

- Ward Update December 2025 -

Hello to all the residents of the North Laine and Westhill Ward.

This is your monthly ward update brought to you by PCSO Bates.

Joining us is our lovely new PCSO Hocking! Jess is slowly learning the ropes until the New Year, when she will be fully on-board and ready to take on her own projects, if you see her out and about, please do say hello!

Alongside PCSO Hocking, we also have PCSO Atkins joining the North Laine and West Hill Team.

PRIORITIES

Our three priorities are currently:

Drug Activity – Our officers are working closely with partner agencies, local charities and members of the community to disrupt those involved in the supply, usage and support those who need additional help in recovery and accessing support.

Shoplifting – Partnership working has been implemented to ensure that businesses are feeling reassured before the Christmas shopping period started and that they are able to report crimes in hopes of a positive outcome.

Illegal E-Scooters / E-Bikes – In conjunction with other PCSOs on other wards, we are working hard to run evening and day-time operations to seize illegal scooters and illegal e-bikes.

MEETINGS

Central Area Cluster Meeting: A collaborative monthly meeting involving police, housing officers, the council, security teams, and residents.

North Laine & West Hill ASB Working Group: Monthly meeting (most recently on) with the council and local agencies to tackle ASB issues. The next meeting being

London Road Local Action Team: This is a space for residents of the London Road area, local councillors and partner agencies to come together to discuss

the ongoing issues and discuss local business. Last held in late December, with the next meeting scheduled for late January.

The North Laine Community Association: The NLCA meeting is a residents / community meeting which takes place monthly at The Foyer, Pelham Street. This is on request attended by police and is a wonderful opportunity to find out what's going on in your community. They meet every third Tuesday of the month and have their own monthly newsletter!

WINTER OF ACTION

As has been done previous years and similar to our Safer Streets Campaign, we have launched our Winter of Action campaign. This means the high-harm or “hot spots” will be visited frequently alongside the already wonderful Hot Spot Team who partake in their daily patrols. To read more you can visit [Increased patrols to keep Sussex town centres safe this winter | Sussex Police](#)

BANK CARD FRAUDS

There has recently been a spate of false couriers delivering fake bank cards. Please stay vigilant and remember, your bank won't ask for your pin number, or any personal information for that matter, over the phone. If you believe something's not right, ring your bank from their direct number on their website, or ring 101 to report suspected fraudulent activity.

NEW ROAD

New Road Strategy Meeting: Held in late September in response to increased activity in the area over the summer. There was a review meeting on the 2nd of December to discuss the future of the area, the crime stats and any other business which would affect any local business or residents.

THE LANES

The Lanes continues to attract a high foot fall as the beautiful Christmas lights emerge for the beginning of the festive season. We're grateful to everybody who had continued to report and support the work we do with the Brighton Crime Reduction Partnership to see results.

We have had some positive results such as remands, charges and recalls from the good work our local businesses do to reporting some of our prolific offenders.

As the temperature drops, and the days get shorter, please remember to wrap up warm, keep your belongings safe and enjoy all the wonders our lovely local businesses have to offer.

To read more on the BCRP, please visit [Brighton Crime Reduction Partnership \(BCRP\) | Business Safety & Crime Prevention](#)

There was a day of action on the 28th of November to engage with businesses and offer support before the Christmas Shopping Period. And we've had positive feedback concerning any issues over the Christmas period.

RESIDENTS NOTICE

Whether you are already a resident, or somebody who's visiting for the winter, be cautious when entering and exiting your building or accommodation. Tailgating has been brought to our attention as an ongoing issue due to the cold weather.

If you find anybody who is sleeping rough residing in or outside your building, you can either report this to [StreetLink - Connecting people sleeping rough to local services](#), or can contact us on 101 or 999 to report this to us, so we can work with partner agencies to find them somewhere more permanent to stay.

Officers attended the North Laine Community association and had positive engaging conversations with residents and businesses regarding local issues and crime prevention advice.

LONDON ROAD

London Road has recently been hit with a spate of shopliftings and thefts of bank cards. In conjunction with the Business Crime Reduction Partnership, we are working hard to identify those involved and deal with them accordingly.

Ensure any rucksacks or handbags are closed properly and make sure you are aware of your belongings; don't leave bags unattended and double check your purse or wallet is sufficiently secured.

We have seen a huge decrease in reports of Youth ASB along London Road, we are continuing to work with Partners, Schools, and our youth team to effectively safeguard and mitigate the Youth ASB.

NORTH STREET

Our ward includes half of North Street which includes most food chains and convenience stores. Groups of youths are a big problem in this area due to them regularly targeting vape stores and convenience stores.

Most of the businesses on North Street have a radio which links in with the town security guards (BID) as well as other stores in the vicinity.

If you see anybody acting suspiciously in shops or in the street, please speak to a security guard who will be able to alert other stores of suspected suspicious people.