrances and take-away information.

If you're a victim of domestic abuse, or know someone who is, and there's an emergency that's ongoing or life is in danger, call police on 999. If you can't talk because the perpetrator is nearby, you can press the numbers '55' into your mobile phone which will alert the operator of your circumstances.

The Sussex Safe Space website also provides a directory of help and support available near you click the link here www.safespacesussex.org.uk/ or search 'Sussex Safe Space' online.

Lewes welcomes a new district commander

This Spring saw newly appointment District Commanders for East Sussex, including Chief Inspector Di Lewis for Eastbourne and Lewes.



Chief Inspector Di Lewis said: "I am delighted to be taking up the post of district commander for Eastbourne and Lewes and looking forward to working with partners, staff and volunteers in serving the communities across the district.

"I have been a police officer for more than 26 years with a wealth of operational experience as well as supporting our staff through periods of significant change.

"In the early part of my career I worked as a sergeant at Uckfield, then on promotion to inspector at Gatwick. I worked as the inspector in charge of Sussex and Surrey Dog Unit and then as the head of alcohol licensing across Sussex – working with partners to minimise the impact of alcohol on local communities

"I am moving from a chief inspector role in our command and control department, and I look forward to using my policing knowledge and experience to keep the communities of Eastbourne and Lewes towns and villages safe."

Significant arrests - March – May 2020

The safety and welfare of local communities continues to remain our top priority during the current climate; and we continue to work with our partner agencies in these unprecedented times to ensure everyone is kept safe.

There are no crime types that we would no longer respond to and we will not stop arresting people – you should continue to call 999 in an emergency where a crime is in progress or there is a threat to life.

What follows below a just a few arrests from the last few months:

February - Three men were arrested following a police pursuit which concluded in Lewes. Police were alerted to a blue Ford Transit van which activate an ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) camera in Brighton. The number plate was identified as being connected with thefts of vehicles across the district, the three suspects detained at the scene.



March - A man who broke into a pharmacy in Ringmer and stole a quantity of controlled drugs was charged with burglary after being arrested by officers responding to reports of a break-in at Lloyds Pharmacy, on Anchor Field.

Officers arrived on the scene within minutes and shortly afterwards, spotted a man walking along nearby Lewes Road who matched the description of the intruder as given by the caller and was subsequently arrested at the scene.

March - An HGV driver was arrested and charged with drink-driving after he was reported by an off-duty police officer and stopped in his vehicle on the A27 at Beddingham.

He failed a roadside breath test, with 86mcg of alcohol per 100ml of breath in his system - the legal limit is 35mcg.

March - A teenager was arrested for public order offences following numerous reports of a group of youths causing a disturbance around the Meridian Centre in Peacehaven.

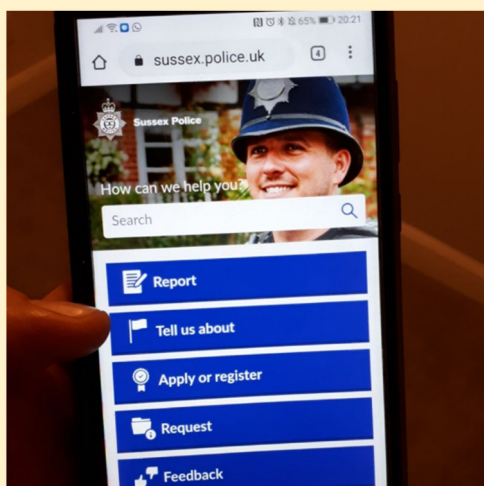
The 16-year-old boy from the town has since been referred to the Youth Offending Service.

April - Police acting on community intelligence arrested and charged a man and a woman with burglary and theft in Peacehaven following the victim having taken photographs of a van suspected of being involved in the burglary.

Police recovered a number of suspected stolen items in the van likely belonging to people in the Seaford, Newhaven, Peacehaven and Saltdean areas.

