

Tenterden Town Meeting 11th March 2019

I would firstly like to apologise if I am unable to attend this evening due to other commitments.

I would like to update the council of some of the things we have been up to in your area.

Bike Marking Event held outside the Town Hall on Saturday 2nd February 11-1, was very successful and we marked a total of 27 bikes, this also gave us the opportunity to speak to some of the youngsters in the town, in regards to their safety when riding their bikes through the town and other road users.

During Half Term we had a stand outside the Town Hall and had the support of 10 police cadets from across the area, as part of our Knife Awareness Campaign which we had been running for 3 weeks during March, where we visited local shops to make them aware of not selling knives to Under 18s, which they are all doing. The team has also been visiting all the secondary schools in the area and all over Ashford, where talks have been done on Knife crime and we have had support from an ex-gang member. The feedback from the kids when I have been out and about in Tenterden has been very positive. Please be aware there is no specific knife related incidents in Tenterden, this is for educational purposes.

Can I also let residents aware if reporting a vehicle that they believe to be abandoned, that this goes through Ashford borough Council, Abandoned vehicles and all the information is on their website.

Below I have detailed the main crime for the area. Please see police.co.uk for crime statistics.

Crime Reports

I have taken a look at the crime reports from the past month.

Crime remains low within Tenterden.

We are also finding that things maybe occurring in the Town and residents are not reporting them via 101 or the online reporting system www.kentpolice.co.uk report a crime. Emergencies is a 999 call. If this isn't be done we are unaware of any issues you may be having in you village.

Please be aware:

Across rural Ashford areas we have seen a rise in burglary in households, outer houses and sheds so please be aware of this and take all appropriate steps to secure your property. Steps to securing your property are outlined below.

Also, a number of distraction burglaries across Ashford have been reported of late so please be aware of this.

Fraud

A growing concern is the amount of fraud related crimes being reported across Ashford as a whole. A number of people have been targeted by hoax callers claiming they are from respected companies

ie. Bank, HMRC etc. . The callers are asking for very personal information including bank details. Please be aware that these such companies will ***never*** call you and ask for this information so I urge you to not give any details over the phone. If you do receive any such calls please report them to the police on 101.

I would like to remind all residents to be vigilant at all times and to report any suspicious activity via the Kent police non-emergency number 101.

Rural Areas

Across Ashford we are experiencing more and more attempted burglaries and theft of machinery. Below are some steps to help prevent this:

- Maintain hedges and fences to prevent unwanted visitors from entering your garden
- Close your garden gate and lock it from the inside
- Store bins and ladders carefully so they can't be used as climbing aids
- Store tools and equipment somewhere secure after use so they don't get stolen or used to break into your home
- Secure sheds and garages with suitable locks and consider fitting shed alarms and security lights
- Disable lawn mowers and other large machinery when not in use and chain items together or to a solid anchor point
- Security mark valuable items – taking photographs and recording details such as serial numbers and identifying marks can also help to identify items if they get lost or stolen.
- Consider registering valuables on a property database such as www.immobilise.com

Steps to secure your property

- Keep front gate closed at all times
- Lock all external doors.
- Spotlights can help deter offenders.
- Alarm System- particularly those linked to the police can deter offenders and help police attend incidents swiftly.
- Timer switchers- for lights when you are out at night or on holiday.
- Keep windows closed particularly at night in the warmer months.
- Alarms for out buildings
- Lock sheds and garages
- Mount CCTV to deter and capture evidence of offences.