



THE DIGITAL BEAT

The Canterbury Beat – Edition #15: The Summer Transition

With the sun finally making a consistent appearance, the city's energy is shifting. The riverside is dotted with picnics, the parks are filling up, and we are seeing more people than ever enjoying the open spaces of our city centre.

This week, I want to talk about The Shared Space Balance. When a city is as compact as ours, keeping everyone safe means ensuring that the different ways we use the streets—whether on foot or on wheels—don't clash.

Pedestrian Zones vs. Two Wheels

As the weather warms up, we naturally see a rise in cycling. While we support green travel and seeing people active, the pedestrianised zones are exactly that—for people on foot.

The Reminder: We've been carrying out "educational stops" this week for those cycling through the busiest parts of the High Street during restricted hours.

The Safety Angle: It's not about being a "fun-sponge"; it's about protecting our more vulnerable residents. A collision on a crowded Saturday afternoon can be serious for both parties. If you're on two wheels, please dismount in the marked zones—it keeps the city friendly and accessible for everyone.

Noise and Neighborhoods

With windows being left open and people staying out later to enjoy the light evenings, "noise drift" becomes a frequent concern for residents living within the city walls.

The Balance: Canterbury is a vibrant, living city, but it's also a residential one. We've been increasing our "twilight patrols" to ensure that the transition from a busy evening to a quiet night is a smooth one for everyone.

The Check-in: You'll see us moving through areas like Northgate and the streets bordering the Dane John Gardens later in the evening. Our presence is there to remind visitors to be mindful of their volume as they head home, ensuring the city remains a pleasant place to live as well as visit.

Safety in the Sun

High temperatures and long days change the way people interact with the city. We are focusing our patrols on the "green lungs" of Canterbury to ensure they remain safe environments for families.

The Presence: We've stepped up our foot patrols in Westgate Gardens and along the River Stour. With the river level being a focal point for visitors, we're there to provide a visible deterrent to any anti-social behaviour and to be a quick point of contact if anyone needs assistance.

The Goal: To ensure that our parks remain the relaxing, safe spaces they were designed to be, regardless of how many people are using them.

💡 DID YOU KNOW? | The "Eyes on the Street"

Question: Why do you spend so much time just standing on the corners of the High Street?

The Answer: It's a technique called "Stationary Vigilance." By standing still at a busy junction for 15 minutes, we see far more than we would by walking past. We can spot the "flow" of the crowd, identify anyone acting suspiciously, and—most importantly—it makes us 100% available for you to approach us. If we're always walking with a destination in mind, people are less likely to stop us with their concerns.

Over to You

As we head into the final weeks of May:

Are there any areas where you feel the "pedestrian-only" rules are being ignored too often?

Is there a particular green space you think would benefit from a more regular police check-in?

Drop us a message or catch us on patrol—we're here to keep the city moving.