

Worthing NHW Newsletter



June 2026

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AI

Artificial Intelligence has become part of daily life for most Internet users. Whatever the nature of our online activities, it's likely that AI is working in the background, both to enhance your experience and influence your choices. However AI is beset with potential pitfalls, and the following are some of the issues facing Internet users all the time:

- Being deceived by an AI-generated or modified image or video of a person or event, or a fraudulent advertisement for a product or service that doesn't actually exist.
- Placing excessive trust in AI-generated information without verifying it against other sources, including news and political influencing.
- Difficulty in differentiating between reality and false or inaccurate information, again without verifying.

Scammers regularly use AI to create highly convincing emails, texts, voice messages and deepfake videos that mimic official communications from banks, government departments, trusted business or political leaders or people you meet when dating online, automating and personalising phishing attempts. These messages also generally don't contain the spelling and grammatical mistakes typical of previous types of scams, so:

- Be suspicious of unsolicited emails, messages or phone calls – even if they seem authentic.
- The spelling and grammar in AI-generated content may be perfect, but it sometimes includes inconsistencies, such as slightly odd email addresses, incorrect logos or unusual phrasing. So check for signs of things not being quite as they should.
- Call or message the person or company using known contact details, to check if the sender is genuine.
- Don't over-rely on AI - always review and refine the content yourself to maintain authenticity and integrity, and validate information by checking other, trusted sources.
- Avoid inputting sensitive personal or financial information into AI tools. Your details could be revealed to other people using generative AI or search tools.
- Keep abreast of advances in AI, including the latest tactics used by scammers and malicious influencers. Your awareness is a powerful defence.

AI is indeed a handy tool, but you must stay alert and use it responsibly so that you can enjoy its benefits while minimising the risks.

Tim Drew

To Join : <https://worthingnhw.ourwatch.org.uk/Content/Pages/Join-Us>

Neighbourhood Police Meeting

A series of incidents in and around Durrington Lane, moped and motorbike theft, measures to increase the safety of women and girls and knife crime were all discussed at the Neighbourhood Police meeting on Wednesday 3rd June.

Durrington Lane had this year seen a murder at a residence, an untimely death in a public car-park, and the report of a rape at a bus stop (the suspect was apprehended). None of these incidents were linked in any shape or form but they have adversely impacted general perception as to personal safety, particularly as regards children. The Police will be maintaining a presence at the Durrington Festival on Saturday 27th June in the interests of community safety.

Worthing has experienced a notable spate of moped and motorcycle thefts, with 125 cc models parked in residential areas and driveways overnight being especially targeted. The Police are meanwhile urging bike owners and riders to increase the security of their vehicles (such as using a heavy-duty disc lock on the front wheel and threading a robust chain through a solid object or designated ground anchor). Though bikes are not being stolen to be sold on, some of them are damaged either during or following thefts.

If you see suspicious activity or a crime in action, you should call 999. To share general information, you can use the Sussex Police Online Reporting System (quoting Operation Magnus) or call 101.

Drug dealing, anti-social behaviour, general disorder and shoplifting remain areas of concern, but shoplifting is decreasing, thanks in part to Operation STOP, which is a pioneering Sussex-based pilot initiative designed to curb repeat retail theft, and is the first programme in the UK to tag prolific offenders electronically; this is being done over a three to six week period, so that the police can monitor their movements and deter further re-offending. Since participation in the scheme, the number of offences in respect of every individual involved has fallen.

Oak Grove College has adopted Durrington Station and litter picking will be encouraged there to ameliorate the station's physical environment.

Tim Drew

Loneliness Awareness Week

Neighbourhood Watch has every reason to support Loneliness Awareness Week, because people who feel lonely are often more exposed to exploitation and crime, and community building and crime reduction are two sides of the same coin. The concept of safer communities as a foundation for stronger communities is also an axiomatic principle in civic planning and social development.

Professional scammers are highly skilled at identifying and cultivating relationships with vulnerable people. Lonely people also have fewer opportunities to discuss finances with trusted friends or family, and to explore whether an offer or relationship is genuine.

Not only can loneliness increase your susceptibility to exploitation, scams, and victimisation, but deep anxiety about crime is also associated with loneliness. Feeling fearful and nervous can prevent people from going out or speaking to their neighbours. It stops people from building the kinds of connections that provide a safety net.