The male was charged with two counts of theft, and the female was charged with three.

May - A 17-year-old boy was charged with handling stolen goods in relation to a robbery in Peacehaven, he will be appearing at Brighton Magistrates' Court later this month.



Reports, and local intelligence from members of our communities help to contribute to these arrests; please continue to report any suspicious activities, vehicles, or persons to us, either online or to 101 for non-emergencies, and always to 999 in an emergency or crime in action.

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 lines and resources

Our online services offer you the option to self-report, which will be then be prioritised and actioned, to report online, please visit www.sussex.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/ or use the 'report' tab on our Sussex Police website.

Advice and support for victims of stalking and harassment

Stalking is when someone shows repeated and unwanted attention towards another person. Often when individual incidents are put together they can reveal a pattern of fixated and obsessive behaviour.

For those affected by stalking, the current lockdown measures and self-isolation as a result of Covid-19 has seen an increase in stalking activity online.

Stalking is a crime that is distressing and malicious, and is something no one should have to put up with - Remember, we're always here to advise you and if you feel you're being stalked or harassed, report it.



Trust your instincts, and always contact us – We have a range of advice on our website, from protecting yourself in person, over the phone or over the internet, as well as further agencies and support organisations who can help:

Visit the link here to access this advice

www.sussex.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/harassment/sh/stalking-and-harassment-advice/what-you-can-do-about-stalking-and-harassment/

Operation Blitz – Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in your local communities

Antisocial behaviour can have a lasting impact on neighbourhoods and communities as it often leads to an increase in crime, particularly violence and criminal damage.



Operation Blitz is a designated ASB patrol, and an on-going drive, each **Friday** and **Saturday** night between 4pm-10pm (during the Spring/Summer months, and in addition to our weekly patrols across the district), in which officers from the Lewes district Prevention team 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 your reports over the week.

Our additional ASB patrols continue during the current Covid-19 pandemic.

From 4pm-10pm, you can call officers on a designated phone number should you witness or become victim of any ASB, or youth related ASB. The contact number for the Lewes District is: **07989 188960**.

Your Lewes team covers districts from Northern Lewes, including Wivelsfield and surround, Ringmer, down through Lewes, and surrounds; and along our coastal towns, Telscombe, Newhaven, Peacehaven, and Seaford.

Outside of these times, please continue to report ASB to us on 101, or report online on the newly designed ASB reporting form: www.sussex.police.uk/ro/report/asb/af/antisocial-behaviour/

Whilst we continue to direct patrols to known areas of ASB to prevent further occurrences; no one knows your neighbourhood quite like you do - If you have any concerns within your local community around ASB, please report it to us by either calling 101, or visiting our website www.sussex.police.uk - alternatively you can contact the independent charity Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111, or online at www.crimestoppers-uk.org.

Your reports help to form designated patrols across the district, and assist your local Prevention team in intervening early, to help prevent ASB and crime and disorder from occurring across your towns and villages.

Remember if an offence is occurring, or there is an immediate danger to you or those around you, **always call 999**.

Beware of fraudsters that may try to call or knock on your door – Covid-19 scams in Sussex

Sussex Police have received reports of Covid-19 Fraud - One from the carer of an elderly gentleman who received a phone call to say someone would be coming to test him for Covid-19, and another of people have reported receiving cold calls 'selling' face masks.

One caller told the person due to their age it was needed and both began asking for personal and financial information. Luckily the two people realised this was a scam, hung up and reported it.



Please make elderly relatives aware that these are scams. Hang up or close the door immediately.

Now, more than ever, we want to remind you to:

- Check people are who they say they are when they phone you
- Never send money or financial details to anyone who you don't know or don't trust
- Keep your personal information to yourself
- Make decisions in your own time – don't be rushed
- Phone a relative or friend for help or advice
- Do not be embarrassed to report it to us, you could also prevent someone else falling for similar scams

If you have been a victim of any scam, report it to Action Fraud www.actionfraud.police.uk - Suspicious emails can also be reported to report@phishing.gov.uk.

