



Wealden Prevention Team

Newsletter November 2018

“Hello” from Inspector Jon Gross and your Wealden Policing Team

As the Wealden Inspector responsible for neighbourhood policing I would like to update you with some of the recent activity of your local policing team.

Hopefully you will glean a sense of what we are doing to provide a pro-active presence across Wealden. Engagement that is over and above the routine deployment of officers to urgent calls and crime enquiries that happens every day across the district.

‘Being visible’ in our communities is a challenge – Wealden is a huge area with a small (but dedicated!) contingent of neighbourhood officers and PCSOs. The team has a core role in preventing crime and keeping people safe and much of our time is spent working with partner agencies and other police departments to do just that. That crucial work is not always ‘visible’ to the public.

We do however, absolutely recognise the importance of effective community engagement, and we know our Wealden communities do too. Our engagement activity is therefore one of our biggest priorities and whenever possible we are deploying the team to get out to all parts of the district.

What follows is a snapshot of where our neighbourhood patrols have taken us to in the last few of months.

September

In September the Team conducted foot and vehicle patrols in the following towns and villages: Willingdon, Crowborough, Polegate, Stone Cross, Cuckmere Valley, Alfriston, Jevington, Pevensey, Westham, Berwick, Hellingly, Heathfield, Uckfield, Rotherfield, Mayfield, Groombridge and Forest Row.

A patrol of Forest Row included a drop in to the council office and liaison with the Community Warden and Clerk to the Council.

Following the school summer holidays there were a number of deployments to schools before and after the school day. These provided a good opportunity to engage with pupils and parents.

A Heathfield community surgery took place on Monday 10 September. In addition Wealden staff undertook patrols of Heathfield High Street. During the surgery the team met a number of residents including two members of Heathfield and Waldron Parish Councils, one of the local street pastors and members of the Bodle Street Green & Springwood Hill Neighbourhood Watch. The interactions and topics of conversation varied, including speeding in New Pond Hill, Five Ashes and Cade Street.

A similar surgery took place in Crowborough on Monday 17 September. It provided another useful opportunity to meet with the public, and on this occasion also benefited from the attendance of the Police and Crime Commissioner.





October

During October the team patrolled all areas of the District. Activity included:

A seatbelt operation, and parking checks outside Polegate School and Station road – which included reporting two drivers for using mobile phones whilst driving. A separate visit to Stone Cross School took place to provide support for parking problems. These deployments resulted in lots of engagement with parents and children. A number of patrols also took place outside Willingdon and Polegate schools.

During a patrol of Hailsham PCSOs identified a potential fraud in progress and took necessary action to prevent it being carried out.

Whilst patrolling Hellingly PCSOs were called to an incident involving youths climbing on a building site. The youths were located and taken home to parents.

An evening patrol of Heathfield High Street Mill Road Car Park involved the team speaking to drivers and advising them of action that would be taken in respect of anti-social driving.

Regular patrols of Uckfield took place as part of the ongoing drive to tackle anti-social behaviour. Patrols of Crowborough also took place including a drop in to the youth centre, and several shops and businesses.

The team was also pleased to attend a number of events including: Rotherfield Pre-school's visit (Pictured above) with East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service; a Help the Hero's event in Wadhurst; and Isfield Bonfire.

November

In November the team have again undertaken patrol activity in all areas of the District. Some of the notable events included:

Concerted patrol activity in Polegate and Willingdon to address a range of issues. This involved; a regular presence at Willingdon and Polegate Schools; patrols of Tott Yew Recreation Ground; and liaison with the Polegate Town Council Clerk.

Engagement at Stone Cross School; regular patrols of Hailsham, Hellingly and Heathfield (where some targeted patrols took place in response to a number of breaks to vans); patrols of Mayfield, Rotherfield, Frant, Groombridge, Wadhurst Forest Row, Pevensey, and Hartfield.

This month also saw the first deployments in Wealden of a mobile police station. On 2nd November officers and PCSOs were at Morrisons Car Park in Crowborough between 10.00am-1.00pm. Over 100 people came up to speak to us about a wide range of issues, mostly concerning crime prevention matters for which a great deal of guidance leaflets and resources were handed out (Pictured to the right).

This exercise was repeated at Tesco car park in Uckfield on 14th November. It proved another worthwhile exercise in engaging with a large number of people in a short space of time and further deployments of this nature are scheduled for December and the new year.

The team were also pleased to attend East Hoathly Bonfire – a great event despite the heavy rain. The next day we were very proud to be present at a number of Remembrance Day parades throughout Wealden



Operation Blitz

Operation Blitz involves proactive police patrols on weekend evenings and other key dates to tackle nuisance behaviour and low level crime.

Since April we have undertaken over 70 Blitz patrols covering every Friday and Saturday evening, and a number of additional dates to cover school holidays and carnival events.

Officers have been allocated specific tasks to identify young people involved in anti-social behaviour and to investigate any offences involving the sale of alcohol to underage persons.

Home visits have been completed, predominantly in Uckfield and Crowborough, to speak with identified youths in the presence of their parents or carers and to discourage further offences or nuisance behaviour.

There have been 62 calls to the Blitz phone (carried by officers out on patrol and allowing a method of direct reporting from members of the public).

Our interventions this period have included:

- 59 Street Interventions (stop/search)
- 23 warning letters sent
- 15 alcohol seizures
- 2 drug seizures
- 3 arrests

Crime and ASB Reductions

We will continue to work hard and refine our patrol and engagement activity to keep people feeling safe across Wealden. As we do so we will look to build on the reductions in crime and anti-social behaviour we have seen in the first nine months of this year.

When comparing January – September 2018 data with the same period last year there have been 211 less crimes reported in Wealden (-4%) and 240 fewer incidents of anti-social behaviour (-17%). Welcoming statistics but no room for complacency! Crime in the last three months has shown a slight increase and we continue to do our best to identify emerging crime series and put measures in place to prevent further offences. You can help us by reporting matters to us via 101 or online.

Are you 'In the Know'?

These newsletters will appear periodically and one of the key mechanisms for distributing it will be via 'in the Know.' There are weekly posts on this forum which will help you stay linked in to current force wide initiatives and crime prevention messages as well as providing regular updates at to what our Constables and PCSOs are doing.

So don't wait for the next newsletter - sign up to receive the weekly messages posted by us at:

<https://www.intheknow.community/>.



Merry Christmas!

The next of these newsletters won't appear until the New Year but in the interim you can stay linked in with us via 'in the Know'. Find our Facebook and Twitter pages at: @WealdenPolice, and the Sussex Police web site.



In the meantime thank you for all the support we have been shown this year and we wish you a 'Merry Christmas' and 'Happy New year'.