

Worthing NHW Newsletter



October 2025

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Town Neighbourhood Police Meeting

Anti-social behaviour, community tensions, knife crime, contextual safeguarding and retail theft featured among the topics discussed at the Town Neighbourhood Police meeting on Wednesday 8th October.

Inspector Sharon Sawyer introduced Graham White of WSCC (formerly of the Metropolitan Police) who is the regional delivery officer for the "Prevent" programme covering Surrey and Sussex; its aim is to stop individuals from becoming involved in terrorism by providing support to those at risk of radicalisation. Graham's remit mainly covers Crawley but he deals with any reports of radicalisation and makes referrals as required; he is also available for community and school presentations.

The murders at the Heaton Park Hebrew Congregation in Manchester and the attack on the Peacehaven Mosque this month have heightened concerns for the Jewish and Moslem communities in Worthing. The two recent local murders in Tarring and Gaisford have not given rise to further community concerns but their impact has been the more unsettling due to the infrequency of such events.

Children aged twelve or under had been threatening a local business proprietor with knives and the advice from the Police was that knife crime should at all times be reported, with a response from the Police guaranteed. As a result of Operation Sceptre, knife crime hotspots were being identified and mapped; the Police can do a lot once they know what is happening

Anti-social behaviour among children had also been reported at the Dome Cinema and elsewhere, and this is being tackled by Social Services on a "whole family" approach. Additionally, contextual safeguarding, which is an approach towards safeguarding young people from harm beyond their families, is being deployed. It involves engaging with extra-familial contexts, such as neighbourhoods, schools and online platforms, and intervening within these spaces to prevent abuse.

Operation Apprentice, a Sussex Police initiative in partnership with local business crime reduction groups across the county, is targeting the most prolific shoplifters in each district and coordinates efforts to bring them to justice. Retail thefts were reported to have declined, with concerted approaches successful in achieving arrests, which have in some cases led to prison sentences.

<https://worthingnhw.ourwatch.org.uk/>

Discarded Batteries

Firefighters have issued a warning after attending a fire in a recycling lorry which was caused by a discarded battery.

Crews responded to reports of a smoking lorry at Lancing Business Park on Monday (29 September). On arrival firefighters extinguished the waste fire using a hose reel and used a thermal imaging camera to confirm there were no further signs of fire inside the vehicle.

The remains of a battery hidden inside a cardboard box was found among the waste and is believed to have started the fire.

Crew Manager Mark Upperton said: "Batteries should never be thrown away in general waste or recycling bins. They can become damaged from crushing during the collection and sorting process, causing paper, plastics, and other materials to catch alight.

"What may start as a small fire can quickly spread and become much larger inside a collection vehicle or at a waste transfer site. This puts staff at risk, disrupts services and can result in significant damage. It also puts pressure on our ability to attend other emergencies where lives could be at risk."

"If you have old batteries to get rid of, please take them to your local recycling centre, or to a dedicated collection point which you can find in many shops and supermarkets that sell batteries."



Domestic Violence

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and was first declared as such in 1989. Since then, it has remained a time for society as a whole to acknowledge domestic violence and to stand up for its victims.

Most people are familiar with what domestic violence is. However, there is a misconception that it is always physical, and as a matter of fact, this isn't true. Domestic abuse is not confined solely to physical acts of violence. Any type of threatening, controlling or coercive behaviour is abuse – whether it's physical, psychological, sexual, economic or emotional.

According to the national domestic violence hotline, women aged 18 to 24 and 25 to 34 generally experience the highest rates of intimate partner violence. However, anyone can be a victim of domestic violence regardless of age, background, gender, religion, sexuality, or ethnicity. Although some people may not experience it directly, it can still have an impact on their day-to-day life. Experiencing negativity and violence from parents in a domestic violence relationship, for example, can harm a child's mental health and well-being.

The effects of domestic violence can be deeply traumatic. An individual can experience ongoing anxiety and depression, emotional distress, eating and sleeping disturbances, and physical symptoms, such as headaches and stomach aches.

Not only this, but it can also have a negative impact on your day-to-day life. You might not turn up to work, or you might lose touch with close friends and family members. All of this is a result of enduring physical, mental, and emotional abuse from the abuser. It is never the fault of the person who is experiencing it.

If you, or someone you know, is in immediate danger, call 999 and ask for the police – if it's not safe to speak, use the Silent Solution system by calling 999 and press 55 when prompted. If it's not an emergency or you don't want to call the police, please contact the National Domestic Abuse Helpline (run by Refuge) on 0808 2000 247. Refuge is available 24 hours a day, and all calls will be treated in strict confidence.

Autumn/winter opening hours at Recycling Centres

On the 1 October 2025 autumn/winter opening hours returned to all 11 Recycling Centres in West Sussex.

