

Adur NHW Newsletter



Shoreham & Southwick Issue

August 2026

Your Committee

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Steve Male	Secretary
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Retail Crime Module

Retail crime continues to affect businesses of every size, resulting not only in financial losses but also the safety and wellbeing of staff and customers.

Shoplifting offences in England and Wales have risen to a 20-year high, according to official figures. And nearly half of retail staff surveyed say that they are attacked or abused once a week. It is an issue that damages business and individual safety and confidence alike.

To help address this growing challenge, Neighbourhood Watch has launched a new Retail Crime module as part of its free Neighbourhood Safety Training Programme.

Designed for local businesses, independent retailers, larger organisations, shop workers and anyone interested in creating safer public spaces, the new module provides practical advice and tools to help participants recognise risks, prevent incidents, and respond with confidence. It encourages a proactive approach to community safety, empowering businesses to play an active role in protecting both people and places.

The Retail Crime module joins a growing suite of free online training courses covering Antisocial Behaviour, Harassment and Safety in Public Spaces. Together, these modules support individuals and organisations to better understand community safety issues and develop the knowledge and confidence to make a positive difference.

With additional training topics already in development, Neighbourhood Watch is continuing to expand its offer to meet emerging community safety challenges and ensure that everyone has access to practical, accessible learning.

The training is of particular relevance for businesses, shop workers and community organisations. Whether you run an independent shop, manage a national retailer or simply want to help create safer neighbourhoods, these courses provide valuable skills that can be put into practice immediately.

For business owners or managers, this resource will help you to:

- Protect your staff, your customers and your business
- Prevent and respond to business-related crime with free training and resources for your employees.
- Build stronger community ties by showing you care about safety and wellbeing.
- Network with a national community of businesses tackling crime in England and Wales.

You can access the free Neighbourhood Safety Training programme on ourwatch.org.uk/training and start learning today.

Tim Drew

Join Neighbourhood Watch at <https://worthingnhw.ourwatch.org.uk/Content/Pages/Join-Us>

Vacant Buildings

Empty properties can become vulnerable to antisocial behaviour, vandalism and unauthorised access, so Neighbourhood Watch is working in partnership with Ad Hoc Property Management to help members raise concerns about vacant buildings in their area. With over 35 years' experience protecting and managing properties, Ad Hoc helps keep buildings secure, occupied, and well maintained. One of the ways in which it achieves this is through Property Guardianship, where carefully vetted individuals live or work in vacant buildings under temporary agreements. This helps keep properties occupied, secure and in active use. Thus, during COVID-19, Ad Hoc helped accommodate nurses who had arrived in the country to support the NHS at a time of huge pressure.

Fifty nurses stayed in a designated property for their first six weeks after arrival, giving them a safe and practical place to live while they settled in and began their work, with their accommodation paid for by the NHS. This was repeated across three other properties, meaning that around 150 healthcare workers were accommodated.

For the past nine years, Ad Hoc has worked in partnership with Barnet Homes, a large housing association in London, supporting a major regeneration project by keeping empty flats occupied, managed and secure until demolition. Across the partnership, Ad Hoc has managed around 600 flats, helping to reduce the risks associated with vacant buildings and bolstering the vibrancy of the neighbourhood. The partnership has also created affordable, flexible accommodation for many Guardians, making positive use of homes that would otherwise have stood empty during the regeneration process.

Where guardianship is not suitable, or where additional protection is required, Ad Hoc also provides a range of professional security services.

If you notice an empty or concerning property in your neighbourhood, you can complete a short form on the Neighbourhood Watch website. Ad Hoc will review the information provided and, where appropriate, contact the property owner to discuss options for protecting and managing the building.

By working together to identify vacant properties early, Neighbourhood Watch and Ad Hoc aim at keeping buildings secure, well managed and positively connected to the communities around them.

Antisocial Behaviour

Respect Orders will launch across England and Wales from Monday 16th October, giving police and councils tougher powers to crack down on repeat perpetrators of antisocial behaviour (ASB).

