

**Minutes of a meeting of Aldington and Bonnington Parish Council held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022 in Aldington Village Hall at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** Councillors: L Harman (Chairman), M Boulden, R Boulding, R Spicer and S Wagstaff.

**In attendance:** Peter Setterfield PSLCC, Parish Clerk.

Also present: 6 members of the public and P New (Neighbourhood Watch).

1111. **Apologies for absence:**

Cllr R Lloyd.

1112. **Declarations of Interest:**

There were no declarations of interest.

1113. **Public Participation:**

A resident asked if the Planning Inspectorate response to the Scoping Opinion could be posted onto the Parish Council website. This was agreed.

A resident commented that the signage used when Roman Road was resurfaced was still on site. Kent Highways to be contacted to remove.

1114. **Minutes:**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022 were submitted, agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

1115. **Parish Councillor Vacancies:**

There are currently 3 vacancies on the Parish Council, 1 for Aldington Ward and 2 for Bonnington. To date only one application has been received. New adverts will be prepared and posted.

1116. **Neighbourhood Watch:**

Report attached.

1117. **Chairman's Report:**

Cllr Harman expressed her thanks for all those that helped with the very successful Village Fete, especially Cllr R Spicer for her efforts in ensuring a smooth operation. The team of volunteers is now growing.

Last months meeting was cancelled following the sad news of the passing of Queen Elizabeth !!, thanks go to Cllrs Boulding and Wagstaff for undertaking the necessary flag duties.

1118. **Finance:**

Schedule of payments:

Chq No	Payee	Purpose	Amount
1737	Harmer & Sons		£613.20
1738	Harmer & Sons		£2,181.60
1739	Zurich Municipal	Insurance	£1,193.98
1740	Art of Design	Newsletter	£276.00
1741	BWP Creative	Website	£273.60

1742	Aldington Village Hall	Room hire	£36.00
1743	Replacement chq	1728	
1744, 1745 & 1746	Staff costs		£1,957.30
1747	Harmer & Sons	Grounds maintenance	£1,662.00
1748	Aldington Village Hall	Room Hire	£180.00
1749	SLCC Enterprises	Training	£54.00
1750	PKF Littlejohn LLP	Audit	£480.00
1751,1752 & 1753	Staff costs		£1,911.04
1754	R Spicer	Fete expenses	£329.32
1755	Harmer & Sons	Grounds maintenance	£990.00
1756, 1757 & 1758	Staff costs		£1,947.47

**Resolved:**

- 1. To receive and authorise the payment of the items of expenditure in the schedule of payments**
- 2. To authorise the transfer of £5,000 from deposit account to current account.**

The organiser of the proposed carol concert is seeking financial assistance for the running of the event. Identified costs to date include the hire of the village hall and a piano which are estimated to be in the region of £600, other costs are yet to be determined. An update was provided at the meeting in that anticipated costs are £1,078 and to date £600 has been pledged. Cllr R Spicer has had a meeting with the organiser regarding posters and programmes and is seeking quotes for this, it is anticipated approx.. £200. All profits from ticket sales, refreshments and raffle will be donated to Kaleidoscope.

The Parish Council agreed to consider the financing of the printing.

**1119. Finance, Quarterly Review:**

**Report ABPC/22/07** brings to the Parish Council an update on its financial standing against its budget at the end of the first quarter of the financial year.

**Resolved:**

- 1. To receive and note Report ABPC/22/07**
- 2. To receive and note the financial position at the end of the first quarter of the financial year.**

**1120. Notice of Conclusion of Audit:**

**Report ABPC/22/08** attaches the certified annual return from PKF Littlejohn LLP, the Parish Council's External Auditor.

**Resolved:**

1. To receive and note Report ABPC/22/08
2. To receive and acknowledge the certified Annual Return.

1121. **Planning Committee:**

The applications considered at the planning committee meeting prior to the Parish Council meeting were outlined.

1122. **Quarry Field, Wood and Pond:**

The pond will be cleared of the weed in the coming weeks as soon as the contractor has a vacant slot in his schedule of works. It had been noticed by one of the firemen that the bonfire had got out of control and he had taken appropriate action.

The Queen's Green Canopy scheme has been extended, it was agreed that councillors Harman and Boulden would look at the appropriate areas for planting.

