

PCSO Monthly Ward Update

Welcome to your monthly Hangleton & Knoll Ward update by beat **PCSO Sharon Baker**

Ward Update

Currently some key concerns in the area include:

- Report from the Fire Brigade of a small fire in Knoll Park. Over the last year we have had a few similar reports, usually involving fires being set alight in the bins.
- Shoplifting from the local supermarkets. These can occur at any time throughout the day and evenings, but include some thefts from youths after school and at weekends.
- We have received several reports of number plates being stolen from vehicles.
- Vehicles parked up on the pavement with no licence plates and assumed abandoned.

In response to the above, please call in any suspicious activity in the parks so we can respond in a timely manner. Any information on those starting fires in our local parks would be really useful, we need to stop this from happening so we can improve the area and make it safe for everyone.

Shoplifting continues to be a problem, even low-cost thefts have an impact on businesses, no matter how large they are and this affects all of us, with the cost of these thefts being passed onto the consumer. CCTV now plays a large part in detecting crime and gaining evidence, so again, please report anything you see at the time of the event.

Stopping number plate thefts is very difficult to achieve, with most vehicles parked on our roads day and night. Please check your vehicles regularly and report to the Police as soon as you notice your number plate missing or tampered with. In this instance, we would be looking for 'ring doorbell' footage to show those responsible, so please also check this in the location you have parked before reporting.

In relation to vehicles parked on the pavement with no road tax or mot, these can be reported to the Police if they are being driven, or to the Council if they are abandoned. If a vehicle does not have a licence plate, you can find a VIN number, use a search engine to find out where this can be located, especially if you are reporting a motorbike.

Community Meetings & Ward Days

On Wednesday 11th December I will be attending the Hangleton & Knoll Project's quarterly meeting, this starts at 10:30am and is held in St Richards Church Hall. I will be giving those there a short report on the crime figures for the past 3 months. This is also the date for my next Ward Day, so if

you need to see me and this date is suitable, please contact me on my email address (sharon.baker@sussex.police.uk).

Burglaries have gone back down after the small spike in September, with 2 reported in October and 2 in November. Anti-social behaviour has reduced, with thefts staying around the same figure.

Crime Prevention Advice

The busy shopping period has started and courier scams, theft of parcels from doorsteps, etc will be prevalent, so be extra cautious.

I have recently found out about this phone number – 159 – It works in the same way as 101 for police or 111 for NHS, it's the number you can trust to get you through to your bank safely and securely, every time, so if you think you are being scammed you can contact your bank easily and safely. Make sure you hear a dialling tone before calling so you are disconnected from the scammers. To date there are currently 20 banks signed up to this initiative.

A central PCSO has recently been working with Senior Officers visiting local businesses, in a Police led, business focused, cyber support for organisations. This is to help businesses and third-sector organisations become more secure through knowledge sharing, training and guidance, so if you own a business yourself, please come and speak to me about it or put in your search engine: The South East Cyber Resilience Centre for more info.

Incidents of note

Break in to van and contents stolen from the rear.

Final Word

Once again, you will see how important public participation is, by reporting what you see and giving us vital evidence, this plays a huge part in day-to-day policing and preventing and detection of crime. You are all our 'eyes' and 'ears' and without you, policing would be a far more difficult job. Let us all look out for each other.

I have been given keys to a room in St Richards Church Hall, Egmont Road, it is located at the back of the large hall area and has the Sussex Police logo on the door. With the very kind help of the Hangleton & Knoll Community staff, I hope to have this room cleared and ready to use some time in the New Year.