

Environmental Enforcement



July 2025
Volume 1, Issue 3

Welcome to the third edition of our newsletter.

We hope that our newsletters help to inform you of some of the issues we have been dealing with and also provide some useful information.

ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME

Sadly environmental crimes continue to occur within the district and we are encountering littering and fly-tipping daily. We fully expect that this will continue and increase during the warmer months.

There have been a number of incidents in the West Hythe area where someone feels that it is acceptable to dispose of containers full of used engine oil!. These have been left near to grazing livestock and just feet away from the Royal Military Canal posing serious danger to wildlife.



Fly-tipping is investigated daily and a lot of this is found in residential locations.

This shows that some people have little or no care for the location that they live in as the waste is often traced to addresses nearby. We investigate fly-tipping meticulously in an effort to trace it's origin before we take appropriate action.

Getting in touch

There are several ways you can do this.

Go to the council website and create a 'MyAccount'

Click on 'Report it'

Scan the QR code below to take you directly to the reporting suite. Use our LiveChat service on our website open from Monday to Friday, 10am to 5pm

Email us on: environmental.services@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

Call us on: 01303 853660 - Monday to Friday 10am to 5pm



Did you know? There are 1005 litter and dog waste bins across the district, additional bins are put out in the summer months to help with extra litter.

A local resident appeared in court for failing to pay a Fixed Penalty Notice after allowing his dog to wander around in St Eanswythe Church cemetery off the lead and unattended. He was found guilty .



Beaches

LOVE YOUR BEACH

All visitors and locals residents who come to our beaches are reminded to act responsibly. This involves respecting the dog restrictions, cleaning up after your dog on the district's beaches where dogs are allowed during the summer and taking all of your rubbish away with you at the end of your visit.

From 1 May to 30 September each year, our beaches are designated as dog-free to ensure that everyone can enjoy the seaside while also maintaining water quality.

We kindly ask dog owners to respect these seasonal restrictions and make use of the many other dog-friendly areas our district offers. Failure to comply with these rules could result in penalties of up to £1,000.

Join the thousands of responsible dog owners who help keep our waters safe by always bagging dog waste and disposing of it properly. Remember, bagged dog waste can be placed in regular litter bins as well.

If you'd like to check where the restrictions apply, they are available on our website or by clicking the link:

[Dogs on beaches | Folkestone & Hythe District Council](#)

No waste should be left on the beach, or anywhere else in the Folkestone and Hythe district. After your day at the beach you should remove all waste and dispose of it correctly.

If there is no bin nearby or it is already full, try the next bin or just take it home with you. Sadly waste is being left either on the beach or on the proms, it is considered to be littering or fly-tipping depending on the amount that is left by anyone. It also encourages others to leave their waste, attracts seagulls and other wildlife to it and ends up being scattered over a larger area. This takes our waste teams longer to clear up.

#loveyourbeach

Events

Members of the team will be holding events in the coming months district and will be present at the Trawler Race.

Some of these will be promoting the Love Your Beach message, Folkestone & Hythe District Council are working in many ways to keep our beach areas clean but we need residents and visitors to do the same and help protect our environment, wildlife and coastal waters against discarded litter.

[Love your beach this summer | Folkestone & Hythe District Council](#)

Wed 16/07/25 – Love your beach, Dymchurch beach 11am – 2pm

Thu 07/08/25 – Love your beach, Mermaid beach 10am – 2pm

Sun 09/08/25 – Trawler Race, The Stade, Folkestone harbour 10am to 3pm

Fri 29/08/25 – Love your beach, Sunny Sands 10am - 2pm



LITTERING

Are you aware of how much litter is dropped in the UK every single day?

The cost to the taxpayer for street cleaning is over £1 billion a year.

Despite the fact that we have over a thousand litter bins across our district people still decide to drop their rubbish on the ground and leave it to affect wildlife, killing millions of animals, as well as making our district look untidy and unloved. It is an offence to discard any kind of litter.

