

Adur NHW Newsletter



Lancing & Sompting Issue

September 2026

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Good Neighbours

Neighbourly behaviour has always been an essential foundation for a strong community, from having someone over for a cup of tea to helping out with odd jobs. But, with busier lives, the rise of social media and virtual relationships, has the standard of what we class as a truly good neighbour changed?

A survey undertaken by the Co-op sought to determine what qualities people look for in a good neighbour in today's society. This revealed four characteristics that are the main indicators of a good neighbour: looking out for each other, being sociable and friendly, being helpful in a practical way and showing you're kind, caring and respectful. It is less easy for crime and anti-social behaviour to flourish under these conditions.

While the research illustrates plenty of good examples of people looking after their neighbours on a daily basis, perhaps more can be done to strengthen the meaningful relationships that form the cornerstone of a close-knit community. This report reveals that just 15% of people have invited their neighbours over to their home and almost a quarter (24%) think they're a good neighbour because they keep themselves to themselves. 37% of homeowners and renters in the UK said they knew most of their neighbours, 22% knew all of their neighbours and 34% knew just some living close by.

When those surveyed were asked what type of relationship they would like to have with their neighbours, 36% said they'd like them to look out for each other. With working families having become the norm, today's qualities of a good neighbour are seen as shifting more towards offering practical help with aspects of modern life – such as taking in parcels for people or keeping an eye on their property while they're out in the day time.

So, while communities appear to be looking out for each other by doing daily tasks such as taking out the bins or minding parcels, as a nation, perhaps we could focus more on strengthening meaningful relationships and being proactive in getting to know one another better?

Save money every time you travel by bus

Free concessionary bus passes are available for eligible older and disabled residents. Disabled bus pass holders can travel free at any time on buses in the county and may be eligible for a Companion Pass.

The 16 to 20 Bus Saver gives discounted bus travel for young people travelling in the county, with participating bus operators offering child fare rates.

Bus fares are capped at a maximum of £3 per journey until the end of 2026, reducing to £2 from January 2027.

Bus operators offer flexible ticket options, including day, weekly and monthly passes, so you can find the best value for the journeys you make.

For general questions about the West Sussex Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), email us at transporthub@westsussex.gov.uk.

Garden Waste

Now that Autumn has officially arrived, it will not be long before trees start shedding their leaves. Many gardeners will be wondering how best to get rid of all these along with other detritus, bearing in mind that you should not dispose of garden waste in your main refuse bin.

If so, and you need the assistance of an outside agent to dispose of your garden waste - or any other “unusual category” of waste, for that matter - please ensure that agent is a Registered Waste Carrier for your type of waste for ensuring this, so ask to see its certificate, or alternatively check with the Environmental Agency on their national hotline (0800 807 060).

By taking these steps, you are both complying with your legal obligations and helping to minimise the possibility of fly-tipping. Fly-tipping is not only unsightly, but also illegal and potentially dangerous, with an estimated £150m annually spent on investigation and removal by local councils and private landowners.

Illegal waste disposal has severe community, environmental, and health-related consequences, as outlined below:

- Littering is a big obstacle to the Government’s mission of keeping Britain tidy. When people leave rubbish on the streets or near garbage cans, it gives the area an untidy appearance and destroys its aesthetics.
- Uncontrolled disposal of harmful substances like chemicals, asbestos, and medical waste can harm people’s health.
- Improper waste disposal threatens soil quality, air quality, local streams, watersheds, and groundwater.

The consequences of failure to comply are severe. If traced to you, you could face a sentence of up to 12 months in prison and up to £5,000 in fines. If charged in the Crown Court, the fine is unlimited, and terms of imprisonment can be as much as 5 years.

If you see anyone fly-tipping or wish to report an area where fly-tipping has taken place, then please note the time, date and place of the discovery, the appearance and quantity of the waste, and any vehicular description. The details should then be reported either to the Environmental Agency or to your local council.

