

Adur NHW Newsletter



Shoreham & Southwick Issue

July 2026

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Police Meeting

Problems associated with the World Cup, the dangerous riding of motorbikes and mopeds, and shoplifting all featured in the Worthing Neighbourhood Police report at the Ardington Hotel on Wednesday 8th July.

Sergeant Craig Burgess said that July and August are some of the busiest months for the Police and, besides the World Cup, feature Worthing and Brighton Pride and Glorious Goodwood, which put a high demand on Police resources.

There is a definite link between football and domestic violence, especially where alcohol abuse leads to irrational behaviour, including attacks on pets. Potential suicides and sexual assaults are also associated with these events.

Ambulance services need to know who those at risk are, so the Police first have to trace their whereabouts. This can prove traumatic for the Police, especially when people call repeatedly, threatening to commit suicide. The Police can only detain people for 20 hours and, although they do have the benefit of the Blue Light Line Rapid Response service (which is a 24/7 NHS mental health advice line for emergency responders in Sussex), it is very time-consuming.

The hot weather has led to an increase in neighbourhood disputes in residential areas, due to noise nuisance as people leave their windows open and the Police are also being called because balls have been kicked into neighbours' gardens. Gangs of youngsters on scooters are also causing problems at night and Lisa Shoebridge of Turning Tides added that domestic violence was taking up a lot of time and anti-social behaviour was increasing. It was important to report concerns to the right people; for example, noise nuisance should be reported to the Council, if efforts to resolve matters with those causing the noise prove unavailing.

A tagging scheme is being introduced to monitor persistent shoplifters but the Sentencing Act 2026, which is aimed at reducing overcrowding in prisons, has made it harder to obtain prison sentences of 12 months or less.

With bike thefts still prevalent, bike owners are urged to secure their property by using police-approved D-Locks or heavy chains rather than cable locks, which offer little resistance to bolt-cutters.

Tim Drew

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

How to report abandoned vehicles and parking issues

District and borough councils are responsible for dealing with abandoned vehicles and parking enforcement (where civil parking enforcement is in place).

This means they handle:

- Investigations into abandoned vehicles

- Removal and disposal of vehicles where appropriate

- Parking enforcement, including issuing Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs)

How to Report an Abandoned Vehicle

You should report abandoned vehicles directly to your local district or borough council.

When reporting, please include:

- Vehicle make, model, colour and registration (if known)

- Exact location

- How long it has been there

- Photos (if safe to take them)

This helps officers assess and act as quickly as possible.

How to Report Parking Issues

Parking concerns should also be reported to [your district or borough council](#), usually via their website or contact centre.

If a vehicle is causing an immediate danger or obstruction, it should be reported to the police.

Knife Crime

Knife robberies have fallen sharply in major cities thanks to joint government and police action to tackle one of the most harmful forms of violence and make communities safe.

New Home Office data shows that robberies involving a knife in the seven highest volume areas are now more than a fifth lower (21%) than they were in June 2024. Offences fell from 15,918 in summer 2024 to 12,633 by March 2026.

The continuing fall follows a period when knife robberies were rising. Since 2024, the new focused national leadership and close partnership with policing has turned the tide. The results demonstrate the impact of innovation, collaboration and focusing on tried and tested tactics that have emerged from the Home Office-led Knife-Enabled Robbery Group.

This group, set up in October 2024, brings together six police forces to work together on tackling the issue. It has helped forces make better use of intelligence and analysis to spot crime patterns early, strengthen investigations by making best use of technology to identify suspects and build stronger cases. It has also tightened offender management by targeting repeat and “high-harm” offenders in hotspot areas.

Every police force involved has recorded sustained reductions in knife crime.

The largest percentage falls were attributable to West Midlands Police and British Transport Police, both down by 39%, alongside a 17% reduction for the Metropolitan Police. Greater Manchester, West Yorkshire, Avon and Somerset and South Yorkshire have also seen decreases, ranging from 10% to 21%.

As part of their ongoing efforts, Greater Manchester Police last month launched its new City of Manchester Robbery team with dedicated officers targeting knife robberies and offenders in the city centre and proactively targeting offenders and offences where they occurred.

During Knife Crime Awareness Week in May, intensified action aimed at tackling knife crime from forces up and down the country to tackle and anticipate knife crime and led by the National Police Chief’s Council (NPCC) saw forces carry out targeted enforcement alongside community engagement, including weapons sweeps, test-purchase operations to stop illegal knife sales, knife surrender activity and work in schools and neighbourhoods.

Tim Drew

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

Anti-Social Behaviour

When people think about tackling anti-social behaviour, they often think about warnings, enforcement or legal action. But sometimes, the most effective solution starts first with conversation and then mediation.

Mediation is a voluntary process that helps people involved in a dispute communicate with one another in a safe and structured way. An independent mediator works with both parties to discuss concerns, understand each other's perspectives and explore possible solutions.

Mediation differs from arbitration in that it does not lead to a binding decision, though both aim at avoiding litigation but instead to resolve conflicts efficiently, privately, and with less formality. Arbitration is a structured process in which a neutral arbitrator hears evidence from each side and makes a final, binding ruling, whereas mediation fosters voluntary settlements and the preservation of relationships.