1123. **Neighbourhood Plan:**

Due to other commitments little progress has been made on the plan however work is being undertaken on developing a dialogue for the 13 views and vistas that have been identified as important. A review of the Ecology report is also being progressed.

It has been identified that there is no Conservation Area Management Plan in place for the two conservation areas in the Parish, a draft is being drawn up to be included in the Neighbourhood Plan.

1124. **Events Committee:**

The date for next year's village fete is yet to be arranged. The Village Hall Xmas Fayre will continue to be organised by and for the Village Hall with the events committee providing assistance when needed.

The Community Hub has been established and operates on a Wednesday morning in the Village Hall, this is a joint venture between the WI and the Events Committee.

1125. **Aldington Meadows:**

Quotations for the allotment sheds are being obtained and the appropriate hard standings, it is anticipated that the sheds will not be delivered until the end of this year start of next.

A number of play equipment companies have been approached to provide ideas and costings to improve the facilities already on site as well as some additional equipment for the older age group. It is anticipated that this information will be available at the next meeting.

1126. **Civility and Respect:**

**Report ABPC/22/09** brings to the Parish Council's attention work that has been carried out into Civility and Respect in the local council sector.

**Resolved:**

1. To receive and note Report ABPC/22/09
2. To receive and adopt the revised Dignity at Work Policy

### 3. To sign the Civility and Respect Pledge.

1127. **Any Items of Information:**

The condition of Roman Road from Ruffins Hill through to Posting Green was raised as there are a number of potholes. The condition of Giggers Green Road was raised in particular the area between Goldenhurst and the Canal where the road narrows and from the Canal through to the crossroads as the edges of the road have crumbled leaving large dips which are a hazard given the narrowness of the road. Kent Highways are to be contacted and asked to review the signage and also the speed limit which is currently the national speed limit.

Cllr Harman raised the subject of the periodic checking of the defibrillators previously undertaken by the late P Kemp as it would appear not to have been done. Cllr Wagstaff agreed to take the role on.

1128. **Exclusion of the Public and Press:**

**Resolved: that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the Public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be conducted.**

1129. **Parish Clerk:**

**Resolved: to increase the Parish Clerk's contract to 24 hours per week.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

## REPORT TO ALDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL 12<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022.

I trust councillors had the chance of a break from business during August and enjoyed the good weather. Criminals, crime, and community matters were still front and centre of my work during that period.

I will give a verbal report on the PCSO position for ALDINGTON and changes to ASHFORD POLICE.

I will report that much of my community work involved promoting messages and fire safety guidance due to the very hot weather and drought conditions raising the fire risk for the area.

My fire service background gives me considerable experience in this field and constant guidance was issued. Although temperatures have returned to more normal levels the fire risk remains high and vigilance and care will be needed to ensure fire does not damage the countryside and incur losses to farmers.

The term 'wildfire' has been overused by the media however the speed of travel of fires during this hot dry spell cannot be overstated.

I also visited Aldington Fire Station where I had a tour of the appliance and then a meeting with the crew. I had the opportunity to discuss firefighting tactics which we used in the Brigade during the very hot summer of 1976. The drought in 1976 started earlier but the temperatures never reached the very high levels of this year.

During the meeting I have agreed to help promote recruitment for on call fire fighters in Aldington. It is essential that enough recruits join the service to ensure the appliance is crewed available for the locality and surrounding villages. Operations this year has seen appliances deployed a long way from their stations and Aldington is no exception. When I retired from the Brigade, I was Head of Operations for the whole of Kent and I had 66 fire stations under my command. Sadly, that number has been reduced so ensuring the ones we have are crewed is essential.



ALDINGTON CREW with myself on recent visit.

# On-call firefighter

On-call firefighters for Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) are professional firefighters who offer days and times when they are available to respond to emergency incidents. By carrying a pager they are able to work in their normal job, either from home, for themselves or for a company, but must be able to get to their local fire station when needed. On-call firefighters also act as ambassadors for the fire service and undertake other duties ranging from attending open days to working with their local communities.

They receive an annual wage to reflect the time they commit to being available, plus additional payments for attending incidents, extra training and pre-planned voluntary additional activities.

## The role of an On-call firefighter

Part of your commitment is to undertake training and continuous learning and development. Practical training is normally undertaken once per week on a designated evening at your appointed station. Learning, development and training is an essential part of being a firefighter and we have a continuous training programme to ensure that you can do your job safely.

