

Community Safety Partner Updates



Folkestone
& Hythe
District Council

March 2024

Community Safety Update and Events

Folkestone CCTV site visit

On 4 March Community Safety along with Folkestone & Hythe's Neighbourhood Task Force and Beat Team were out with CCTV operators familiarising them with the area and local places of interest.



This is part of Folkestone & Hythe's Community Safety Partnerships Successful Safer Streets 5 bid, where work has begun on making Folkestone town centre an even safer place for shopping and socialising.

The Safer Streets improvements include the purchase of five portable CCTV cameras to be used in various locations when anti-social behaviour or crime issues are reported. The funding has paid for more than 30 trauma packs, to help with the treatment of injuries prior to the arrival of an ambulance crew, which are being delivered to town centre venues. In addition, funding for a [personal safety app](#) has also been given to [Home-Start Shepway](#) to distribute to families.

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Safer Business Action Day

On 13 March, in support of the Safer Business Action Day, Scott Butler from Community Safety along with Kent Police, FAPAC (Folkestone Area Partnership Against Crime) and officers from Bouverie Place were out in the town centre.

The officers gave crime prevention advice to local business and engaged with the public about crime reduction guidance and support.



For any crime related incidents, we encourage these to [be reported to Kent Police online](#) and , where there is also a live chat function.



Community Local Engagement Meetings

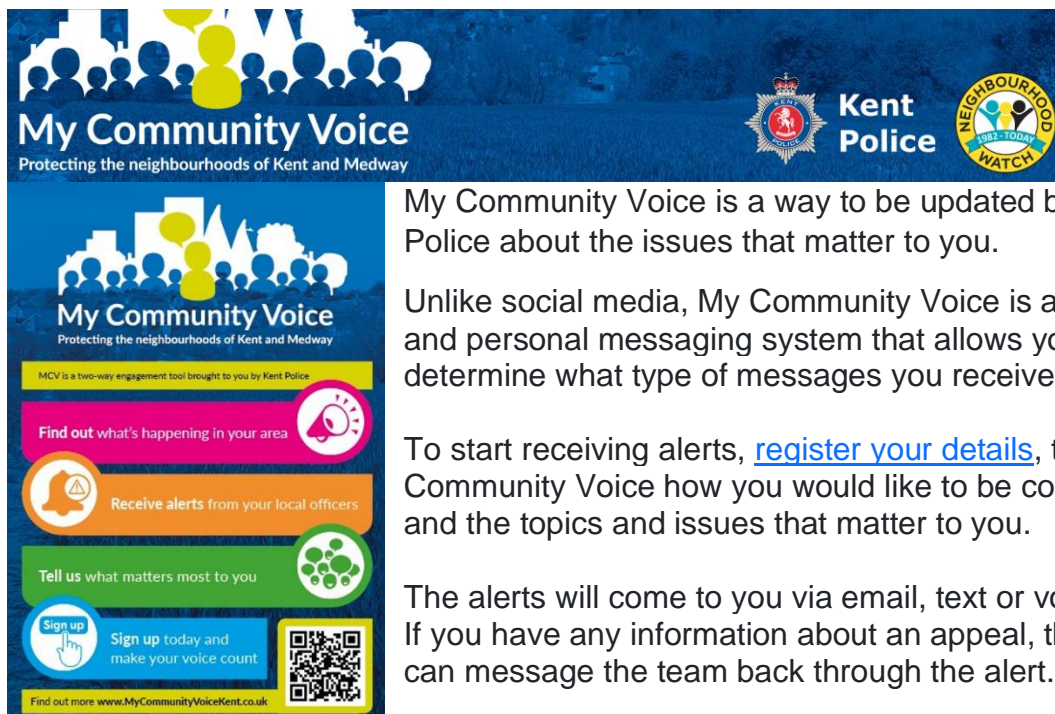
On 28 February Tara Liam from Community Safety along with Kent Police were at Lydd Town Hall and engaged with more than 20 residents, who asked questions about policing in the area.

It was a productive meeting and intelligence shared about the use of quad bikes in the area, drug and alcohol use in the play area, fly-tipping, speeding cars through Lydd and people smoking cannabis. The team will endeavour to address these points including Kent Police who will be following up on many of these issues.



