

Adur NHW Newsletter



Shoreham & Southwick Issue

October 2026

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Neighbourhood Police Meeting

Moped theft, anti-social behaviour and tagging all came under discussion at the Neighbourhood Police meeting at the Ardington Hotel on the evening of Wednesday 30th September.

Significant efforts under Operation Magnus, which is a proactive enforcement initiative by Sussex Police aimed at tackling motorcycle and moped theft and the anti-social behaviour associated with it and Operation Scramble, launched last month to tackle the illegal, dangerous and anti-social use of e-bikes and e-scooters, have resulted in these behaviours being deterred and disrupted.

As regards e-scooters, there is an increased risk of harm in following these vehicles, so drones are being used to track the offenders and preventative work of this kind is obviating the need for the involvement of the emergency services. One of the risks involved is that of batteries overheating and being set on fire. The Sussex Police "Fatal Five" unit is being deployed to minimise the risk of injury to pedestrians.

Many homeless people have no ID or bank account. The ratio between homeless men and women is 80:20 and their average age is over 30. On average, they stay in provided accommodation for 210 nights before looking to move on to other locations (Turning Tides works closely with other providers in the neighbourhood).

A recent local partnership initiative – Operation STOP – has been launched by Sussex Police and PCC Katy Bourne to reduce shoplifting using GPS tagging. Tagging is used in respect of anyone aged over 18 and meanwhile the Police are engaging with other agencies to seek optimum solutions, for example with rehabilitative care. This initiative has already been credited with driving a significant reduction in retail crime across participating areas in Sussex.

Tim Drew

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

Residents urged to 'Stop the Spark' by keeping batteries, vapes and electricals out of household bins. If it has a plug, cable or battery, don't bin it.

West Sussex County Council has joined forces with its waste contractor Biffa, West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service and environmental education charity Wastebuster to encourage residents to think before they throw away batteries, vapes and electrical items.



The new "Stop the Spark" campaign aims to reduce the growing number of fires caused by people incorrectly disposing of batteries and electricals with a simple message: If it has a plug, battery or cable, don't bin it.

Councillor Natasha Davie, Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change at West Sussex County Council, said: "Many people don't realise that batteries hidden inside everyday items can cause serious fires when they enter the recycling and waste system. These incidents put people at risk and can disrupt services for communities across West Sussex.

"We're asking residents to make one simple change: if an item has a plug, battery or cable, don't put it in your bin. Instead, take it to a Recycling Centre or another suitable collection point so it can be disposed of safely."

Batteries, vapes and small electrical items should never be placed in household recycling or general waste bins, or in general waste containers at Recycling Centres. If these items are crushed, damaged or punctured during collection, transport or processing, they can overheat, ignite and cause serious fires.

These fires put residents, firefighters, collection crews and staff working at Recycling Centres and waste facilities at risk. They can also damage vehicles, equipment and infrastructure, disrupt recycling and waste services, and lead to temporary site closures.

Darren Wickings, West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service Station Manager, said: "Fires caused by batteries, vapes and other electrical items are becoming an increasing concern both locally and nationally. Many of these fires start when items that contain lithium-ion batteries are placed in household waste or recycling bins and are then damaged during collection, sorting or processing. Once punctured or crushed, these batteries can ignite quickly and without warning.

"In West Sussex, we are seeing the consequences of this first-hand, with dozens of fires already recorded at recycling and waste facilities and in collection vehicles. These incidents put crews, site staff and members of the public at risk, and can cause significant damage and disruption.

"The good news is that these fires are largely preventable. We are asking residents to take a moment to check before throwing something away. If it has a plug, battery or cable, don't bin it. By disposing of these items correctly, residents can help reduce the risk of fires and play an important role in keeping their communities safe."

So far in 2026, there have been 40 fires linked to batteries and electrical items at the county's Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) in Ford, in waste collection vehicles and at Recycling Centres. A further 199 fires caused by batteries, vapes and small electrical items were recorded at the Anaerobic Digestion and Resource Recovery Facility (ADRFF) in Horsham between June 2024 and May 2025.



For more information about where to recycle batteries, vapes and electrical items, visit Stop the Spark - West Sussex County Council.

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

Cyber crime

As thousands of students prepare to start or return to university this autumn, fraudsters and cyber criminals will be looking for opportunities to exploit the excitement and uncertainty that often comes with a new term.

Moving to a new city, arranging accommodation, managing finances and building new social networks can create opportunities for criminals to target students. Whether you're a student, parent, guardian, friend or family member, understanding the risks can help prevent cyber crime and fraud.

Criminals use a wide range of tactics to steal your money or obtain personal information that can be used later in a fraud attempt. They operate on websites and app's, by email, text, phone, post or in person, including on your doorstep.

Students are also frequently targeted through phishing emails, text messages and social media messages. These communications may appear to come from trusted organisations such as universities, banks, delivery companies or student finance providers. Their aim is to steal personal information, passwords or banking details.

What can you do to protect yourself from cyber crime and fraud? These simple steps can make a big difference:

- Be cautious of unexpected messages asking for personal or financial information.

- Secure your accounts, especially your email and bank account.

- Use passkeys over passwords wherever they are available. Where unavailable, use strong passwords, for example generated by a password manager and enable 2-step Verification (2SV).