As an on-call firefighter, the times when you can be available need to match when we need operational cover. This could be evenings, weekends and for some stations, periods in the daytime. At the initial stage of your application you will be asked about your availability to be on-call for Kent Fire and Rescue Service - the times and days you can offer will need to match our requirements.

### **CRIME**

The normal crime risks remain the same. Matters to be alert and vigilant for are .....  
Properties kept secure; vehicles secure with nothing on show especially last park at night.  
Garages, sheds, barns, stables, outbuildings, and any form of external storage can be targets and indeed have been across Kent.

As always, our strategy must be what can we learn from other communities to keep Aldington residents safe and secure. To keep residents crime free and free from the fear of being a victim of crime also.

Other crime risk areas remain the same. Thefts of fuel both vehicle and domestic heating oil. Thefts of number plates to again be used for fuel thefts at pumps.

Internet shopping off doorsteps and the added risk of the delivery vehicles now being trailed and followed by criminals mean that even the rural areas may suffer this type of crime. In Ashford District a complete van was taken whilst the driver was engaged making a delivery to a property.

The type of crime that I have warned about constantly to all areas have been the theft of tools/equipment from Garages, sheds, barns, outbuildings, and any form of external storage.

Sadly, thieves struck in rural areas recently and you will have seen my work in trying to assist operational colleagues and as important to ensure the community is warned and alerted to the fact criminals are active in the area.

My work also involves support to the victims of crime.

#### NEWSPAPER ARTICLE OF INCIDENT IN ALDINGTON

News

[www.kentonline.co.uk](http://www.kentonline.co.uk)

To advertise: 01634 227817



CCTV showed masked burglars creeping around a mobile home at Bonnington Farm in Aldington; right, Tess Wilde and Mark Homewood run the farm but now say they are living in fear

# Burglars creep around farm

Terrifying CCTV footage captured masked burglars creeping around a kitchen after breaking into a mobile home.

The thieves stole a 100-year-old machete after smashing their way inside the property at Bonnington Farm in Aldington, near Ashford.

Owners Mark Homewood and Tess Wilde are now living in fear of being targeted again by criminals, following the second raid on their home in a year.

The couple have been trying to start their own small farm, like Mr Homewood's grandparents had.

"We were hoping to continue passing it down the generations," he said.

"Unfortunately the fear of crime is beginning to take a toll on us."

The burglars caused thousands of pounds' worth of damage and stole Mr Homewood's grandfather's century-old

machete.

"The machete was of great sentimental value," he said.

"My grandparents used to own orchards and it was well-used by them pruning the apple trees."

The thieves broke into the farm in the early hours of Wednesday, August 17 and Mr Homewood says they left nothing untouched.

CCTV shows them arriving at 3.25am, managing to break a Kryptonite D-lock on the gate

and driving their pick-up onto the field.

"They then smash through the front door of the mobile home, which is currently used for storage."

"Thankfully we were not inside," said Mr Homewood.

"They went through the whole place, opened every draw. From what we can tell they didn't steal much more than a pot of hibiscus and a machete."

"We have been left with thou-

sands of pounds' worth of damage to clear up."

The farm, which has 14 alpacas as well as four baby alpacas, was also broken into last year.

Mr Homewood said: "The last time we were targeted by a criminal was August 26 last year when they cut through the fence and left it wide open."

"Fortunately, none of the alpacas escaped."

Police continue to make inquiries into the burglary.



## RURAL CRIME.

The work we are doing in this parish alongside neighbouring parishes will need to be at its very best in the remainder of this year and into next. As a recession bites alongside energy costs, we will need to be alert and vigilant.

I am just receiving initial reports of the loss of a herd of sheep on the Romney Marsh



### Aldington and Bonnington Village Community Group

Peter New · 5 d ·

Dear Readers

Firstly thank you to the Admins for cutting me a bit of slack in reposting a previous residents post but I wanted my appeal all together in case other posts are put on whilst I was writing.

The crime below is exactly the sort of crime we face especially in rural areas.

This was in Roman Road opposite the school, and anyone with information or by chance any form of CCTV/Camera Doorbell/or by total luck DASHCAM footage then please contact the police.

The victim has also given me a couple of pictures of the bikes taken.