Mediation is commonly used when it comes to resolving family disputes but it can also be useful in cases involving:

- Neighbour disputes
- Noise complaints
- Ongoing tensions between residents

Mediation involves four steps, the mediator first gathering background information about the dispute and confirming whether mediation is appropriate and then reviews the documentation and position statements provided by each party. This is followed by a joint meeting, followed by private discussions with each party. The mediator then explores settlement options and, if agreement is reached, the terms are recorded in a written settlement agreement. In this way, mediation can prevent issues from escalating, can improve relationships between neighbours and can provide a quicker resolution than formal enforcement action.

It's important to understand that that mediation is:

- Voluntary - residents choose whether to take part and are never pressured into meetings.
- Confidential - what is discussed remains private, unless there is a risk of harm.
- Independent - mediators do not take sides, make judgements or give advice. They provide equal support to everyone involved.

While mediation will not be suitable for every situation, it can be a valuable tool in resolving disputes and leading to healthier outcomes within our communities.

Tim Drew

Dodgy Shops

Organised crime gangs operating across Britain's high streets are set to be hit with a major police offensive in a new nationwide crackdown on dodgy shops.

Rogue barber shops, vape stores, mini-marts and sweet shops linked to organised crime will face raids, closures and cash seizures under a new £30 million crackdown targeting money laundering, tax evasion, and illegal working over three years.

£20 million of funding will go towards an enhanced law enforcement response, including establishing a new multi-agency coordination cell based out of the National Crime Agency (NCA).

Police officer numbers will also be reinforced across forces in hotspot regions. Altogether, 75 new police officers will be recruited across the NCA, Greater Manchester Police, West Midlands Police and a joint Kent Police and Essex Police Unit, to build intelligence at a national level and increase the number of dedicated officers tackling organised crime on the ground.

Trading Standards will also be provided with £6 million in new funding to help counter the threat posed by sham businesses in local authority areas considered to be at risk and new officer training will be rolled out to identify suspicious businesses, strengthen business compliance, and boost enforcement.

A new High Street Organised Crime Unit has also been established to bring together government departments, policing partners, and Trading Standards. Together, the additional funding and this new unit will help to underpin the work of Operation Machine - which is a major UK law enforcement initiative led by the NCA and the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) – and will enhance capability both at national and local level when it comes to identifying and targeting criminal networks operating in plain sight on Britain's high streets. The unit will be responsible for determining whatever else is needed – from stronger powers to better coordination – in order to stop this criminal activity from occurring in the first place.

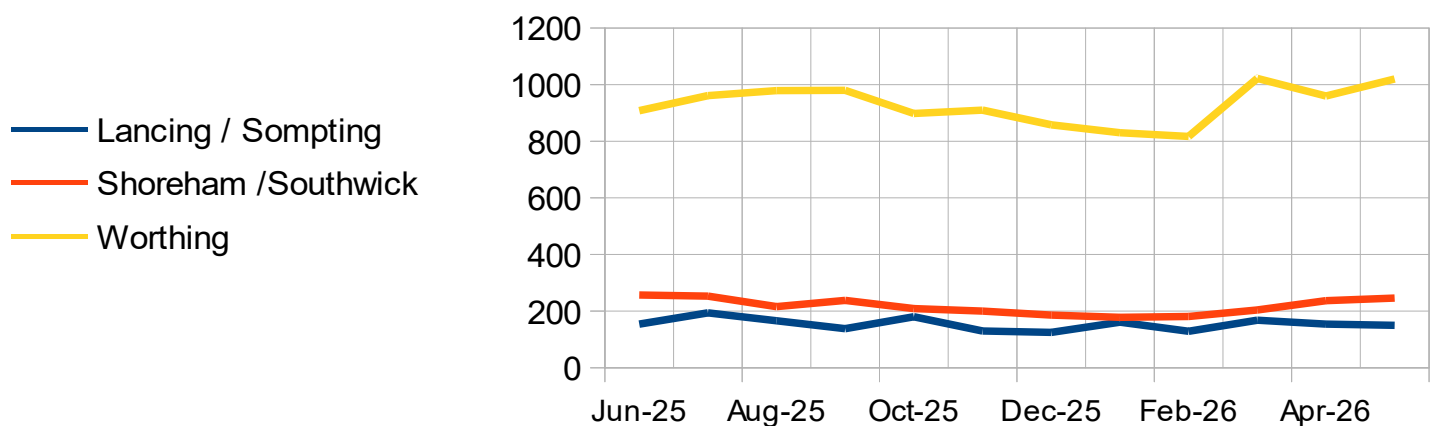
A rapid review of local responders' powers is underway to explore how these can be strengthened, starting with a consultation on extending the duration of closure orders, where appropriate, to shut criminal businesses down for longer.

Tim Drew

Crime Statistics for May 2026

May 2026	Buckingham	Eastbrook	Hillside	Marine 1	Southlands	Southwick	St Mary's	St Mary's	St	Sub Total
						Green	North	South	Nicholas	
Antisocial Behaviour	0	17	7	10	1	15	5	10	2	67
Bike Theft	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	4
Criminal Damage	3	3	1	2	2	4	1	2	2	20
Drugs	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3
Other Crime	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	4
Other Theft	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	3	0	13
Weapons	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
Public Order	1	3	3	1	1	6	2	5	0	22
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	4
Theft Shop	0	0	5	0	1	6	1	17	0	30
Theft Person	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicle Crime	2	2	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	7
Violence & Sex Offences	2	20	8	6	3	21	3	12	5	80
Totals	10	52	26	24	11	56	16	51	11	257

Crimes June 2025 to May 2026



Crimes per 1000 of Population