Stay Alert – Control The Virus – Save Lives

We continue to thank the vast majority of Sussex residents who continue to observe the latest Government advice and maintain social distancing to ensure the cases of coronavirus do not suddenly escalate.

Together with all our colleagues, partner agencies and key workers who are responding to this unprecedented pandemic, we continue to work hard daily to keep people safe and protect the most vulnerable, and save lives.

But we are not over this national health emergency yet and we ask the public to follow the latest Government advice, continue to follow the guidance, and only change behaviours as new advice is provided.



We all know it's frustrating when you see or hear of others who aren't doing their bit, and that many people are getting irritable and wound up.

We also know this is not easy, for anyone, but we also all know it is not forever.

Please continue to follow the latest guidance issued by the Government, and do not make changes to current behaviours until new guidance is issued.

For the most up to date advice and guidance on Covid-19 measures, please refer to the Government website here, www.gov.uk/coronavirus

You can also keep up to date on the latest Policing news during the Covid-19 pandemic by regularly visiting our news page here www.sussex.police.uk/news/sussex/news/ or by searching 'Sussex Police News' online.

Rural community advice and support

Rural crime is an issue for our village and farm communities on the Lewes district, it can impact on insurance premiums, food prices and can cause damage to our local communities - **Our Policing commitment to rural communities continues to be a priority during the current climate.**

We have created the below crime prevention advice, to help offer support and raise awareness to farm owners and rural residents in areas that may not have access to a local Police station or Police contact point; to pass on valuable crime prevention advice and safeguarding techniques to help you keep your properties, machinery, livestock and outbuildings safe from theft and criminal damage.

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 them online
- 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 land and property well-maintained and secure
- Keep all doors and windows shut and locked when not in use, and make sure windows and door frames are secure and in good repair with good quality window locks
- 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
- Consider using large tree trunks, rocks, ditching and earth mounds around boundaries to prevent access
- Restrict vehicle access by digging deep ditches
- Keep unused land maintained and free from litter and other waste



Livestock theft

- Make regular checks of the fields where animals are kept to check that fences haven't been breached
- Use ear tags, horn brands, freeze marking or tattooing to make your animals more easily identifiable
- Keep your hedges, fences and gates in good repair: field gate hinges should have capping hinges so they can't be removed easily; cattle grids should be removable and locked out of position when they're not in use; use locking posts to obstruct large openings

Please do not hesitate to report suspicious activity around local businesses and rural areas to us.

If you have any information concerning burglary or people selling stolen goods, please get in touch with us immediately online on our Sussex Police website, or by calling 101.

Always remember: In an emergency, such as a crime in progress, or burglary where suspects are still on the scene, please dial 999.

Spring/Summer months – Rogue traders come in all shapes and sizes, and at all times of the year.

This winter follow our top tips for keeping you and those around you safe from fraud 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. This information is valuable so make sure you protect it

-If you spot a scam or have been scammed, report it and get help; contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or on the Action Fraud official website www.actionfraud.police.uk, or call 101 if you know the suspect or there are local

-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 help to make it more difficult for them to deceive others.

A digital copy of the Little Book of Big Scams can be viewed and downloaded:

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 Police front office or Police contact point.

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.



Lewes Prevention staff and officers contribute to a Police news and alerts email which is sent each week, outlining upcoming events, such as local scam talks and Police drop in sessions; as well as a crime summary of recent crimes in your local areas, patrol locations and updates, weekly snapshots and more.

A weekly update from the Op Blitz ASB team is also sent via the community messaging service In The Know each Thursday, detailing the team's patrols and their findings from the previous week.

To further keep up to date on your local Police team you can also follow your Prevention team on social media for up to date community news, snapshots and events in your local area.



[@LewesPolice](https://www.facebook.com/LewesPolice)



[@Lewes_Police](https://twitter.com/Lewes_Police)