CRIME NUMBER IS 30-0218

Garages, Sheds, Barns, Stables and any form of Outbuildings or External Storage are vulnerable to these sorts of criminals.

Please try to ensure buildings are as secure as possible.

It is absolutely essential that all crimes especially these types and indeed attempts and failed crimes are

reported so we can track the extent of the problem

Remember you may be lucky a neighbour may not be!!

I am in touch with the Chair person of your Council

Linda Harman and further appeals/posts will follow as

officers investigate.

Please remain alert and vigilant and anything suspicious use 999 immediately this is the clearest possible indication criminals are active in the area and in our rural locations we need to be extra alert.

Thank you all for your assistance

Peter

Peter New(peternew1@aol.com)

Kent Police Volunteer & Community Neighbourhood Watch



Crime ref is 30-0218

We are apparently waiting on crime scene investigators..

They broke into the caravan, and 2 sheds and attempted the garage.. but the bikes were the only thing taken we believe..

👍 Like    💬 Comment

Hi all.. wanted to make you all aware we had a visit last night.. ( in the houses opposite the school) they have broken into a caravan and stolen 2 little girls bikes that were lent to them for the weekend..

They have tried multiple locations to get into our garage but have failed.. some people really are the worse!



## **THIS FINAL ITEM WILL BE OF A RISING CONCERN**

This final area of great concern is 'SCAMS' and sadly in the Ashford District 2 pensioner households were hit by 2 very elaborate scams totalling £10k.

One especially concerning involved the impersonating of Police Officers.

Another area that I am working on as we meet is criminals will look to exploit the fears of 'energy costs' especially in the homes of vulnerable people.

Bogus callers will arrive on doorsteps in pairs well dressed and with badges and lanyards and ask to inspect the insulation in lofts to see if the occupier qualifies for free upgrades in insulation. One criminal will enter the loft and call up the resident to answer a few questions and it is at that moment that the second criminal who is doing the paperwork on the ground floor will strike taking handbags, phones, and anything cash wise in the home.

We know that sadly many pensioners worried sick about fuel costs will invite people in without a moments thought. I will give a verbal report on my work to hand to try and combat this.

I will be introducing a further enhancement to try to protect vulnerable members of the community. 2 very important campaign posters are below for your attention.

May I close by thanking council for their continued support which will be essential in the battle against crime as we move into the latter third of 2022 and the changing risks as autumn and winter approaches

**THANK YOU**

**Peter**

**91725 Police Volunteer Peter New  
Community Neighbourhood Watch**





# Kent Fraud Alert System



**TO STOP FRAUD™**

## Update On Courier Fraudsters active in Kent

Further to our our previous alerts on this, we have seen further Courier Fraud type offences in the East of the County but in the last couple of days we have seen a movement to the West of the county in particular in **Sittingbourne** and the surrounding areas. There have also been reports of attempted offences in **Maidstone, Borough Green, Cranbrook, Dartford** and **Sissinghurst**.

The fraudsters are still stating they are are Police Officers and quite often from Police Stations in London. They are giving various stories but often will say that they have arrested/have person(s) in custody and will claim that they were in possession of copies of the victims Bank Cards. It's a **SCAM**.

Remember the Police will never call and ask you to withdraw cash to be collected by a courier. Neither will they ask you to hand over your Bank Cards as part of an investigation.

Remember the ABC of Fraud awareness and **NEVER ASSUME** or **BELIEVE** a call is genuine and always **CONFIRM** by ringing a trusted number (see our leaflet opposite).

If you think that you may have been a victim of this type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately which you can do by calling 159 and call us on 101.

## Have you been asked to withdraw cash by the police?



### This is a scam.

The police or your bank will **never**:

- ask for your bank details or PIN
- ask you to transfer or withdraw and handover sums of money
- send a courier to collect your bank cards, cash or PIN

If you are unsure about a call or visitor you have received:

- Don't give out any personal or financial information.
- Hang up or close your front door to check the caller's identity.
- If they phoned you, wait 10 minutes before you use the phone again (or use a different telephone) in case they stay on the line.
- Contact their company yourself or dial 101 for the police – do not call a number they have provided.
- Report suspicious activity straight away.



