



**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025**

**Sussex Alerts – Lewes and Seahaven Police**

**Three arrests made in relation to Operation Mainland – vehicle theft in East Sussex.**



Officers on patrol early evening of 18<sup>th</sup> March were alerted to individuals acting suspiciously in a vehicle parked in a car park off Greenwich Way, Peacehaven.

Having conducted checks on the vehicle registration details, and attempts made to identify the driver, officers had reasonable grounds to suspect the vehicle was stolen; as a result, all three were arrested on suspicion of theft of motor vehicle and taken to custody where they were interviewed in relation to the offence.

All three individuals have since been released on bail whilst police investigations continue.

Officers continue to conduct additional patrols across areas of report vehicle theft, deterrent to those committing offences, and

looking to identify those involved.

Whilst we have seen a decrease in reports of vehicle theft in the last 2 weeks, officers continue to urge residents and owners; particularly those of Ford Fiestas to review their vehicle security, and continue to report any suspicious activities around vehicle to police at the time.

Vehicle storage and parking advice can include:

- Parking your vehicle in sight of your home or inside a garage; or where there is street lighting or CCTV.
- Using a steering lock, often highly visible from outside the vehicle, acting as a deterrent to potential car thieves, as well as preventing the steering wheel from being turned.
- Consider 'blocking' the vehicle in with the use of a second vehicle or fitting a ghost immobiliser.
- Reprogramming your keys if you buy a second hand car, or if buying second hand check that the key blade is cut and works, by testing it.

If you have been impacted by theft or have any information about suspicious activity in relation to vehicles in your area, please report it to us.

Residents can also report information anonymously to CrimeStoppers.

**Seaford male convicted of assaulting and controlling a woman over several years.**

Mitchell Maybank, 33, of no fixed address, abused a woman in her 30s between 2017 and 2020, and sought to control many aspects of her life.

The victim was subjected to a repeated pattern of physical and psychological abuse, including violent assaults causing her to lose consciousness, she also reported being raped by Maybank three times in 2020.

She reported the incidents to police in March, 2021, and Maybank was arrested and subsequently charged with three counts of rape, coercive and controlling behaviour and causing actual bodily harm.

He denied all the offences, but at Lewes Crown Court on Tuesday, 11 March, was convicted of coercive and controlling behaviour and causing actual bodily harm.



He was found not guilty of the three counts of rape.

Maybank is due to appear for sentencing at a court to be confirmed on Friday, 25 April.

Detective Constable Adam Rose said: “Violent and controlling behaviour ruins lives, and we will do all we can to protect victims and hold offenders to account.

“The victim in this investigation has shown incredible bravery to report Maybank’s offending and support this process, in the face of his denials, through to conviction.

“Our message to victims of abuse is clear – we are here to help, we will get you to safety and we will do all we can to get the justice you deserve.”

### **Witness appeal following RTC in Ditchling.**

Did you witness this collision in Clayton Road, Ditchling?



On March 4 at around 4.50pm, it was reported that two vehicles were involved in a road traffic collision in the eastbound carriageway.

The collision involved a silver Mercedes C180 and a blue Isuzu D-Max V-Cross. The Isuzu was reported to have been stationary at the time of the collision.

The driver and passenger of the Mercedes sustained injuries and attended hospital for treatment. Both have since been discharged.

If you witnessed the incident or have footage that could assist police enquiries, we ask you to make a report.

To do this, email [collision.appeal@sussex.police.uk](mailto:collision.appeal@sussex.police.uk), or call 101 quoting reference 987 of 04/03.

### **Contact us**

For non-emergency incidents or crime prevention advice, click [www.sussex.police.uk](http://www.sussex.police.uk), (If you report a crime online, we will assess it in the same way as a 101 call).

Call 101 when you do not require an urgent response. In an emergency when life is threatened or there is immediate danger always call 999.

Speak to us face-to-face at a police station or contact the local policing team at [www.sussex.police.uk/area/your-area](http://www.sussex.police.uk/area/your-area).

If you are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired, you can contact us using TypeTalk on 18000 or by sending a text to 65999.