As with all quarterly Local Engagement Meetings, no matter where they are held in the district, they are open to anyone to attend but we try and make it fair to everyone by holding them in different locations within the district.

Sign up to [MyCommunityVoice](#) to receive email alerts on where these will be held.



My Community Voice
Protecting the neighbourhoods of Kent and Medway

My Community Voice is a way to be updated by Kent Police about the issues that matter to you.

Unlike social media, My Community Voice is a secure and personal messaging system that allows you to determine what type of messages you receive and how.

To start receiving alerts, [register your details](#), tell Community Voice how you would like to be contacted and the topics and issues that matter to you.

The alerts will come to you via email, text or voice note. If you have any information about an appeal, then you can message the team back through the alert.

Find out more www.MyCommunityVoiceKent.co.uk

Comments and thoughts are welcomed. Clicking on the 'reply' link within a message will send your reply to the person that sent the message and your local policing team.

Please note: This service should not be used to report any crime or incident to the police. In an emergency, if a crime is in progress or life is in danger, **call 999**.

Environmental Enforcement

One of the enforcement officers has been working on a project to tackle the copious amounts of dog faeces in the district. The focus was on the Folkestone Warren after seeing large amounts of dog fouling in the area following complaints.

Folkestone Warren runs along the coast between Folkestone and Dover and The Warren is of national importance both for wildlife and its geology and is protected as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and is a National Conservation Review site and contains three Conservation Review sites and part of a fourth.



Throughout the visits, the Enforcement Officers saw a total of 173 dog faeces and sprayed around this with eco-friendly chalk paint. The idea was to show visibility and to prevent people from stepping into it and to assist the staff working there who may also come in to contact with it while working whilst highlighting the magnitude of dog faeces in the area.



On 5 March, one of the officers counted 22 dog faeces and noticed on each visit a slight reduction in sightings. Many dog walkers have been spoken too and word is spreading amongst the local community. Dog walkers who engaged expressed their concerns and disgust about irresponsible dog walkers and were thankful work is being done.

The same day didn't get off to a good start for one local dog owner who decided to walk away from her responsibilities. She was spotted by one of the enforcement officers letting her dog foul the grass at

The Warren and was issued with a penalty notice. On 14 March, another dog walker was also fined on The Warren.

The officers sprayed Clean It Up chalk signs beside the bin on the green at Wear Bay Road.

It is important to pick up after your dog has fouled as the faeces contains nutrients that can harm the ecology of vulnerable habitats. If for some reason your child encounters dog faeces and picks it up with their bare hands, or treads into it with shoes on, there is a high probability that they have now been exposed to various forms of bacteria and parasites. Dog faeces is known to carry and transmit diseases such as E. coli, Giardia, and Parvo. Contrary to popular belief dog faeces can take up to a 1-year to fully break down regardless of where it is left. It is extremely unpleasant to see dog faeces in our residential streets including our many parks, beauty spots and countryside areas.



It is the dog owner's responsibility to always be aware of their dog's actions and if their dog is on or off a lead, owners should be paying attention to where it is and what it is doing, being distracted, and not seeing your dog foul is not an excuse for not picking it up and disposing of it correctly.

It is an offence to not always clean up after your dog and you can be issued with a £100 fixed penalty notice (FPN) or be prosecuted up to £1,000 if the case goes to court. The same applies when leaving dog faeces in a poo bag anywhere other than a litter bin or other designated bin.

Our officers are actively working to maintain a litter-free environment in your local areas. We kindly request your cooperation in supporting your fellow community members by responsibly always picking up after your dog. This will be an ongoing project where you will see the officers in many of the hotspot areas and following up on complaints received on social media channels.

If you see any dog fouling that requires removal or to notify our enforcement officers visit [the council's website](#).

News Awareness

Asian Hornets

Recently the news raised concerns regarding the Asian Hornets on our shores and the October 2023 newsletter covered this and as summer approaches, wanted to raise awareness.