Report a non-urgent crime online [www.kent.police.uk/report](http://www.kent.police.uk/report)  
Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 [www.kent.police.uk/contact](http://www.kent.police.uk/contact)  
In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call **999**  
If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our textphone service **18000**.  
Or text us on 999 if you've pre-registered with the emergency SMS service.  
[www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk)   



## Kent Police

### Contacting Kent Police

Report a non-urgent crime online [www.kent.police.uk/report](http://www.kent.police.uk/report)  
Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 [www.kent.police.uk/contact](http://www.kent.police.uk/contact)  
In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call **999**  
If deaf or speech impaired, text 'police' and your message to **60066**  
[www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk)   

**THIS WAS ONE OF THE SCAMS USED IN ASHFORD**

# Beware of suspicious callers

Most people who call at your home are genuine.

But sometimes people may turn up unannounced and try to:

- Trick their way into your home to steal valuables or money
- Sell you services or items you do not want or need
- Carry out unnecessary repairs to your home at inflated prices.



If concerned about someone calling at your home, **don't open your door.**

You can also:

- Ask for identification and call their company yourself (not on a number they provide) to check they are genuine
- Never leave your door unattended
- Ask the visitor to return another time when someone can be with you.



**Kent  
Police**

#### Contacting Kent Police

Report a non-urgent crime online [www.kent.police.uk/report](http://www.kent.police.uk/report)

Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 [www.kent.police.uk/contact](http://www.kent.police.uk/contact)

In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call **999**

If deaf or speech impaired, text '**police**' and your message to **60066**

[www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk)   

## REPORT TO ALDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL 3rd OCTOBER 2022.

I shall deliver my September and October reports together at the meeting but please accept my apologies for arriving late at the meeting as I am travelling from another appointment.

### CRIME

This October report will cover two main areas of concern.

1 The routine crime risks that are with us all the time and mainly carried out by **'CHANCERS AND OPPORTUNISTS'**

2 The **'SCAMS'** which are with us 365days x24hrs a day but especially as we head into Autumn and the worries of Energy Costs affording criminals the chances to strike at the whole population but especially targeting our elderly, vulnerable and disabled in the community.

1. The normal crime risks remain the same. Matters to be alert and vigilant for are.....

**Properties kept secure; vehicles kept secure with nothing on show (especially last park up at night). Garages, sheds, barns, stables, outbuildings, and any form of external storage can be targets.**

Other crime risk areas remain the same. **Thefts of fuel both vehicle and domestic heating oil. Thefts of number plates to again be used for fuel thefts at pumps.**

**Internet shopping theft off doorsteps** and the added risk of the delivery vehicles now being trailed and followed by criminals mean that even the rural areas may suffer this type of crime. In Ashford District a van was taken whilst the driver was engaged making a delivery to a property.

**SHEDS ESPECIALLY ACROSS THE WHOLE ASHFORD DISTRICT HAVE BEEN TARGETED**



**Protect your property**

Given the opportunity, thieves will target **sheds and garages** for items such as high-value power tools and bikes.

Take measures to protect your valuables and reduce this risk of theft.



- Keep garages or sheds locked when not in use
- Consider fitting security alarms and external lights where possible
- Security mark valuable items and keep receipts somewhere safe
- Lock away tools or equipment that could be stolen or used to break in to your property
- Dispose of packaging carefully – wrapping and boxes can advertise rich pickings for criminals

2 I am on record as saying there is a scam for anything and everything.

Scams can come from 3,30,300 or 3000 miles away or indeed standing on your front doorstep.

The Energy Costs concerns of residents will afford criminals another opportunity to strike at residents especially those who are vulnerable

With each government announcement to help residents, sadly another opportunity to 'scam' people appears.

**AN EXAMPLE**

I am very concerned that criminals will call at resident's properties and say they are there to assess loft insulation etc. They will say there is no cost to the resident it is a government support scheme.

The criminals will act in pairs, and one will enter the loft area and call up the resident to answer a few questions about the loft area.

The second criminal will be apparently filling out paperwork however when the resident is engaged upstairs that is when the second one will strike at wallets, handbags, cash, and phones and small like goods.

This will target our elderly, our pensioners, our disabled, our residents with mental health issues, our residents with learning difficulties maybe they cannot read or write.

My fear is that a criminal saying they can help reduce energy costs will be invited in immediately as the financial fears of rising costs terrify some people.

The effects when pensioners especially are victims often mean they never ever get their confidence back. Another worry is that some are too embarrassed to report they have been a victim!

