

Dear All,

I am one of the Police Community Support Officers at Ashford Police station and I cover the following wards, **Finberry, Bridgefield, Mersham, Sevington, Aldington, Brabourne, Brook, Hastingleigh, Bonnington, Bilsington Smeeth** and **Ruckinge**. I am going to be sending out monthly updates to key members of the community with a general overview and what I have been involved in that month. If you do not wish to continue receiving this email please let me know.

I understand over the next few weeks BREXIT is going to cause all sorts of problems in regard to traffic around your area and we are currently trying to work with partner agencies to cause as less inconvenience as possible. If you have any questions in relation to BREXIT please feel free to drop me an email. We have had immigrants escaping from trucks at Truckstop and fleeing towards the fields in and around Finberry so we will be monitoring this as much as we can. Please if you see anything report it as soon as possible.

I will be patrolling your area soon and will show as much presence as possible. Please if you do see me feel free to stop and have a chat or if you have any questions then by all means stop me in my tracks I would be only too happy to talk with you. Below I have stated a few things I have been involved in recently and would love to share them with you as well as some advice.

Knife Crime:

As you may have seen on Meridian News a few weeks ago we have recently run Op Jump which is to educate children in schools and youths on knife crime. Throughout this operation we have educated 8000 students and it was proven very successful. This also included the Volunteer Police Cadets getting involved and reiterating the legislation on the sales of knives to shops in the town centre.

Bike Theft:

We have recently had a period of bicycle theft's happening in and around Ashford and we are trying to encourage people to register their bikes through the following website <https://www.bikeregister.com/>.

If you have friends or family with bikes please advise them and make them aware of this website to help protect them from theft.

School Visit's

As I am new to the area I will be making it my duty to visit all schools and get a chance to make myself a familiar face to the pupils and teachers and will also be open to any questions or queries you may have. I will also be attending schools in the morning to help control any parking issues you may have in your area and will try to assist the best I can to help keep school runs flowing.

Burglaries and Theft

Due to Spring arriving and Summer just down the road many of you will be planning on going on holiday. Please could you take a moment to read through the below step's on securing your property whilst your away but also whilst you're at home.

At home

- Lock all windows and doors before you go out or go to bed, making sure you know where your keys are in case of an emergency.
- Fit security measures such as intruder alarms, door chains and locks.
- Avoid labelling house keys in case you lose them and they fall into the wrong hands.
- Don't leave keys (including car keys) or valuables on display near doors or windows.
- Make sure fences, hedges and gates are in good condition.
- Consider installing external security lights, but make sure they do not affect your neighbours.
- Avoid leaving side gates open and put away ladders, tools or garden equipment that could be stolen or used to break into your home.
- Keep garages and sheds locked and alarmed where possible.
- Store bins carefully so they cannot be used as climbing aids.
- Never hide spare house keys outside or in a shed.
- Dispose of packaging carefully - empty boxes left outside your home could advertise your valuables to thieves.

If you go away

- Use timer switches on lights and radios to give the impression that someone is home.
- Cancel regular deliveries, such as milk and newspapers.
- Make sure garden furniture is stored away and lock sheds and gates.
- Ask a relative or trusted neighbour to pop in and move any post from inside your door
- Arrange for the curtains to be opened and closed while you are away.
- Offer your neighbours the use of your driveway.

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)

We would like to promote Neighbourhood Watch in your area and if you are interested please go to <https://www.kent.police.uk/advice/community-support/neighbourhood-watch/>

It's been a pleasure sharing this information with you and I hope we will meet one another soon.

Kind Regards,

PCSO MATTHEW MORGAN