During the summer the unwelcomed *Vespa velutina*, sometimes known as the 'Asian hornet' descended in our district and this can eat our wasps in seconds.

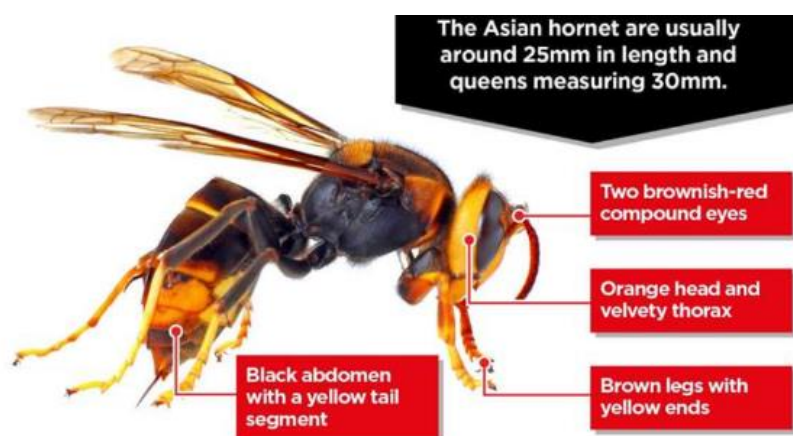
It is an invasive non-native species from Asia. It arrived in France in 2004 where it spread rapidly. As a highly effective predator of insects, including honeybees and other beneficial species, it can cause significant losses to bee colonies, other native species and potentially ecosystems.

Active months between April and November (peak August/September). Inactive over the winter.

Further information including an app to send in details of sightings and identification sheets are available on the [GB Non Native Species Secretariat website](#).

Sightings can also be reported online below:

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[Non-native Alert - Asian Hornet \(brc.ac.uk\)](http://brc.ac.uk)

Or send an email with a photograph and location details to alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk

Further assistance

- you can use BritishBeekeepersAssociation to help you identify honeybee swarms and find links to local registered collectors/beekeepers
- some wild animals such as badgers require a licence to deal with - call DEFRA on 08459 33 55 77, or email helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
- you can contact local pest control companies and liaise directly if you're experiencing problems with another type of pest

The hornets are most predominant in coastal areas and recently reported spotted in Dover.

If you come across an Asian hornet, please report your sighting through the **Asian Hornet Watch app** or the [online report form](#).

Kent Police

The neighbourhood watch volunteers noticed an increase in vehicle break-ins where items have been left on display within the vehicle and have subsequently been stolen.

Please remember to remove all items from your vehicle when you leave it unattended – this includes what some may consider 'low value' items such as coats, CDs, sunglasses, personal documents, and other clothing. Thieves will still take the chance that those items are hiding, or contain, higher value items such as wallets, bank cards etc.



Even if you intend to be away from your vehicle momentarily, please always lock it and **never** leave your car unattended with the engine running.

Criminal gangs look for vehicle models with wingmirrors that fold automatically when locked - if the wing mirrors are still out it is clear to them that the vehicle has been left unlocked and they will take this opportunity to search your vehicle.

Fuelling up or popping back into your house to get something are perfect examples of how easy it is to turn your back, forget to lock your car and leave items on display – we see examples where thieves have simply opened the door, taken the wallet/keys/phone from the front seat and left no trace until the victim can't find that item. It's always better to be safe than take the chance.

Contacting Kent Police



Report a non-urgent crime or incident online at www.kent.police/report or click the **Live Chat** button



In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger, call **999**



If you are hearing or speech impaired, use the textphone service **18000** or download the **BT Relay app**



Sign up to www.MyCommunityVoiceKent.co.uk to receive and respond to community alerts from your local officers



Email your local policing team go www.kent.police.uk/yourarea



Find us on [Facebook.com/kentpolice](https://www.facebook.com/kentpolice)



Follow us on Twitter [@kent_police](https://twitter.com/kent_police) or find your local account at www.kent.police.uk/yourarea



Follow us on Instagram [@kentpoliceuk](https://www.instagram.com/kentpoliceuk)



For non-urgent issues, if you are unable to get online, call **101**



Kent Police

www.kent.police.uk

Fraud / Scams

Kent Fraud Alert System



TO STOP FRAUD™

Email Account Take Over – URGENT FRAUD ALERT

Reports of people's emails have been reported compromised. The criminals will take over the victims account and then impersonate them. They will email people within their friends list stating that they are ill or injured and cannot get out of the house and need to get a gift card for a family members birthday and ask them to do this for them and to email the gift card code. However, it is a scam. If you get an email like this apply ABC and never Assume or Believe a message asking for money is genuine and Confirm by calling the person and speak to them.