These new powers will enable authorities to tackle regular adult offenders more forcibly, as they will carry prison sentences. Officers will, for example, be able to ban them from town centres or stop them drinking in public hotspots like high streets and local parks. Offenders can also be ordered by the courts to tackle the root causes of their behaviour instead of simply being allowed to return to the streets and start the cycle again.

Breaching Respect Orders will be a criminal offence, with police able to arrest anyone who ignores them. Anyone flouting the orders could face jail time.

The national roll-out means that police and councils across England and Wales can pursue the worst offenders blighting town centres and local neighbourhoods. Courts will also be able to levy unlimited fines and community punishments, such as unpaid work and curfews.

The new powers will partially replace existing Civil Injunction powers for adults, allowing the police to arrest instantly anyone who is flouting their Respect Order and imposing a wider range of penalties.

They come as part of this government's flagship Crime and Policing Act, which received Royal Assent on 29 April 2026 and includes sweeping measures to crack down on ASB.

Police have already been handed tougher powers to seize vehicles linked to ASB. Officers will no longer have to issue a warning before taking nuisance vehicles off the road.

They can also accelerate the destruction of vehicles used for ASB, with the time frame for disposing of seized vehicles reduced from 14 days to 7 days. This will help tackle issues such as noisy and disruptive car meetings.

Respect Orders form part of the wider action to tackle crime and restore confidence in policing, including a pledge for 3,000 additional neighbourhood officers, with more than 3,000 already in post. The government is also setting up a new National Police Service to combat nationwide and cross-border crime.

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

Fraudsters

During the period of prolonged hot weather, fraudsters have been targeting those searching online for affordable air conditioning and cooling devices. These crooks are advertising heavily discounted products through social media and fake websites, only for victims to receive poor quality items, products that don't work or nothing at all.

Surrey and Sussex Police have seen a spate of fraud reports regarding the purchase of fans and portable air-conditioning units. Products are being advertised and priced much cheaper than those sold by established and trusted retailers, but turn out to be low quality or worthless imitations of those sold in the ads.

One victim was browsing Facebook when he came across a video advertising a cooling fan developed by NASA scientists and claiming to be able to cool a room in ten minutes. In the midst of a heat wave, the victim bought the fan for £69. When he received the fan, he found that the claims made in the advertisement were false and the product that he had purchased was a cheaply made replica. Despite complaining to the advertising company, he did not receive any response or refund.

Other instances involved two victims losing nearly £250 each, where air-con units that they had purchased never arrived. In these cases, the products were advertised on TikTok, with a website on Google. Upfront payments were made via PayPal and bank card. Having failed to receive the units, they made multiple attempts to contact the company, which proved fruitless.

The Police recommend that prospective buyers protect themselves by:

- researching the vendor's website on sites such Trust Advisor, Trustpilot or Which?
- exercising caution when investigating websites of which you have never heard and offers that look too good to be true
- where possible, pay using a credit card or another payment method that offers consumer protection.

Knives

Knife-related homicides have dropped to their lowest level in 35 years, with the government's surrender drive taking more than 15,000 knives off Britain's streets. Knife-enabled homicides have fallen to 26% while knife crime overall has dropped by 11%.

Over 14,500 knives and weapons including ninja swords, zombie-style knives, machetes, swords and kitchen knives have been taken out of circulation through Home Office funded surrender bins since July last year. These bins, managed by the charity Word 4 Weapons, are located in London, Greater Manchester and the West Midlands. A further 783 knives and weapons were handed in at a mobile surrender van operated by Faz Amnesty, which supported the Home Office's dedicated surrender scheme last summer.

The location of 45 surrender bin and the stop off points for the mobile surrender van have been agreed with local violence reduction partnerships, policing and community safety partners. Both these bins and the van operate on a 'no questions asked' basis in order to encourage people who may otherwise be reluctant to hand over their weapons in fear of the consequences. The weapons, which must be wrapped and sealed in a box or bag, will be disposed of safely and securely.