The opening times for all Recycling Centres will be 9am - 4pm until 31 March 2026. Site opening days also reverted to the autumn/winter opening schedule.

Before visiting any West Sussex Recycling Centre, don't forget you must book a timed slot online through our website. Bookings can be made up to 14 days in advance and even on the same day if there is availability.

If a booked slot is no longer needed, please cancel the appointment so that someone else can make use of the available slot. Cancellations are easy and can be done via your confirmation email.



Mobile Phone Theft

It is reported that a mobile phone is stolen every hour in some areas of the UK, so Neighbourhood Watch has assembled some tips to help keep your mobile safer. Your mobile phone's value is more than just monetary - it contains your personal data, your social accounts, your banking details and treasured photos of your loved ones. Accordingly:

- Stay aware in public spaces. Thieves often target people who are distracted (e.g. texting while walking or standing by bus or train stops). Keep your phone out of sight in crowded areas like high streets, public transport, or outside bars/clubs.
- Use secure carrying methods - avoid keeping your phone in back pockets or loosely in your hand; instead, use a zipped bag or front pocket, ideally with the opening facing inward when in a crowd.
- Enable security features - set up a strong PIN, password, fingerprint, or facial recognition; register your device's IMEI (International Mobile Equipment Identity) number by dialling *#06 with your network provider; this makes it easier to block if stolen. With Apple devices, you can find the IMEI number by going to Settings – General - About and find the number by scrolling down.
- Remember that phone theft is common near transport hubs, tourist attractions, and busy nightlife areas, so avoid displaying your phone when standing near open train doors, escalators, or while cycling.
- Be sure to use tracking and backup services; activate "Find My iPhone" (Apple) or "Find My Device" (Android) and regularly back up important data, so if your phone is stolen, you won't lose any personal information.

Romance Fraudsters

Romance fraud usually involves fraudsters creating fake online personas to gain someone's trust and affection through the guise of a romantic relationship, with the ultimate goal of exploiting them for financial gain. They are adept at using language to manipulate, persuade and exploit, working hard to make sure that, when they ask for money, and require urgency or secrecy from the victim, it doesn't set off alarm bells.

In addition to the financial loss and subsequent hardship, victims of romance fraud also suffer the loss of a partner and support system, and the destruction of their hopes and plans for the future. They also have to come to terms with having been manipulated and deceived by people who are devoid of pity or conscience. Due to the isolationist tactics used by fraudsters, the victim's relationships with family and friends are often damaged and they are left alone and vulnerable.

Therefore:

- Never send money: If you're in a relationship with someone you've only met online, any requests for money should ring an alarm bell. However sad or urgent their story is, never send money (that includes vouchers, cryptocurrency or money for investments).
- Get to know the person, not the profile: Treat people as you would if meeting in person, by asking questions and taking your time. Check the person online using Google image search or TinEye to see if their profile pictures can be found elsewhere online. Be cautious about how much information you share, and keep your social media accounts private and secure.
- Talk to friends and family: Sometimes a second opinion can really help if you are uncertain about something, such as being asked for money by someone you're in an online relationship with. Be wary if you meet someone online who asks you not to tell anyone about them.

Community Food Hubs

Community food hubs are designed to reduce surplus food from suppliers that would have otherwise gone to waste. All residents are welcome to visit the child-friendly hubs and fill up a bag with delicious, rescued food.

Hubs also offer recipes, food prevention hints and tips and host information stands on various subjects including waste prevention, wellbeing and citizens advice.

Our fun 'Fight Against Food Waste' booklet, available at all Community Food Hubs, is also free to download from the let's get cooking web page (UKHarvest website).

Remember

- hubs take place at locations and times to suit you
- bring your own bag
- suggested donation: £5

Location: The Charmandean Centre, Forest Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN14 9HS