Additionally, you can check to see if your email address has been compromised by checking on the below publicly available website –

[Have I Been Pwned: Check if your email has been compromised in a data breach](#)

You just need to type your email address in and the website will tell you if criminals possibly have access to your email account.

The following is advice from National Cyber Security Centre on how to create a strong password –

[Three random words - NCSC.GOV.UK](#)

If you think that you may have been a victim of this or any other type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.



Preventing fraud

Together,
let's stop
scammers.



Remember, ABC:



never Assume



never Believe



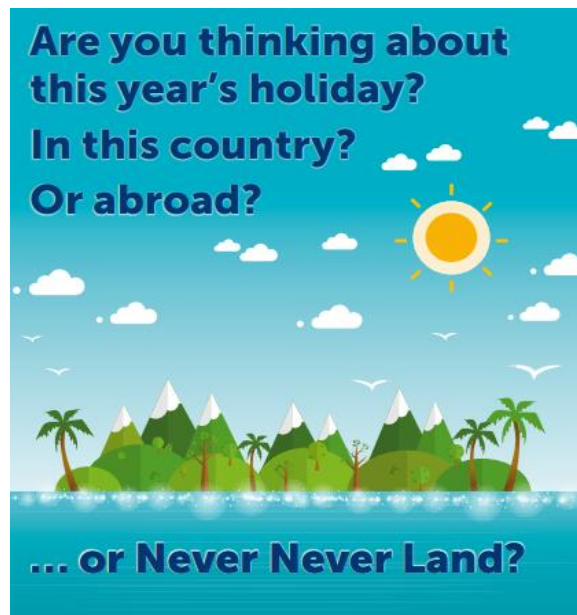
always Confirm

Get the latest
scam advice:



@KentPoliceECU

Safety Awareness



www.getsafeonline.org

Don't end up in Never Never Land

Most of us look forward to an annual holiday or short break which, more often than not, we find and book online.

But fraudsters also love the internet. They use fake websites, listings, emails, advertisements, social media posts and texts – and also phone calls – to trick you into paying for a holiday or other travel to Never Never Land. In other words, it simply doesn't exist.

To help save you from losing your holiday *and* your money, we've put together some expert tips on safely searching and booking holidays and travel with confidence.

- **Thoroughly research** your package holiday, flight, accommodation, cruise, pilgrimage or other break/travel to make sure it's authentic.
- **Be wary** of unusually cheap holidays/flights or high deposits.
- **Check that accommodation actually exists** by finding it on Google Maps and looking for independent reviews and recommendations. Make sure there's a phone number, and call the **owner/agent** directly to try to ascertain if the person you're booking the holiday with is authorised to sell it to you. If the number isn't provided, email and request it. Ask questions to see if they have knowledge of the area.
- **Check reviews** on TripAdvisor or similar sites.
- **If you're booking accommodation via Airbnb**, always keep communications and payment on the Airbnb platform, and don't be tempted off it as this may indicate an attempt at fraud. Read Airbnb's safety advice for guests.
- **Never pay by bank transfer** to a company or person you haven't had personal experience of buying from previously. If it's a fraud, you may never get your money back. **Paying by credit card** means more chance of getting your money back if something goes wrong.
- **Check that travel agents and tour operators** you book holidays and travel through are **members of trade associations** such as ABTA or ATOL, by checking on these bodies' websites.
- Enter the address of the website you plan to book a holiday through, at www.getsafeonline.org/checkwebsite to check if it is likely to be legitimate or fraudulent.
- **Check terms and conditions** prior to making any payment.
- **Before paying online or providing any confidential details**, type in the website address you know to be correct (instead of following a link) and ensure the payment page is secure (begins with 'https' and has a locked padlock in the browser window frame).
- **Keep confirmations and payment receipts**, and check bank / credit card statements for irregular entries.