The government is continuing its mission to halve knife crime in the next decade. Knife crime hotspots will see a dramatic surge in police activity to catch knife criminals, including increased police patrols, new CCTV cameras, live facial recognition deployment and the installation of knife arches.

Action is also being taken to stop young people from ever picking up a weapon in the first place and creating safer environments in which they can grow up. Through initiatives such as Young Futures hubs, mentoring and targeted support for at-risk children, alongside work with schools, youth services and local partners, the government is helping to create safer environments where young people can thrive and reach their full potential.

You can find the locations of the surrender bins and the mobile surrender van on [GOV.UK](https://gov.uk). The online guidance also explains how most safely to transport and deposit a knife or weapon for secure disposal.

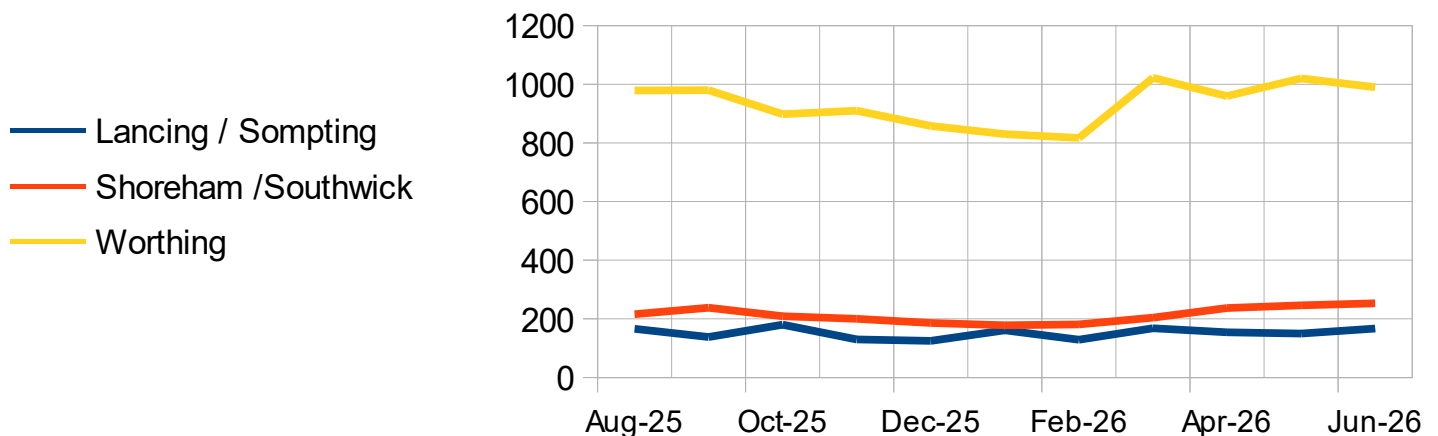
Tim Drew

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Crime Statistics for June 2026

June 2026	Buckingham	Eastbrook	Hillside	Marine 1	Southlands	Southwick	St Mary's	St Mary's	St	Sub Total
						Green	North	South	Nicholas	
Antisocial Behaviour	1	12	4	7	1	27	6	21	7	86
Bike Theft	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
Burglary	1	1	0	0	1	3	0	0	1	7
Criminal Damage	0	0	3	1	1	7	2	4	1	19
Drugs	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	5
Other Crime	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	3
Other Theft	1	2	1	0	2	3	2	2	0	13
Weapons	0	0	1	0	0	1	0		0	2
Public Order	0	4	3	2	1	1	3	6	2	22
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Theft Shop	0	0	5	0	0	4	0	7	0	16
Theft Person	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Vehicle Crime	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
Violence & Sex Offences	3	17	11	7	4	8	5	16	4	75
Totals	6	38	30	17	11	58	18	59	16	253

Crimes July 2025 to June 2026



Crimes per 1000 of Population