The most littered item? Yes you guessed it – cigarette butts!

Five trillion are littered around the world per year. They account for 40% of all UK litter. Three million cigarette butts per day are discarded, dropped on pavements or thrown from cars. Each one can take up to 12 years to fully degrade and they often end up in our waterways and eventually in the sea causing harm to marine life. One cigarette butt can contaminate 1,000 litres of water. Cigarette filters don't degrade quickly and they contain 4,000 chemicals and microplastics, including hydrogen, cyanide, arsenic, cellulose acetate and can leach toxins into the environment.

Take a look closely at any street and you will find discarded cigarette litter.

All this could be prevented if everyone just used one of our thousand bins and took responsibility for their litter.

It is a criminal offence to litter cigarettes, the same as if it were a can, bottle or empty packet discarded.



- **75% of smokers admit to littering their cigarettes**
- **86% of smokers admit to knowing that littering cigarettes is illegal**
- **Cigarettes are not natural and bio degradable**
- **200 million are littered in the UK every day**
- **Cigarette filters have been found in the stomachs of fish, birds, whales and other marine creatures who mistake them for food**
- **Folkestone & Hythe District Council's team issue around 100 Fixed Penalty Notices per year for littering offences**



We often see people only feet away from a bin who still decide to drop their cigarettes on the ground. Each time that we approach someone after witnessing this we hope that our intervention changes their behaviour and that they think twice before doing this again, especially now that littering a cigarette could cost them £150.

Recently a litter picking group in Yorkshire found crisp packets in a hedge. Not unusual sadly, except these were from 1975! This just goes to show that discarded rubbish does not just go away and can stay with us for decades. We only have this planet, so need to think of the consequences of littering, it might outlive you.



Let's work together to keep our district clean — report it!



Paws for Thought Community Day

In early June we held our first Paws for Thought Community event at Radnor Park, Folkestone.

On Sunday, June 8th, Radnor Park in Folkestone, we hosted the first-ever *Paws for Thought* Community Event, it drew a strong turnout of dog owners and enthusiasts who enjoyed good weather, avoiding the rain that had threatened the day.

Attendees were treated to a well-organized dog show, featuring a 'Best Trick' competition where dogs impressed with a range of skills and behaviours.

Skelleywags dog trainers were among the stallholders, showcasing the benefits of scentwork through a trial scent course that engaged dogs in foraging for treats.

The Folkestone branch of the RSPCA co-organised the event alongside local stallholders who supported the day's activities. Organisers also welcomed the participation of many dogs and their owners, who helped bring the event to life.

Visitors had the opportunity to discuss proposed changes to dog control measures in the district with organisers, adding a community engagement element to the day.



Joint working partnerships

Road safety operation

Kent Police patrols from the Community Safety Unit, Road Safety Unit, Special Constabulary and Local Policing Team were present in Folkestone on Wednesday 18th June 2025. Patrols were in and around the areas of Sandgate Road, Cheriton Road, Tram Road and Park Farm areas.

Both static and mobile patrols were utilising high visibility patrolling and unmarked vehicles in the area with the aim of making the roads safer.

Patrols were joined by Folkestone & Hythe District Council Environmental Enforcement Officers. They were ensuring that the relevant vehicles are complying with their waste carriage licences. Multiple vehicles were stopped and checked in relation to their licence to carry waste and ensuring that waste is being carried legitimately.

Thirty six traffic offences were reported in Folkestone across the day. Offences included mobile phone use, seatbelt offences, having no valid MOT and vehicles having no insurance. The instances encountered during the op are as follows:

- Two vehicles were seized
- Two notices were issued for cannabis possession
- Four vehicle defect rectification forms issued to get matters resolved on defective vehicles
- Twenty other vehicles were stopped and spoken to about a whole host of other road safety issues and given advice to improve safety on the roads
- Three vehicles were speeding
- Seventeen cases of not wearing seatbelts
- Six vehicles were uninsured
- Six drivers were on their mobile phones
- One instance of an illegal number plate
- One case of a defective tyre
- Two vehicles did not have a valid MOT