Snapping

A new sub-type of anti-social behaviour known as “snapping” is being widely perpetrated by youths in the UK. It involves adrenaline-fuelled youths doing wheelies on their bikes and e-bikes directly into the path of pedestrians and oncoming cars, before swerving at the very last minute to force a reaction.

The phenomenon has gained significant traction on platforms like TikTok and Instagram as the riders seek to capture the genuine terror, panic and evasion manoeuvres of the victim on camera.

Elderly people are finding it difficult to go outside because there are a lot of youngsters on bikes, so they’re not feeling safe to walk on the pavements as they get cut off. Other pedestrians have ended up falling over in an attempt to run away from the bikes.

It’s an alarming trend, given that 45% of pedal cycle fatalities are in two vehicle collisions between a pedal cycle and a car, so doing wheelies towards moving vehicles only exacerbates this problem. In addition, Department for Transport statistics state that 234 pedestrians were killed or seriously injured after being hit by a cyclist or e-cyclist in 2025.

Sadly, snapping is not restricted to the UK but has also developed in America and Australia, too. This behaviour can also occur in big groups known as ‘rideouts’, where many youths assemble on their bikes and block entire main roads.

If you suspect that they might be involved in this type of antisocial trend, the charity Every Action Counts (<https://every-action-counts.co.uk/>) has some tips on how to approach a conversation with your child, the first step being to broach the topic in a calm environment that is comfortable for both of you.

Taking care to keep the tone conversational and not accusatory, explain how their actions can impact others, how their actions might be intimidating (even unintentionally), and why it is important to consider those around them when out and about with friends. Then outline the possible consequences of committing anti-social behaviour, addressing the effect that it can have on their own life...including the likelihood of their sustaining fatal or life-changing injuries.

Tim Drew

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

Business owners urged to review artificial plants and decorations for fire safety risks

Fire safety officers are urging businesses to take care with artificial flowers, foliage and decorations after concerns were identified during a routine fire safety check in Worthing.

Artificial plants, decorative wall coverings and hanging foliage are becoming increasingly popular in hospitality, retail and leisure settings. However, these materials can contribute to the rapid spread of fire and increase the risk to customers, staff and emergency services.

During a recent businesses fire safety check, firefighters from Worthing discovered that a local business had covered a large section of the ceiling with artificial plants. These findings were reported to our Fire Safety team for further investigation and officers attended the premises the following day to discuss the risks with the owner, who removed the artificial plants immediately.

All business owners have a legal responsibility to assess and manage fire risks within their premises - this includes ensuring that decorative materials do not compromise fire safety measures or create additional hazards. Business owners are encouraged to:

- Review all artificial plants, foliage, decorative coverings and display materials within their premises.
- Consider the impact of decorative features as part of their fire risk assessment.
- Seek professional advice if they are unsure whether materials are suitable for use.
- Regularly review fire safety risk assessments, particularly when making changes to the layout or appearance of their premises.

Dave Bray, Head of Protection for West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service said: "Decorative features can enhance the appearance of a business, but it is important that fire safety is considered before installing them.

"Internationally, there have been several fatal fires in premises where plastic materials, including artificial foliage, have ignited, spread fire rapidly and produced large quantities of toxic smoke.

"Business owners should ensure any decorative materials used within their premises are suitable and form part of a suitable and sufficient fire risk assessment. Where there is any doubt about the safety of a product, we would encourage businesses to seek advice before installing it.

"Around 25% of businesses never reopen following a serious fire, so it is vital that business owners understand and manage the risks within their premises and comply with their duties under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005."

Further guidance and resources for business owners are available on the West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service website.

Contact details:



Online Form To help us deal with your matter efficiently, please complete our online form.

