

## **Ward Update for November 2025 – Whitehawk, East Brighton & Brighton Marina Ward.**

Hello all and welcome to the Whitehawk, East Brighton and Marina ward update for November 2025, completed by PCSO Ridley.

The festive season is finally here! Let's see what has recently been occurring within the community starting with the use of Sussex Alerts!

Your ward officers have observed the usage of Sussex alerts, noting that not one of our members have logged in to Alerts since the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October meaning that the ward update released last month has not even been read. I can only echo my previous months comments in how disappointing it is that not only are we well below the combined community number, further that nobody is even reading this. Completing these updates can take officers a lot of time to complete, and as we know, it is a very busy area, so time is precious! For this purpose, I will use last months with a tweak of an update.

Can we please request that if you are reading this monthly update and you know of others that live within the ward area who have Sussex alerts, could you please spread the word about the monthly ward updates so this will allow us to spread our messages further! This will be greatly appreciated by both Tom and I. Furthermore, if they don't have or use this App, please promote this in order for a larger communal audience.

### **Ward Patrols:**

Ward patrols have been completed throughout the month but as both Tom and I are tutoring new officers, this access has been limited. Throughout the month of December, where possible, ward patrols will be regularly completed, managing your concerns and dealing with matter if discovered. Please bear with us as we are working under a large workload at this time, and we will get to you as soon as we possibly can.

### **Recent Community Meetings:**

We have recently attended local meetings with partner agencies and stakeholders within the community. These meetings serve as an opportunity for information sharing and joint work to solve the problems important to you. We are also arranging further meetings with various groups that request police attendance. If there are any groups reading this that would like a visit, please contact Sussex Police and request contact from either Tom or I and we will see what we can arrange.

### **Recent incidents of Note within the Ward:**

#### **Stolen electrical bikes:**

As highlighted last month, Sussex police are regularly receiving reports of stolen E-bikes within the ward, mainly shopping hotspot areas and the Hospital. Sussex Police are looking at tactical options to apprehend those responsible, but we cannot divulge what that involves at this time however, we strongly recommend that cyclists use good quality bike locks (even considering to double lock the bike) and to register your bike through a scheme such as "Immobilise" however there are many others to choose from which will make it easier to identify as stolen by police.

If your bike is of high value, then further recommendations are made for you to look at potentially covering this via insurance and should consider attaching some form of GPS tracker to this bike which updates you regularly which will assist Sussex Police in locating and retrieving this item(s).

Two individuals have recently been arrested in connection with some of these thefts however, this does not mean this behaviour will stop, so please ensure the safety of your valuables.

**Other matters of Interest:**

Due to the time of year, with the early evenings and cold weather, Tom and I are starting to notice that youth are congregating in and around the Bird Blocks within the communal access areas, the blocks near Middle stores and further, archways and alleys within the estate. This has vastly increased the amount of ASB reports that we are receiving, and as much as I understand and appreciate that the youth want to congregate and converse, may we please request that you highlight to your children about respect and curtesy to other residents/neighbours of the surrounding community.

I would also like to bring to your attention that there has been a rise in the reports of 'Alcohol and drugs use' by individuals (mainly youth) upon the estate. This has unfortunately at times escalated into various anti-social matters, violence towards others and verbal racial abuse which is completely unacceptable. Please be aware that if your child is located and dealt with by officers for being under the influence of either alcohol/drugs, we are legally obligated to report this incident to child support agencies and further criminal and tenancy action(s) may be taken.

As I touched on earlier, the use of electric bikes is on the rise, especially with basic cycles now being adapted with online adaption kits. Sussex Police are noticing things such as youth related Criminal Damage being caused to public areas because of the use of Illegal usage of E-Cycles around the city and surrounding areas. For your awareness, I have personally repeatedly stopped and engaged with multiple youths who reside within this area after sighting them riding dangerously along the public highway and given them strong words of advice because of how dangerous they are being, putting not only their life's, but other road users at risk. Again, for the sake of the parents who read this – I will make it very clear that if your child is stopped and the officer deems it appropriate, these electric bikes can be seized and destroyed without any opportunity to obtain this back by Sussex Police and your child criminalised for road traffic offence(s). This is not what we WANT to do but rather what we may HAVE to do ensure the safety for all.

This matter is being targeted by your ward officers and as such, please be on the lookout for this behaviour. If this is identified, please report this to the police so we can tackle these matters and improve safety and personal satisfaction within the community, this includes the use of off-road motorbikes, which as many of the area know is a constant issue we are dealing with as a division. The illegal use of these bikes is a country wide issue, and we are aware there is a high number of these bikes operating dangerously within the Whitehawk Estate.

If Officers locate these being ridden, we must be very careful when dealing with this due to the risks involved to the rider, which being transparent, often limit our options in how to progress this. Because of this, your reports of these bikes and the information you can provide about the riders are vital for police to apprehend them in a safer manner, even if this is at a later date and they are no longer riding the bike, if we have evidence we can, and will, take action against them.

I have noted whilst in and around the ward area that road users travelling along Whitehawk Way and Wilson Avenue are very clearly travelling in excess of the displayed speed limit. Can Tom & I please request that you travel at the displayed speed limit in order to keep everyone safe. With the current rise in ASB relating to motorcycle, Ebike & scooter use this is a bad mix and we do not want anyone getting hurt! Tom and I will be looking to complete speed checks again throughout the coming weeks in and around the ward area, with positive action(s) taken against any offenders identified.

**Personal Safety:**

Unfortunately, in the last few weeks there has been a group of individuals who deem it suitable to not only carry a knife(s) in public but are then brazen enough and use these in an attempt to harm others! These incidents are currently under investigation and both Tom and I are appealing to residents of Whitehawk to knock this behaviour out!

Carrying knives in public places increases the risk of accidents, conflicts, or situations escalating into violence. A knife, even when not intended for harm, can cause irreversible damage in moments of tension or misunderstanding. We want our neighbourhood to remain a place where everyone feels safe and secure. When weapons are present, it can create fear and mistrust, undermining the sense of peace we all value.

If you witness someone carrying a knife or engaging in dangerous behaviour, please report it to the Police immediately, keeping our community safe over this festive season is a shared responsibility.

**Our Priorities:**

Within December and into the new year, our approach to Whitehawk will be changing slightly with our targeted activities now be focused on the following:

- ASB within the ward area.
- Tackling the use of drugs/alcohol
- The illegal use of electric cycles.

We apologise for the cold ending to this report however, it is very important that we do all we can to keep you safe!

Finally, as this will be the final newsletter of 2025, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all residents and wish you a lovely Christmas period and Happy new year – Look forward to the 2026 reports!

Kind regards,

Mark & Tom