We must ensure absolutely nothing is done in a rush or a hurry. Criminals rely on us acting in haste.

I am providing as much information to you as councillors/clerk as we may have to expect requests for help and guidance from some of our vulnerable persons.

**OUR POSITION MUST BE DO ABSOLUTLEY NOTHING WITHOUT CHECKING. ADMIT NOBODY INTO YOUR HOMES.**

In the following annex are several of the 'scams' that concern me and at the time I am writing this report are happening across Ashford and East Kent

As always may I thank you for your continued support and backing, I really appreciate it.

**Peter**

**Peter New**

**Kent Police Volunteer & Community Neighbourhood Watch**



**#ScamAlert** ! A Kent resident has received a scam text message claiming that the victim is eligible for a discounted energy bill under the Energy Bills Support Scheme with a link that takes the victim to a realistic looking government webpage.

🚫 The website is fake & this is a scam! The discounted energy bill will be done automatically.

Received a suspicious message? Remember to:

- ✓ Not click on any links
- ✓ Send suspicious emails to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk) & texts to 7726
- ✓ Block the number or email address

For more info about how the Energy Bills Support Scheme discount works, visit: <https://bit.ly/3C5uTfV>

**#ConnectedCommunities**



# ALERT



## DISCOUNTED ENERGY



# TEXT MESSAGE SCAM







## Public Protection - Kent

2 d · 🌐

[#ScamAlert](#) ⚠️ Residents in Kent have received scam telephone calls, making false claims that they are from "the Council" working on behalf of the Conservation Office. When questioned and asked for more details the scammer gets defensive and rude. The scammer went on to ask the resident about loft insulation in her house. At which point the woman hung up.

This is a SCAM ! Do not give any personal or financial details - end the call.

Report scams to [Citizens Advice](#) Consumer Helpline on 0808 223 1133. If you need done work to your home, contact Trading Standards Checked on 03000 41 64 38.

Please warn friends and family!

[#ConnectedCommunities](#) [#ScamAware](#)



# ALERT



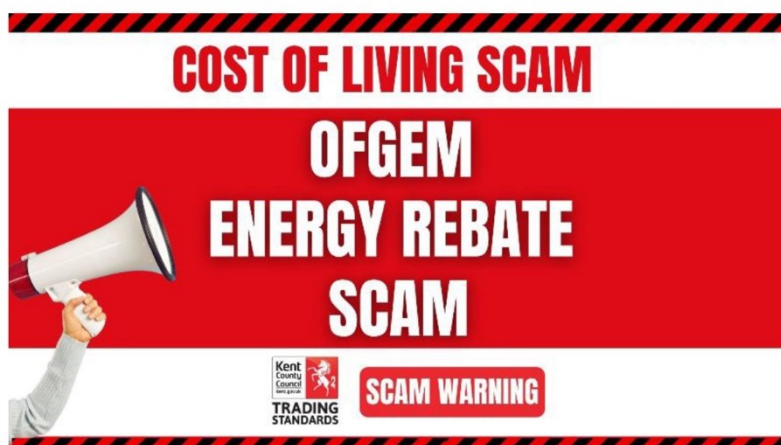
**KENT RESIDENTS  
TARGETED BY LOFT  
INSULATION SCAM**



Dear Kent Residents,

As the number of scams continues to increase, this is our regular round-up of the latest scams reported by Kent residents. **Anyone can be a victim of a scam. It is important to stay alert and follow our guidance.**

- ⊖ Reputable traders and contractors do not cold-call for business and they will NEVER ask you to go to the bank or cash point.
- ⊖ If you receive a scam phone call, hang up and don't return their calls. NEVER disclose any personal information such as bank details, no matter who the person claims to be.



Action Fraud is warning of a rise in scam emails pretending to be from Ofgem offering a rebate payment on your gas and electricity bills.

- ⊖ The email is titled "Claim your bill rebate now"
- ⊖ You are told to click on a link
- ⊖ The link will take you to a malicious websites designed to steal personal and financial information

This is a scam! Rebates will be applied automatically - you do not need to register!

- ✓ Remember, your bank or any other official source will never ask you to supply personal information via email.
- ✓ If you have received an email which you're not quite sure about, forward it to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk).