- Keep devices updated with the latest security and software updates.

- Back up your important data and check your account recovery options.

Cyber crime and fraud can affect anyone, but awareness remains one of the strongest forms of protection. By recognising common tactics and talking openly about potential risks, we can help students enjoy a safe and successful university experience.

To support students and their families, Report Fraud (a service run by the City of London Police) has produced a practical guide packed with advice, real-world examples and simple steps that students can take to protect themselves online and offline throughout university life (<https://www.reportfraud.police.uk/university-students-booklet/>).

Tim Drew

Tyre Safety Month

Every car journey is full of the unexpected. A sudden stop. Heavy rain. A driver pulling out without warning. An obstacle in the road. But, while we can't predict every situation we face behind the wheel, we can prepare for them.

That's why this year's Tyre Safety Month campaign is encouraging road users across the UK to "Act Before You React". By taking just a few minutes to check your tyres before setting off, you can help reduce the risk of tyre-related incidents, improve your vehicle's performance and keep yourself, your passengers and other road users safe. New research by TyreSafe, a registered charity whose mission is to reduce tyre-related incidents on Britain's roads, has revealed a worrying gap between driver confidence and real-world vehicle readiness. Many road users believe they are prepared for an emergency—but the reality tells a different story.

Tyresafe's research found:

- 83% believe they are in full control of stopping distance.
- Only 6% correctly identify stopping distance in wet conditions at motorway speeds.
- 94% underestimate stopping distance risk.
- 42% believe they are better than average at handling emergencies.
- 38% experienced a near miss in the last 12 months.
- Only 11% checked their tyres afterwards.
- 22% admitted they did nothing at all following a near miss.

The message is clear. Confidence isn't a safety strategy – preparation is.

The ACT in reACT reminds every road user to carry out three simple tyre checks every month and before long journeys:

A- Air Pressure

Correct tyre pressures improve braking performance, handling, fuel efficiency and tyre life.

Check your pressures monthly using an accurate gauge and always follow your vehicle manufacturer's recommendations.

C – Condition

Inspect your tyres for:

- Cuts
- Bulges
- Cracks
- Objects embedded in the tread
- Any visible signs of damage

If you're unsure, ask a tyre professional to inspect them.

T – Tread

Tyres need sufficient tread to maintain grip, particularly in wet weather.

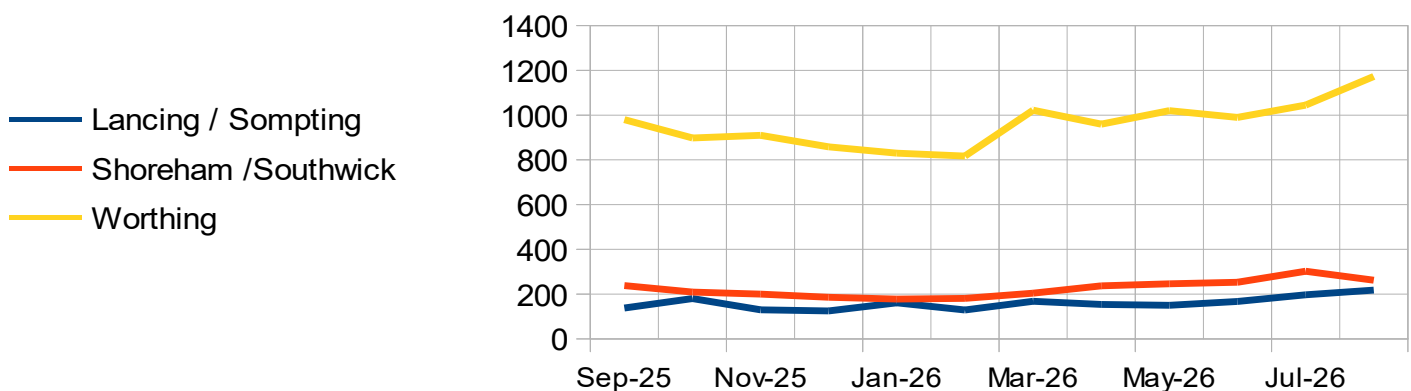
For most passenger cars, the legal minimum tread depth is 1.6mm across the central three quarters of the tread and around the entire circumference.

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

Crime Statistics for August 2026

August 2026	Buckingham	Eastbrook	Hillside	Marine 1	Southlands	Southwick	St Mary's	St Mary's	St	Sub Total
						Green	North	South	Nicholas	
Antisocial Behaviour	2	15	7	15	4	11	5	17	7	83
Bike Theft	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Burglary	0	2	0	2	2	4	1	0	0	11
Criminal Damage	0	4	2	0	0	3	1	4	1	15
Drugs	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Other Crime	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3
Other Theft	0	3	2	1	0	2	2	2	0	12
Weapons	0	4	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	6
Public Order	1	9	1	0	0	3	4	2	2	22
Robbery	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Theft Shop	0	0	2	0	1	4	1	1	1	10
Theft Person	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Vehicle Crime	0	2	4	0	1	3	0	2	0	12
Violence & Sex Offences	2	17	15	4	10	17	6	9	2	82
Totals	5	59	34	22	19	47	21	40	15	262

Crimes September 2025 to August 2026



Crimes per 1000 of Population