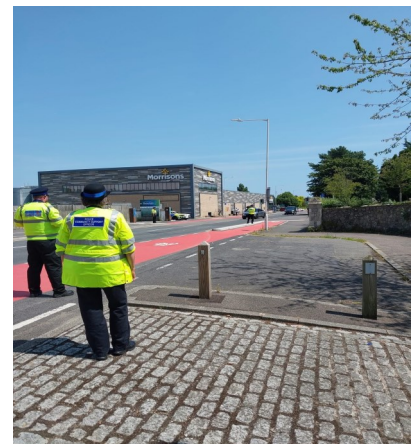


Working Together

PC Kevin Marsh emphasized the importance of the operation, stating, "The focus of our operation was to tackle those who are more likely to cause problems on the roads around Folkestone. Anyone who gets behind the wheel without the correct driving licence, insurance, or who has not maintained their vehicle to a roadworthy standard can become a risk to others on the road."

He continued, "Working with teams such as the Road Safety Unit and our partner agencies meant we could address a wide range of potential offences and disrupt criminal activity."

This successful operation highlights the continued effort to make the roads in Folkestone safer for everyone. The joint effort between Kent Police, the Special Constabulary, and Folkestone & Hythe District Council shows the strength of collaboration in tackling road-related criminality."



Enviro-Crime busters

QUARTERLY UPDATE



Fly-tipping still occurs on a regular basis and the team spend time searching through the waste to find any form of evidence to establish its origin. We speak to witnesses and businesses in the area to gather vital information. Often a local resident has paid someone to take their waste away and assume it will be disposed of correctly, on other occasions it is taken to the countryside and dumped.

Residents must take the correct steps to avoid this by checking that the carrier is licenced and obtain a receipt and other information relating to the person, company or vehicle they may be liable for a Fixed Penalty Notice.

A series of fixed penalties have been issued in the last few months for various offences such as failure to remove dog faeces, burning commercial waste, littering, fly-tipping, fly-posting and allowing dogs to roam off-lead in areas protected by Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs).

Non-payment of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) for littering, fly-tipping and failure to remove dog faeces will be pursued through the court system.

Some people believe that if they fail to provide us with their details we won't be able to take any action against them for the offence witnessed.

It is a further offence to not provide your details or give false information when requested by an authorised officer.

95% of those who fail to cooperate are identified by other sources and tools available to us.

A gentleman that continually walked his dog in Cheriton Road Cemetery off a lead breaching the PSPO and refused to provide his details each time has now been identified and received his first Fixed Penalty Notice. A woman who was abusive when caught littering refused to provide her details. The officer traced her from the limited information available and issued a Fixed Penalty Notice which has been paid.



Dog fouling that is not picked up is always cause for concern and we respond to all reports and complaints.

Sadly those not picking up after their dog have very little respect for the community.

Despite the 1005 litter/dog waste bins in the district we come across scenes like this.