# Kent Fraud Alert System



TO STOP FRAUD™

## Ofgem Energy Scams

The National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) is warning the public about a sharp rise in reports relating to fake emails purporting to be from Ofgem, the independent energy regulator for Great Britain. The emails claim that the recipient is due a rebate payment as part of a government scheme and provides links for the recipient to follow in order to apply for the rebate. The links in the emails lead to malicious websites designed to steal personal and financial information. Between Monday 22nd August 2022 and Monday 5th September 2022, a total of 1,567 phishing emails related to this scam have been reported via the Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS). All the emails display the email subject header "Claim your bill rebate now". Offenders are using the Ofgem brand logo and colours to make the emails look as authentic as possible. However, the emails ask recipients to "apply for an energy bill rebate before September 2020", which is what prompted many recipients to realise the emails weren't genuine.

### What you need to do

If you have any doubts about a message, contact the organisation directly. Don't use the numbers or address in the message – use the details from their official website. Remember, your bank (or any other official source) will never ask you to supply personal information via email.

If you have received an email which you're not quite sure about, forward it to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk). Send us emails that feel suspicious, even if you're not certain they're a scam, they can check.


### Preventing fraud

Together,  
let's stop  
scammers.



#### Remember, ABC:

 never Assume

 never Believe

 always Confirm

Get the latest  
scam advice:



@KentPoliceECU



If you think that you may have been a victim of this or any other type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and report it to Action Fraud at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040.



**Kent  
Police**

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If deaf or speech impaired, text 'police' and your message to **60066**

[www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk)   



# Kent Fraud Alert System



TO STOP FRAUD™

## Update On Courier Fraudsters active in Kent

Further to our our previous alerts on this, we have seen further Courier Fraud type offences in the East of the County but in the last couple of days we have seen a movement to the West of the county in particular in **Sittingbourne** and the surrounding areas. There have also been reports of attempted offences in **Maidstone, Borough Green, Cranbrook, Dartford** and **Sissinghurst**.

The fraudsters are still stating they are are Police Officers and quite often from Police Stations in London. They are giving various stories but often will say that they have arrested/have person(s) in custody and will claim that they were in possession of copies of the victims Bank Cards. It's a **SCAM**.

Remember the Police will never call and ask you to withdraw cash to be collected by a courier. Neither will they ask you to hand over your Bank Cards as part of an investigation.

Remember the ABC of Fraud awareness and **NEVER ASSUME** or **BELIEVE** a call is genuine and always **CONFIRM** by ringing a trusted number (see our leaflet opposite).

If you think that you may have been a victim of this type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately which you can do by calling 159 and call us on 101.

## Have you been asked to withdraw cash by the police?



### This is a scam.

The police or your bank will **never**:

- ask for your bank details or PIN
- ask you to transfer or withdraw and handover sums of money
- send a courier to collect your bank cards, cash or PIN

If you are unsure about a call or visitor you have received:

- Don't give out any personal or financial information.
- Hang up or close your front door to check the caller's identity.
- If they phoned you, wait 10 minutes before you use the phone again (or use a different telephone) in case they stay on the line.
- Contact their company yourself or dial 101 for the police – do not call a number they have provided.
- Report suspicious activity straight away.



**Kent  
Police**

Report a non-urgent crime online [www.kent.police.uk/report](http://www.kent.police.uk/report)  
Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 [www.kent.police.uk/contact](http://www.kent.police.uk/contact)  
In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call **999**  
If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our textphone service **18000**.  
Or text us on 999 if you've pre-registered with the emergency SMS service,  
[www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk)   



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If deaf or speech impaired, text 'police' and your message to **60066**  
[www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk)   

THIS WAS ONE OF THE SCAMS USED IN ASHFORD

# Beware of suspicious callers

Most people who call at your home are genuine.

But sometimes people may turn up unannounced and try to:

- Trick their way into your home to steal valuables or money
- Sell you services or items you do not want or need
- Carry out unnecessary repairs to your home at inflated prices.



If concerned about someone calling at your home, **don't open your door.**

You can also:

- Ask for identification and call their company yourself (not on a number they provide) to check they are genuine
- Never leave your door unattended
- Ask the visitor to return another time when someone can be with you.



**Kent  
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May I close by thanking council for their continued support which will be essential in the battle against crime as we move into the latter third of 2022 and the changing risks as autumn and winter approaches

**THANK YOU**

**91725 Police Volunteer Peter New & Community Neighbourhood Watch**