

Welcome to your monthly ward update for Kemp Town – Completed by PCSO McCarthy 41820.

Upcoming community meetings / drop-in sessions

These are taking place at Hampshire Lodge, Hampshire Court, Kemptown, Brighton and Hove, Brighton BN2 1LN

- Sunday 6th July, 15:00 – 19:00
- Wednesday 16th July, 18:00 – 19:00



Current area priorities

- St James' Street – Anti-social behaviour & shoplifting
- Drug dealing and overt drug usage
- Anti-social behaviour from the 'street community'

Ward update

The last update which I wrote for you was in January, and whilst my colleague PCSO Boston completed some of the subsequent updates, I realise there has been a gap which I would like to apologise for.

In my last update I wrote about the first reported district police station at 64 St James' Street, which was opened around 1857 (Source: [District police stations | Police | My Brighton and Hove](#)). In 1844 a man called John Lawrence was arrested for stealing a roll of carpet on St James' Street, and he was taken to the cells at Brighton Town Hall. The Chief Constable at the time, Henry Solomon attempted to question Lawrence, however he started to attack Solomon, ultimately killing him. Henry Solomon is thought to be the only Chief Constable killed in their own police station. (Source: [Brighton & Hove Bus and Coach Company Limited](#)) You can learn more about this, and the history of policing in Brighton at the Old Police Cells Museum, which is hopefully re-opening this year. [Old Police Cells Museum Brighton](#)

Back to 2025, and St James' Street is still on our radar. It's had an increase in daily foot patrols from PCs and PCSOs; I personally have recorded 141 hours of foot patrol (in Kemp Town) over the last couple of months. We have been engaging with the businesses, especially those who have been reporting high levels of theft. Through Operation Greenbay, the shops identified as having the highest levels of theft have been assigned a dedicated Police Officer to ensure robust action is taken against those offending. We have also issued a Community Protection Warning to someone

identified as causing frequent Anti-Social Behaviour on the road, and have had no further reports about this person since.

Dorset Gardens is another area that we have been targeting with foot patrols following reports of drug dealing, and usage. I would like to thank the public for their excellent reporting of this issue, as it has allowed us to target the specific times where issues are most frequently experienced. Residents have said there has been a noticeable reduction in drug dealing since this action, though usage is still reported as an issue. We will continue to patrol the gardens, and I am looking to work with the Council to get some of the greenery / hedges cut back as requested.



The most recent community drop-in session was held on the 8th of June and was also attended by local councillors Gary Wilkinson and Theresa Mackey. Residents raised concerns around drug related anti-social behaviour, and infrastructure issues with council buildings which need to be addressed to reduce this. The case in question has been assigned to the Complex Cases team at the Council Housing team, and we are looking to get this resolved. In the mean time we are increasing foot patrols at the affected times, and there have been several stop searches already.

I want to re-iterate the importance of reporting matters to the police – Every report helps us even if it's not acted upon straight away. It helps us, and especially your PCSOs to find out what is going on in the area.

Tim