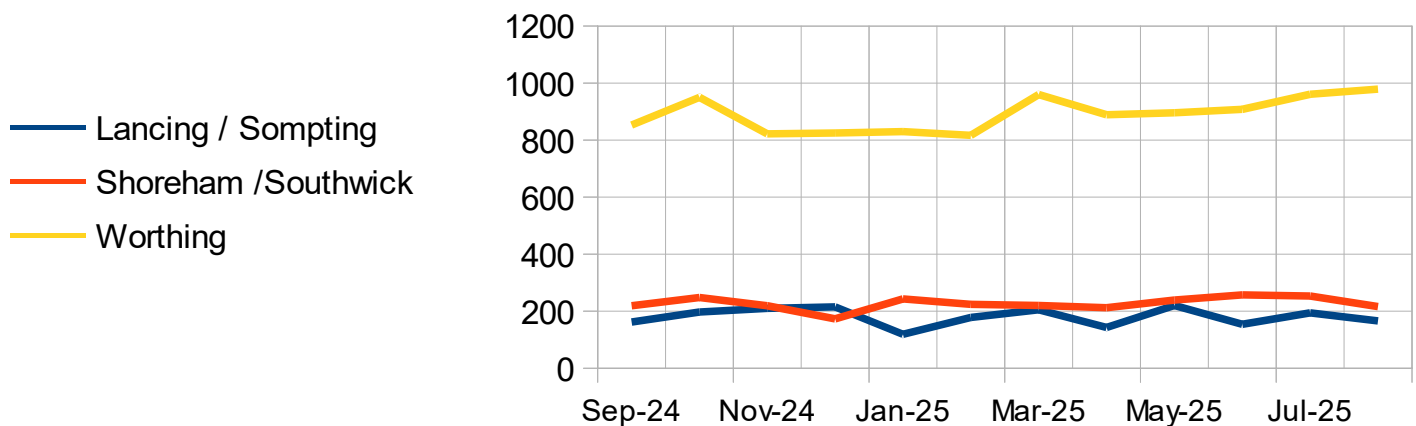
Dates: Third Thursday of every month (Time: 10am to 11am unless otherwise stated):



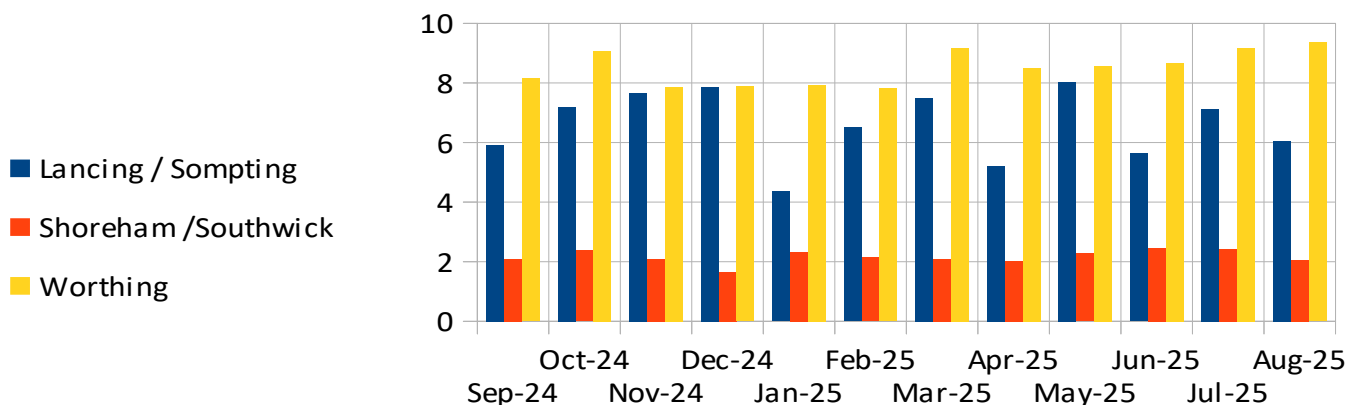
Crime Statistics for August 2025

August 2025	Broadwater	Castle	Central	Durrington	Findon	Gaisford	Goring	Heene	Marine02	Northbrook	Offington	Salvington	Selden	Tarring	Sub Total
					BN Codes										
Antisocial Behaviour	5	18	87	4	0	8	24	21	14	20	6	8	8	3	226
Bike Theft	0	0	10	0	2	0	0	2	1	1	1	0	2	0	19
Burglary	2	3	7	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	2	22
Criminal Damage	4	3	12	2	0	5	4	9	6	4	2	6	2	4	63
Drugs	1	1	4	0	0	4	0	4	0	4	1	0	1	2	22
Other Crime	4	0	5	0	0	1	1	3	0	1	1	1	0	0	17
Other Theft	1	2	12	0	2	2	0	3	3	3	3	5	4	1	41
Weapons	0	1	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	9
Public Order	5	1	30	0	0	5	4	7	4	2	1	5	2	6	72
Robbery	1	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	8
Theft Shop	3	10	36	7	0	0	2	10	6	2	2	6	22	21	127
Theft Person	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Vehicle Crime	1	1	4	0	2	1	2	1	0	0	1	2	1	0	16
Violence & Sex Offences	15	23	93	9	3	22	16	17	16	33	12	34	28	14	335
Totals	42	64	309	23	9	51	53	77	51	72	31	68	74	55	979

Crimes September 2024 to August 2025



Crimes per 1000 of Population



See the latest Alerts at : [https:// worthingnhw.ourwatch.org.uk/](https://worthingnhw.ourwatch.org.uk/)