Email firesafety@westsussex.gov.uk

Tel: 033 022 23333

Address

West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service

Fire Safety

Worthing Fire Station

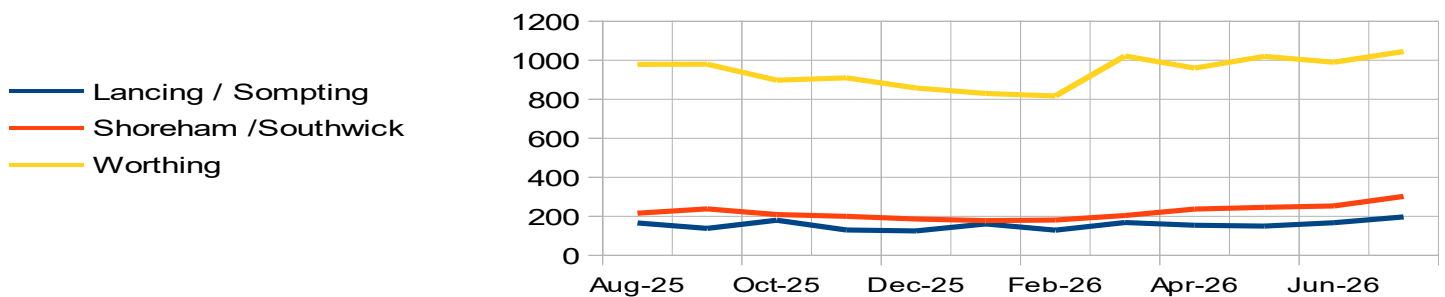
Ardsheal Road Worthing BN14 7RN

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

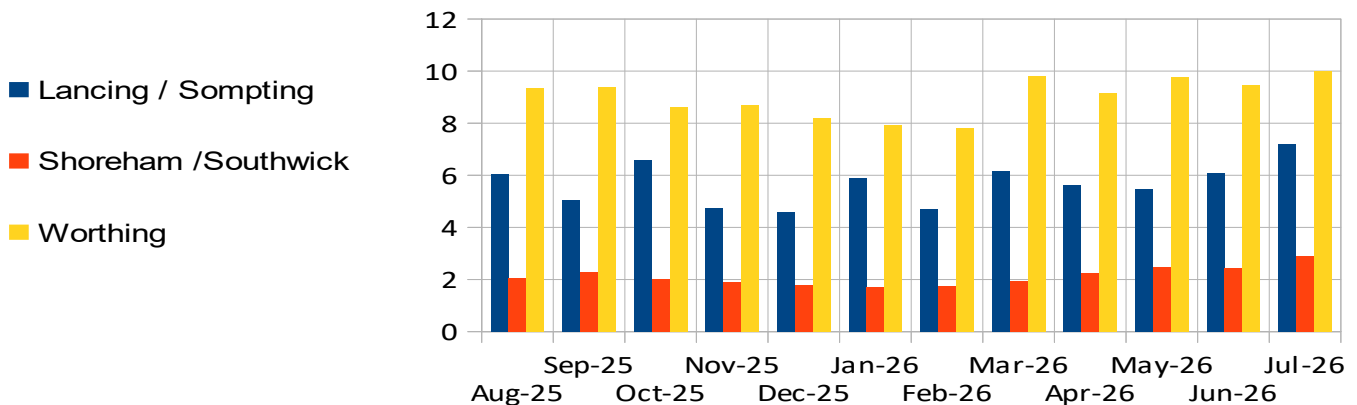
Crime Statistics for July 2026

July 2026	Churchill	Cokeham	Manor	Mash Barn	Peverel	Widewater	Sub Total
Antisocial Behaviour	10	17	2	9	6	21	65
Bike Theft	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Criminal Damage	0	2	1	2	4	2	11
Drugs	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Other Crime	0	2	0	1	2	3	8
Other Theft	4	2	3	4	2	3	18
Weapons	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Public Order	2	3	0	5	3	6	19
Robbery	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Theft Shop	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Theft Person	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicle Crime	0	0	0	3	0	1	4
Violence & Sex Offences	12	4	17	14	5	13	65
Totals	30	30	24	39	24	50	197

Crimes August 2025 to June 2026



Crimes per 1000 of Population



<https://adurnhw.my.canva.site/>