Enviro-Crime busters



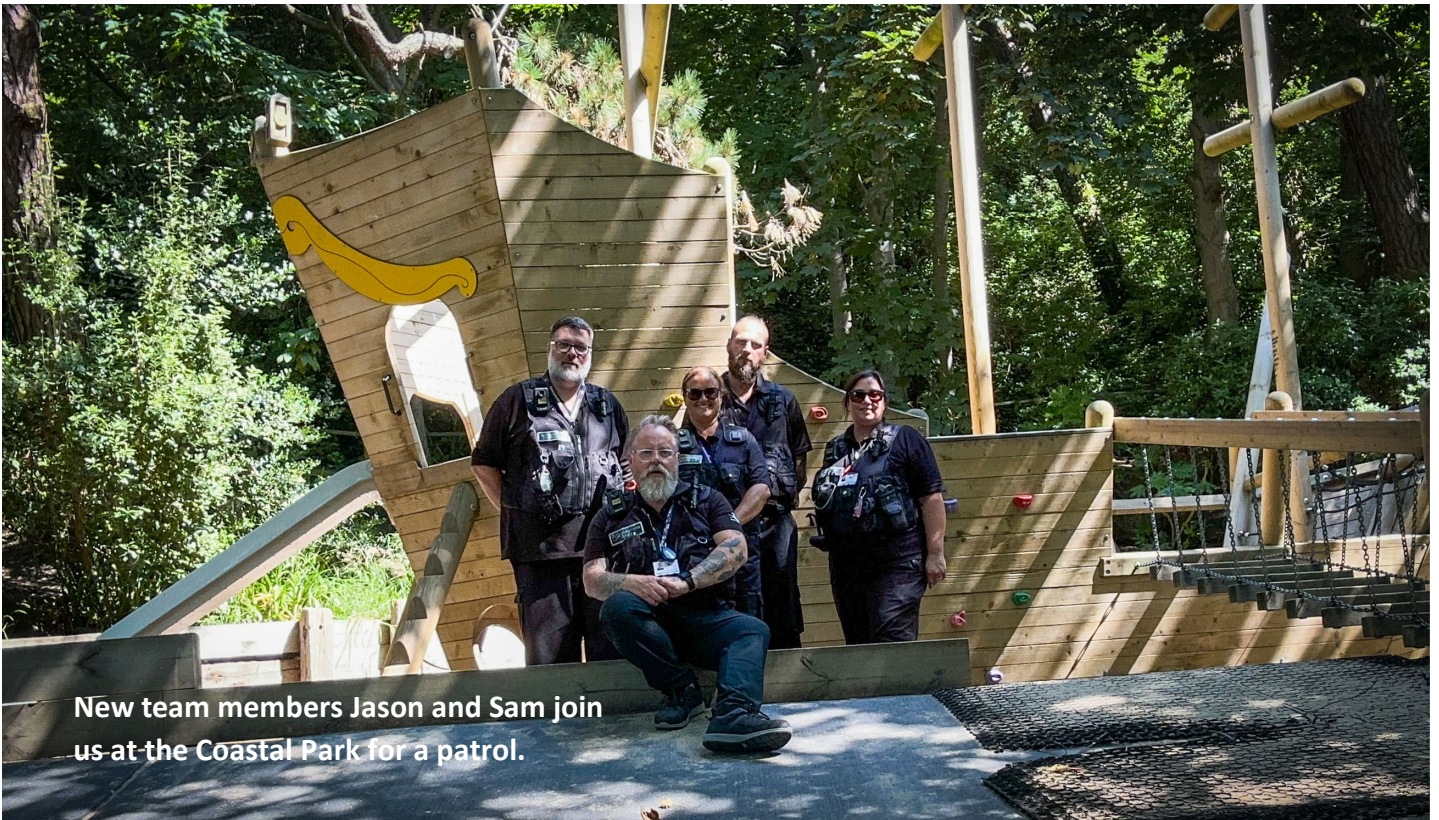
Someone decided to leave their boat in the road!

This caused an obstruction to pedestrians and traffic at this junction of the A260 and the Alkham Valley Road, efforts were made to trace the owner. After to speaking to nearby residents it became clear that none had any knowledge of this being left. With brief information, Stagecoach were contacted and we managed to obtain dashcam footage from the date and time that it was left.

Unfortunately the registration number of the van that left it was not visible. Reports have been made to Kent Police Kent County Council Highways.

A Folkestone business supplied CCTV footage of a man and a woman who failed to pick up after one of their dogs. The man was spotted a few days later getting off a bus in the district and spoken to. He would only provide brief details of the woman who committed the offence, but with this information she was traced to her home address and several visits were made. Eventually contact was made and she was shown evidence and the offence was discussed. She admitted to not removing dog faeces And a Fixed Penalty Notice was served.

The business owner thanked the council for investigating and following up this offence.



New team members Jason and Sam join us at the Coastal Park for a patrol.