Strong social networks and community connections provide a buffer against crime, helping residents cope with difficult situations and build resilience. If they know that there is someone nearby who can help with problems, that should help to boost their self-confidence.

It's widely known that loneliness affects many older people, but there's less awareness that significant numbers of young people also suffer from feelings of isolation. And social isolation and loneliness can be key factors in making young people more vulnerable to abuse or exploitation.

Groups like Neighbourhood Watch are perfectly placed to support people. Proximity matters, as does consistency, a collection of smaller actions can be more impactful than bigger, more formal interventions. The Loneliness Awareness campaign calls these "micro connections". You might not know people well, or even know their names, but small talk, saying hello, and smiling at people can have a significant effect on their happiness and sense of belonging.

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



West Sussex County Council confirms continued funding for Community Food Hubs

A successful scheme that has prevented more than 128 tonnes of food from going to waste since April 2023 will continue for another year, thanks to funding from West Sussex County Council.

Delivered in partnership with Sussex-based food rescue charity UKHarvest, the Community Food Hubs collect surplus food from retailers and redistribute it to residents across West Sussex. For a suggested donation of £5, visitors to the food hubs can choose from a wide selection of items that would otherwise have been thrown away. The hubs are open to everyone, with no referral required. Visitors also receive practical advice on how to make the most of their food and reduce waste at home.

Wayne Lewis, Service Director for Environment and Public Protection, said:

“Thanks to the programme’s continued success, we are pleased to extend funding for a fourth consecutive year, taking it through to April 2027.

“Reducing the amount of waste we produce and process in West Sussex is a key priority in our Council Plan. Diverting food products from retailers to residents through the food hubs not only allows us to support this priority, but to provide much-needed support to those most in need.

“The Community Food Hubs also help residents by providing advice on buying, storing and cooking food more efficiently, cutting waste and saving money.”

In addition to providing food and waste reduction advice, the hubs also connect residents with local support services. Organisations such as Mind UK, Age UK and West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service regularly attend, offering guidance and assistance.

James Swann, UKHarvest Head of Programmes and Innovation, said:

“Our relationship with the team at West Sussex Recycling and Waste Team encompasses so much of UKHarvest's charity mission.

“We are delighted to continue our Community Food Hub partnership for another year, strengthening the impact across our communities, delivering positive impact that comes from the reach across West Sussex and the engagement through the supportive team of agencies that attend each event.

“Showcasing our NOURISHed free food education programme through taster sessions, enhances the important work being done by both West Sussex Recycles and UKHarvest. We're excited about the year ahead!”

Community Food Hub locations

- Shoreham – Shoreham Fire Station
- Worthing – Charmandean Centre

For hub opening dates and more information, visit:

www.westsussex.gov.uk/UKHarvest

For tips on reducing food waste, visit:

www.westsussex.gov.uk/FightAgainstFoodWaste

For more information on UKHarvest, visit:

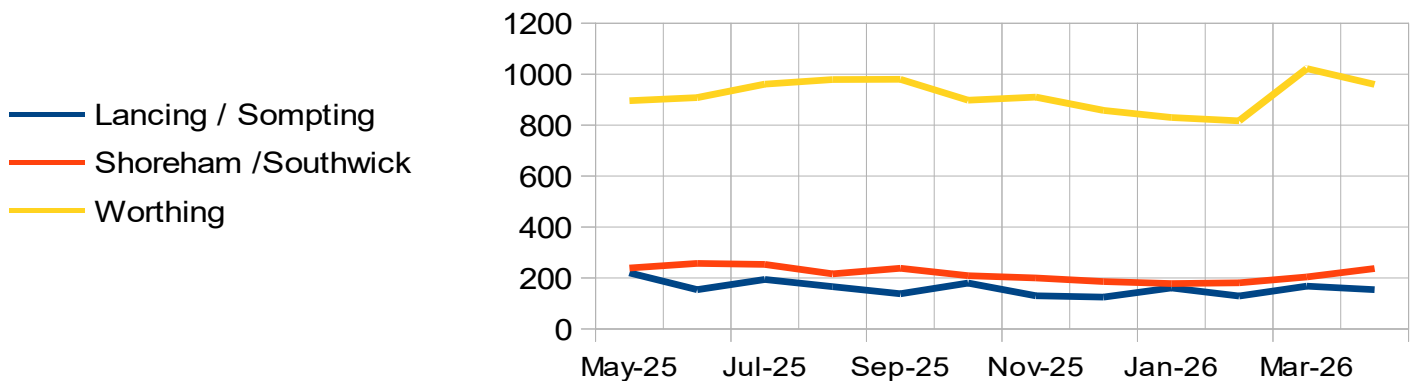
www.ukharvest.org.uk

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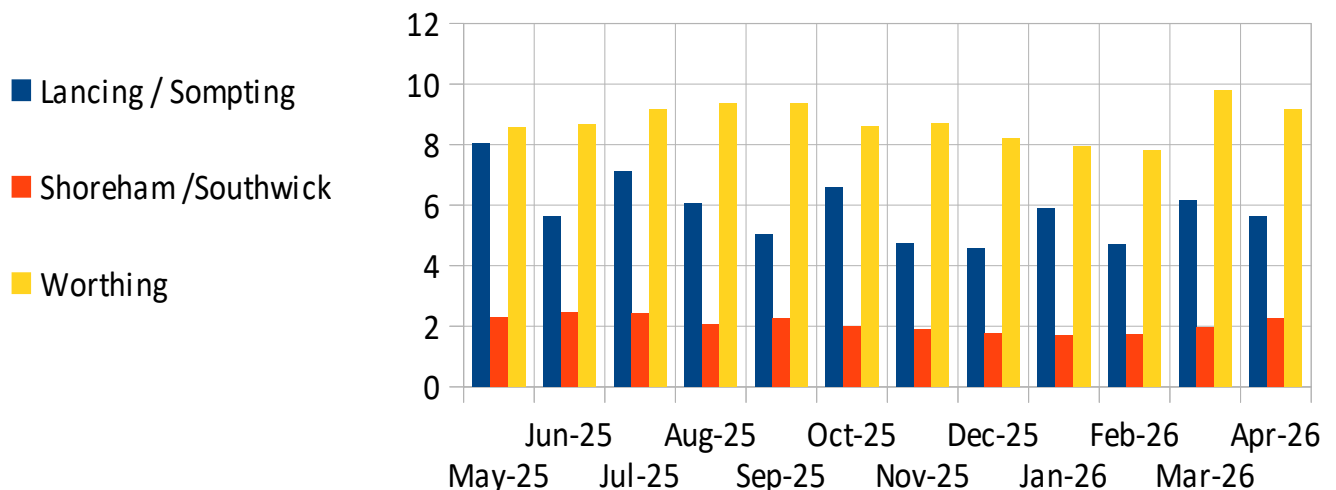
Crime Statistics for April 2026

April 2026	Broadwater	Castle	Central	Durrington	Findon	Gaisford	Goring	Heene	Marine02	Northbrook	Offington	Salvington	Selden	Tarring	Sub Total
					BN Codes										
Antisocial Behaviour	16	13	89	6	4	15	9	13	14	19	5	10	10	10	233
Bike Theft	1	0	5	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	10
Burglary	0	1	7	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	11
Criminal Damage	6	7	20	2	0	4	3	2	3	4	1	1	6	7	66
Drugs	3	1	3	3	0	1	0	3	1	3	0	0	1	2	21
Other Crime	3	1	7	1	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	18
Other Theft	2	2	12	0	0	3	0	4	1	3	2	2	2	3	36
Weapons	1	1	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	2	0	14
Public Order	11	3	21	0	0	6	1	6	5	6	1	2	5	9	76
Robbery	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Theft Shop	29	0	17	3	0	3	2	22	8	2	7	2	6	14	115
Theft Person	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Vehicle Crime	7	1	0	3	1	4	2	4	3	2	3	1	5	2	38
Violence & Sex Offences	17	34	84	18	0	17	9	29	13	30	8	23	22	10	314
Totals	97	64	272	41	5	55	27	89	48	70	28	45	62	57	960

Crimes May 2025 to April 2026



Crimes per 1000 of Population



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