If you lose money to fraud, always **report it immediately** to your bank, as this will increase your chance of getting your money back and the fraudster being traced. Also report it to Action Fraud, the UK's national fraud and cybercrime reporting centre, on **0300 123 20 40** or at www.actionfraud.police.uk. In Scotland, report fraud to Police Scotland by calling 101.

For full information on booking and paying for holidays and travel online with safety and confidence, visit www.getsafeonline.org, select 'Protecting Yourself' then 'Holiday & Travel Booking'

#holiday

Get Safe Online

Get Safe Online is the UK's leading source of information and advice on online safety and security, for the public and small businesses. It is a not-for-profit, public/private sector partnership backed by law enforcement agencies and leading organisations in internet security, banking and retail.

For more information and expert, easy-to-follow, impartial advice on safeguarding yourself, your family, finances, devices and workplace, visit www.getsafeonline.org

If you think you have been a victim of fraud, report it to **Action Fraud** at actionfraud.police.uk or by calling **0300 123 2040**. If you are in Scotland, contact **Police Scotland** on **101**.



www.getsafeonline.org

Partner Updates

Would you know what to do in a flash flood? Scan the QR code to learn more

Folkestone's hidden flood risk

The Pent Stream runs under many streets of Folkestone, through culverts and mostly unseen.

During intense heavy rainfall, the stream may become overwhelmed. Flash flooding can occur - devastating homes and businesses very quickly.

1996 Flash flooding

In August 1996, 4 inches of rain fell in Folkestone in just two hours.
250 properties were affected

Over 500 emergency calls were received - one every 28 seconds
60 people were rescued

Folkestone in flood August 1996
© Folkestone Herald

Protect your family and home

1. Find out if you are at risk

Visit [gov.uk/flood](https://www.gov.uk/flood) and sign up for our FREE Flood Warning Service

2. Be aware and know the signs

Check weather reports. Is heavy or severe weather forecast? Are water levels rising in the Pent Stream? Is the water dark and churning?

3. Plan where to go if you get caught in a flash flood

Move to a higher floor in your property or go to higher ground. If you become trapped call 999

4. Keep Safe. Do not walk or drive through flood water

New Published Reports

Children sharing nude images

Source: UKCIS

Date: 11 March 2024

The UK Council for Internet Safety (UKCIS) and Department for Science, Innovation and Technology have updated their non-statutory guidance for schools in England on responding to incidents involving the sharing of nude and semi-nude images. It is aimed at Designated safeguarding leads (DSLs) and senior leaders in educational settings in England. The document includes guidance on: risk assessing incidents; safeguarding and supporting children and young people; handling devices and imagery; recording incidents; and providing education on the sharing of nudes and semi-nudes.

Read the guidance: [Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people](#)

See also on NSPCC Learning

> [Sexting: sharing nudes and semi-nudes](#)

Online harms

Source: Ofcom

Date: 15 March 2024

Ofcom have published three new research reports on online harms as part of their series on the protection of children online. The reports cover: understanding pathways to online violent content amongst children; experiences of children encountering online content promoting eating disorders, self-harm and suicide; and key attributes and experiences of cyberbullying among children in the UK. The reports are also available in Welsh.

Read the reports: [Protection of children online, research](#)

See also on NSPCC Learning

> [Preventing online harm and abuse](#)

Child sexual abuse

Source: NSPCC Learning

Date: 04 March 2024

NSPCC Learning has published the next episode of its five-part podcast series exploring the recommendations made in the final report of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA). This episode discusses the abuse of children in

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care. The final two episodes will be released on 06 and 08 March 2024 and will look at online safety and the criminal justice system.

Listen to the podcast: [Recommendations for change: an NSPCC Learning podcast series](#)

Listen on YouTube: [Recommendations for change: an NSPCC Learning podcast series](#)

If you have any information that you would like us to include within any future updates, please email the details to community.safety@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk