

Friday 20th March 2025

Sussex Alerts Eastbourne Police

Op Mainland patrols continue - vehicle theft.

Following recent thefts of vehicles in areas of the district, officers continue to conduct additional patrols across the town.



These enhanced patrols have included a number of areas over the last few weeks, including in Willingdon, where officers spent the late evening of 17th March on high visibility patrols.

In addition to acting as a deterrent to those committing offences, and looking to identify those involved; our patrols have been directed at speaking to and visiting owners of targeted vehicles and providing updates and prevention advice to help safeguard further victims.

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 related to these vehicles, please report it to us, quoting Operation Mainland.

Prolific shoplifter jailed.

A 31 year-old woman from Eastbourne has been sentenced at Court this week following a string of shoplifting offences in the town.

Jodie Dawkins, of The Goffs, Eastbourne pleaded guilty to twelve counts of theft and shopliftings at Brighton Magistrate's Court yesterday 18 March.

She was sentenced to 41 weeks in prison, and also issued a three year criminal behaviour order detailing a number of restrictions including not to enter certain shops within the town.

Chief Inspector Nicklin, business crime lead for East Sussex said: “This is a great outcome for the businesses Dawkins targeted”.



“Prolific offenders cause the most harm to businesses, and we understand the financial and personal impact of shoplifting on business owners, employees and the wider community”.

“We are resolute in our efforts to effectively tackle business crime in the area, and we will continue to ensure that offenders are held accountable.

Communities and businesses are encouraged to continue reporting offences to Police at the time online or via 101, and by calling 999 in an emergency.

BCRP action this week.



National BCRP Awareness Week (Business Crime Reduction Partnerships week)

Last weekend and into this week, officers have been carrying out test purchasing in areas of the Town Centre, Old Town and Hampden Park, as part of a police operation to tackle the underage sale of restricted items.

During the course of recent checks 25% of the premises checked failed our test purchase and sold both vapes and tobacco products to under age individuals.

Details of all premises tested whether they pass or failed will be passed onto Trading Standards who will investigate their licenses and take necessary remedial action.

Residents can report any information they have about potential underage selling of restricted products to police online, or by reporting anonymously to CrimeStoppers.

ASB driving checks.

Following recent reports of anti-social driving along the Beachy Head area, officers have been conducting high visibility patrols this week to not only act as a deterrent, but to look to identify those causing ASB in the area.

Officers have also spent time speaking to drivers, and members of the public visiting the area about 'The Fatal Five' driving offences, as well as offering advice to all road users on helping to keep the roads safe.



'The Fatal Five' are behaviours which are considered to be the main contributors to serious crashes and deaths on the road. They are drink and drug driving, speeding, using a mobile phone whilst driving, careless driving and not wearing a seatbelt.

Serious road traffic collisions often occur due to drivers who are distracted, dangerous and inconsiderate on our roads; sadly a number of people were killed, with many more people also seriously injured on the roads of Sussex last year.

Please take care on the roads, and report any driving or road related offences online or by calling 101.

In an emergency, please always call 999.

Patrols this week.

Our PCSOs play a vital role within the Neighbourhood Policing Team in getting out and about in your community meeting and speaking to residents and businesses in the area.



Earlier this week PCSO Ania stopped in at Bourne Out Café to catch up with our LGBTQ+ community as part of our regular patrols across your town.

The drop in was a great opportunity to not only meet residents and celebrate the vibrant diversity that makes our community so special, but also an opportunity to help strengthen community ties, offer support and hear first hand of any issues residents may be facing and how we can help.

In addition to offering a reassuring presence to the public during our patrols, forging strong relationships with the communities we serve, and helping to proactively tackle crime; our PCSOs work hard to help improve the quality of life for all of our residents, as well as work with communities in identifying those who may be vulnerable to crime in finding solutions to help our residents feel safer.

Thank you again to the staff and friends of Bourne Out Café for their hospitality and warm welcome!

Do you recognise these men?

A report was made to police on February 28 that copper and metal had been taken from the garden of a property in Milton Road, Eastbourne.

A second report was made to police concerning a similar incident at an address in Sandy Cross Lane, Heathfield on March 3.



We are trying to identify these men in connection with police enquiries.

If you recognise them, or may have further footage or information, we ask you to make a report to police online or by calling 101.

Reference 539 of 28/02 refers.

Contact us

For non-emergency incidents or crime prevention advice, click 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.

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.

