Friday 20th November 2026

Sussex Alerts - Lewes and Seahaven Police

Licensing updates

Last week saw us mark Business Crime Awareness Week, with a number of operations taking place across Sussex to help keep our communities safe, including work by Sussex Police's Licensing Team.

Supported by Sussex Police Cadets, officers carried out a series of test purchase operations at off-licences, including in areas of Horam, Heathfield, Uckfield and Lewes.

These operations are not about catching retailers out, but about supporting businesses to meet their licensing responsibilities and helping prevent alcohol from falling into the hands of under-18s.

Team are pleased to say that all the premises visited correctly refused the cadets' attempts to purchase alcohol.



Preventing underage access to alcohol plays an important role in reducing anti-social behaviour and other alcohol-related crime, with underage drinking often linked to incidents of disorder, criminal damage and violence within communities.

If you have concerns about underage alcohol sales, please report them to Sussex Police online or by calling 101.

Sceptre week – knife crime awareness and reduction

Throughout the week, Neighbourhood Youth Officers (NYOs) from your Lewes Neighbourhood Policing Team have been visiting schools and colleges across Sussex as part of Sceptre, our ongoing response to knife crime.

Read more on the work done all year-round here:
https://www.sussex.police.uk/cp/skc/stop-knife-crime/

Working with youngsters, our officers have been raising awareness of the dangers of carrying a knife, discussing the devastating consequences of knife crime, and encouraging positive choices.



This week, officers were also proud to share their support for Martin Cosser; Father of Charlie Cosser, who was tragically killed as a result of knife crime.

Martin is currently visiting schools and colleges across Sussex, sharing Charlie's story and the promise he made to his son to help educate young people about the devastating impact of knife crime.

Find out more about our campaign and here from parents and families who have lost loved ones to knife crime online here:
https://www.sussex.police.uk/news/sussex/news/news/knife-crime-devastates-lives/

Business Crime Awareness Week

Throughout Business Crime Awareness Week (BCAW) last week, officers visited businesses across Lewes and the Coast, spending time with both large retailers and independent stores to discuss local concerns, provide reassurance and support those working in our town centres every day.

The week provided an opportunity to share crime prevention advice, offer practical tools to help deter shop theft and other offences, and demonstrate how information provided by businesses can help identify offenders and support positive action.



With the busy Christmas period approaching, it was also a great opportunity to showcase recent successes in tackling business and retail crime, and update businesses on offenders who have recently been arrested, charged and brought before the courts, providing

reassurance that many of those responsible will not be targeting local retailers during the festive season.

Teams also continued to promote the DISC platform, highlighting the benefits of sharing information, images and alerts with neighbouring retailers and partners, while reinforcing the importance of reporting incidents and sharing information to help prevent and detect crime.

Business and retail crime can have a significant impact on staff, owners and customers alike, and how by working together, sharing information and reporting incidents, we can better identify offenders, support victims and bring those responsible to justice.

While Business Crime Awareness Week may have come to an end, our work doesn't stop here, as we head into the busy Christmas period, officers will continue carrying out patrols, engaging with businesses and working alongside retailers to tackle business and retail crime across our communities.

Not the wedding car they had planned, but probably the one they'll remember most...

While out on patrol in Lewes, officers from the local Neighbourhood Policing Team came across a broken-down vehicle, only to discover it was carrying a newly married couple on their way to their wedding reception!



Not wanting a breakdown to get in the way of the celebrations, the neighbourhood officers gave the happy couple a short lift to their reception in a patrol car.

The newlyweds certainly made an entrance, arriving in a police car to the surprise and amusement of their guests.

Mrs Smith later told us: "Thank you so much! It made an absolutely excellent memory and people are still talking about it!"

We're glad our neighbourhood officers could help keep the celebrations on track while out on their regular patrols in the community.

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Smith, and our very best wishes for the future.

E-bike Court result

Residents may recall the seizure of a bike after its rider failed to stop for officers in Newhaven, before being detained and having the bike seized...

Well, a 17-year-old rider appeared at Brighton Magistrates' Court on 27 October, where they pleaded guilty to the offences of driving otherwise than in accordance with a licence and using a motor vehicle without insurance.

They were also ordered to pay more than £230 in fines and court costs, and received eight penalty points which, as a provisional licence holder, has resulted in a six-month driving disqualification.



PC Freddie Lee from our Fatal Five Unit said:

“The outcome of this case shows how proactive policing, alongside information from our communities, can help identify those riding illegally and putting others at risk.

“We hope it also serves as a deterrent to others engaging in anti-social behaviour.

“We will continue carrying out patrols and taking action where offences are identified, and we encourage communities across the coast to keep reporting concerns to us so we can target our activity where it's needed most.”



Sceptre week – out and about

Did you know carrying a knife doesn't make you safer? Is just one of the messages officers are sharing with youngsters across the district this week.

This week, as part of our knife crime awareness work, we've been speaking with young people across the district about the consequences of carrying a knife and the choices they make, sharing the message: 'One choice. Two futures - Knives cost lives’.

We've visited schools and colleges, while continuing to engage with parents and carers through pop-up stands in supermarkets and town centres, offering advice, support and information on where to get help if they're worried a child in their care may be carrying a knife.

If you're worried about someone carrying a knife, you can report information anonymously through Fearless.

Fearless: https://crimestoppers-uk.org/fearless/what-is-fearless

More support: https://www.sussex.police.uk/police-forces/sussex-police/areas/campaigns/campaigns/serious-violence/knives-cost-lives/