



The Canterbury Beat – Edition #23: The Canterbury Tournament Beat – Special World Cup Edition

Welcome to this special World Cup edition of our digital newsletter. What an absolute rollercoaster of a month it has been. While the tournament dream didn't end with football coming home, the incredible spirit shown by our local communities while backing the Three Lions has been fantastic to see. From the high street packed out with flags to the roar of local fan zones, Canterbury's tournament energy was electric.

Our goal across the city centre throughout this massive sporting event has remained simple: **Ensuring a Safe Celebration.** We have been working around the clock to ensure that high-emotion match days stayed safe, welcoming, and family-friendly for everyone.

On The Beat: Policing Football Days

This month, our team heavily adjusted our focus toward St George's Street and the busy areas near McDonald's. With large crowds gathering to watch the knockout stages, these high-football spots required specific attention to prevent rowdy behaviour from spilling over onto shoppers and retail staff.

Our approach during the tournament was twofold:

High-Visibility Deterrence: By maintaining a constant, visible footprint down the High Street and outside venues as matches finished, we actively dissuaded anti-social behaviour (ASB) and kept the post-match crowd movement orderly.

Positive Engagement: It's not just about "moving people on." Our officers spent considerable time chatting with younger fans and families out enjoying the sun. Building this rapport early during the group stages created mutual respect, making it far easier to manage crowd control when match tensions peaked.

Myth-Busting: "Why didn't they arrest rowdy fans?"

I frequently get asked why we don't automatically make an arrest during an intense match day incident. Whilst we are not shy of arresting when necessary, we do have other options.

The reality: Policing a dense city centre during a major international tournament is about smart, long-term solutions. A night in a cell looks dramatic, but handling minor public order issues with instant Community Protection Warnings (CPWs), partnering with local business security, or utilizing targeted support services like Catching Lives is far more effective at preventing re-offending. We focus on a "problem-solving" approach that diffuses crowd friction at its core before it impacts our city.

 DID YOU KNOW? | The "Eyes on the Street"

Question: Why do we see police officers simply standing still on major high street corners after matches rather than walking a beat?

The Answer: It is a professional technique known as **Stationary Vigilance**. By standing completely still at a key junction for 15 minutes, an officer can accurately read the "flow" of a moving crowd and spot suspicious or aggressive behaviour much faster than if they were walking past. Most importantly, it makes the officers **100% available** for any resident, business owner, or fan to instantly approach them with a safety concern.

Over to You

As we wrap up the summer tournament cycle and transition back to our regular high street beats, we want to hear from you:

- Are there specific city-centre streets where you would like to see us step up patrols heading into August?
- Do you have any feedback on how match-day safety was handled in our local green spaces or fan areas?

Please hit '**Reply**' or message us directly via the community portal to share your thoughts.

Thank you for celebrating responsibly, looking out for your neighbours, and keeping Canterbury a welcoming place for everyone!