

Hello to all the residents of the North Laine and Westhill Ward.

This is your monthly ward update brought to you by PCSO Bates, PCSO Hocking and PCSO Atkins.

### **PRIORITIES**

Our three priorities are currently:

**Drug Activity** – Our officers are working closely with partner agencies, local charities and members of the community to disrupt those involved in the supply, usage and support those who need additional help in recovery and accessing support.

**Shoplifting** – Partnership working has been implemented to ensure that businesses are feeling reassured before the Christmas shopping period started and that they are able to report crimes in hopes of a positive outcome.

**Illegal E-Scooters / E-Bikes** – In conjunction with other PCSOs on other wards, we are working hard to run evening and day-time operations to seize illegal scooters and illegal e-bikes.

### **MEETINGS**

**Central Area Cluster Meeting:** A collaborative monthly meeting involving police, housing officers, the council, security teams, and residents.

**North Laine & West Hill ASB Working Group:** Monthly meeting with the council and local agencies to tackle ASB issues. The next meeting being

**London Road Local Action Team:** This is a space for residents of the London Road area, local councillors and partner agencies to come together to discuss the ongoing issues and discuss local business. With the next meeting scheduled for late March.

**The North Laine Community Association:** The NLCA meeting is a residents / community meeting which takes place monthly at The Foyer, Pelham Street. This is on request attended by police and is a wonderful opportunity to find out what's going on in your community. They meet every third Tuesday of the month and have their own monthly newsletter!

**St Nicholas Church Community Meeting:** PCSO Hocking held a meeting at St Nicholas Church on the 16<sup>th</sup> of February at 18:00 for any residents or members of the community to come forward with their concerns and raise any issues.

## **POSITIVE OUTCOMES**

Plain clothes officers deployed to North Laines and quickly picked up on two males appearing to meet with two drug users in St. Georges Mews, one of whom was seen to smoke crack nearby, minutes later. The same two men were observed serving up a large group of users 15 minutes later in Providence Place, before very helpfully housing themselves in the make-up aisle of Superdrug on London Road; easy pickings for a robust intervention by uniformed colleagues.

One of the men, who will be referred to as PERSON 1 was in possession of a deal phone, which has over 100 marketing messages in the SENT folder, in the last week or so.

His accomplice who will remain as PERSON 2, who is currently on a suspended sentence for previous drug convictions, was holding 15 wraps of Heroin and some money. He was later found with a further wrap of Crack in his underpants.

Section 18 searches turned up some illegally held prescription drugs (Oxycodone - Class A) and a knuckle duster; prohibited to possess, even in private.

CPS recognised the strength of our case, and authorised the following charges:

### **PERSON 1**

Concerned in the supply of class A drugs – heroin  
Concerned in the supply of class A drugs – crack cocaine  
Possession of controlled drugs – Oxycodone

### **PERSON 2**

Concerned in the supply of class A drugs – heroin  
Concerned in the supply of class A drugs – crack cocaine  
Possession of controlled drugs – Oxycodone  
Possession of offensive weapon (knuckleduster) in private place

## **OP APPRENTICE**

Since the end of last year, our Operation Apprentice has had amazing results in terms of remands, charges and sentencing for some of the higher more prolific shoplifters. We work closely with the BCRP to achieve these results and the more reports we collate, the more work can be done.

## **NEW ROAD**

New Road Strategy Meeting: Held in late September in response to increased activity in the area over the summer. There was a review meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December to discuss the future of the area, the crime stats and any other business which would affect any local business or residents.

We have seen a massive improvement in the behaviour, ongoing ASB and alcohol misuse on New Road. With our large engagement day on the 14<sup>th</sup> of January, we noticed a much higher foot fall, much less anti-social behaviour and received positive feedback following the council's decision to remove the benches.

There is another meeting late March to discuss the plans moving forwards.

## **ST NICHOLAS CHURCH**

We are aware of the ongoing issues in the church yard and in the gardens of rest, PCSO Bates, Hocking and Atkins have been working tirelessly to ensure we work with the correct agencies, services and take positive action to ensure the residents and public feels safe in the area.

If you see us out and about on patrol and have any questions or concerns, please raise them. Report any ongoing issues through 101, 999 or the online web-form to ensure we can keep directing our resources and push to build a better safer space for the community.

We have received some amazing positive feedback from a group of the residents around the Mount Zion, St Nicholas Church area, we thank you for your recognition and are pleased our hard work has paid off.

## **THE LANES**

The Lanes continues to attract a high foot fall following the new year. We're grateful to everybody who had continued to report and support the work we do with the Brighton Crime Reduction Partnership to see results.

We have had some positive results such as remands, charges and recalls from the good work our local businesses do to reporting some of our prolific offenders.

As the temperature starts to warm up, please remember to keep your belongings safe and enjoy all the wonders our lovely local businesses have to offer.

To read more on the BCRP, please visit [Brighton Crime Reduction Partnership \(BCRP\) | Business Safety & Crime Prevention](#)

## **RESIDENTS NOTICE**

Whether you are already a resident, or somebody who's visiting for the winter, be cautious when entering and exiting your building or accommodation. Tailgating has been brought to our attention as an ongoing issue due to the cold weather.

If you find anybody who is sleeping rough residing in or outside your building, you can either report this to [StreetLink - Connecting people sleeping rough to local services](#), or can contact us on 101 or 999 to report this to us, so we can work with partner agencies to find them somewhere more permanent to stay.

Officers attended the North Laine Community association and had positive engaging conversations with residents and businesses regarding local issues and crime prevention advice.

### **LONDON ROAD**

We have noticed the numbers of youth-related crimes is starting to rise again. Please call us on 999 if you see large groups of youths taking part in criminal behaviour or ask store security to call police. We are aware of the issues and will be upping our patrols around the area as the warmer weather begins.

### **NORTH STREET**

Our ward includes half of North Street which includes most food chains and convenience stores. Groups of youths are a big problem in this area due to them regularly targeting vape stores and convenience stores.

Most of the businesses on North Street have a radio which links in with the town security guards (BID) as well as other stores in the vicinity. You will also see a few of our Day Time Safety Marshalls patrolling the town, if you're used to going out in the evenings you may see some of these familiar faces. They work in conjunction with the BID Guards and have a cross-over with the Night Safety Marshalls. Just because we can't be everywhere at once, doesn't mean there isn't always somebody there.

If you see anybody acting suspiciously in shops or in the street, please speak to a security guard who will be able to alert other stores of suspected suspicious people.