

Ashford C.S.U Newsletter



**Kent
Police**

Rural South Ward

Get the latest crime statistics by visiting: <https://www.police.uk/>

January 2026

Acting on Community Concerns The top 3 area concerns

Road Safety Issues, Catapults, Fly Tipping

Tackling Your Concerns...

Road Safety: Time has recently spent alongside a colleague from the Community Speedwatch team carrying out a speed check in the Rolvenden area. No vehicles were found exceeding the speed limit during this operation, which is a positive sign for local road safety. Further speed checks are planned, and officers will also be joining the Community Speedwatch group again soon to support their ongoing work in keeping our roads safe. There continues to be high visibility patrolling in the Tenterden and St Michaels area. Two proactive stops in two days has resulted in one vehicle being seized for no insurance and reported for the offence of driving without insurance and the second day, an individual reported for driving whilst disqualified and driving without a licence. These actions demonstrate continued efforts to **improve road safety** and address drivers who pose a risk to the community and repeatedly look to re-offend.

Catapults: Over the past month, several calls have been received regarding the use of catapults in the area. We are currently working to identify the young people involved and understand the locations and times these incidents are taking place. A number of meetings have already been held to look at the issue in more detail, and we are working closely with the council, schools and partner agencies to explore ways to reduce these incidents through prevention, support, and education. Our aim is to address the behaviour early and help keep the community safe. If catapulting is in progress, call 999.

Flytipping: We continue to focus on flytipping into the New Year. If you have information around illegal waste collection sites, please report it to Ashford Borough Council and we will continue to work with them in tackling offenders. We have days of actions planned in the new year.

Closure Orders and Partnership Working: Over the past two months Kent Police have worked closely with Ashford Borough Council to obtain closure orders. Closure orders have been granted on two separate properties—one in **Longfield, Tenterden**, and another in **Moneypenny, Rolvenden**. These orders are an important tool used to address **persistent anti-social behaviour** and protect the wider community. A closure order can be issued when a property is linked to **serious nuisance or disorder**, such as ongoing anti-social behaviour, drug-related activity, or repeated disturbances affecting neighbours. To obtain one, police must present evidence to the court showing that the behaviour is **persistent, significant, and causing harm** to the community. If the court agrees, it can restrict access to the property for up to three months, with only authorised individuals allowed to enter. Breaching a closure order is a **criminal offence** and can lead to arrest and prosecution. These measures help break the cycle of behaviour that impacts residents' and give agencies the space to work with those affected. Kent Police are committed to **tackling anti-social behaviour** and continue to work closely with partner agencies, housing, and the local community to reduce harm, support vulnerable residents, and keep neighbourhoods safe.

Community Engagements:

- Meet the Police – 14:00 to 15:00 – 18/02/2026 - Highbury Hall, Highbury Lane, Tenterden, TN30 6LE
- Coffee with a Cop – 10:00 to 11:00 – 19/02/2026 - Rolvenden Village Hall, Maytham Road, Rolvenden, TN17 4ND

Your local officer:
**PC 11307
Laker**



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Valentine's Day is coming up and this time of year leaves some people vulnerable to fraud, namely Romance Fraud. Therefore, it seems prevalent to raise awareness of this topic even if it doesn't affect you directly, it may help you recognise if someone in your life is vulnerable to it.

So, what is **Romance fraud** - Criminals lie to gain your trust and build a relationship with you. They make everything about the romance feel normal, but their aim is to get money or personal information. Romance fraudsters are experts at manipulating their victims. They will usually create a story that sounds believable and start the relationship in a normal way, gain your trust over time, invent a problem or situation where you may feel like you want to send money or gifts to help them, and isolate you from friends or family.

Spot the signs. There are some signs to watch out for.

When they contact you - They may make conversation more personal to get information from you. But they may not tell you much about themselves that you can check or verify. They may send a photo to earn your trust. This may be a real photo of them, or it could be stolen from someone else or created using technology. You can use an online tool to check if it's a stolen photo. Use Google or TinEye to do a reverse image search. They may give you an excuse why they cannot meet you in person. The excuse may seem reasonable.

If you met them on a dating website, game or application, they may steer you away from there. Instead, they may prefer to talk by email, text and phone. Fraudsters often choose encrypted messaging applications, such as WhatsApp.

They want your help - Sometimes, the fraudster will say they need money for an urgent medical operation or an ill family member. They may say they need to pay off a debt or that there's a time critical situation to encourage you to act quickly. It might feel like only you can help them and you may feel a sense of responsibility to do so.

They may ask you to invest money. Or they may ask you to buy gift cards from websites like Amazon or iTunes to send to them. In some cases, they may not ask you for money directly but instead hope you will send it out of kindness. By creating a situation where there's a limited time to act, they want you to feel responsible for solving the problem. They want you to act out of a sense of urgency in the hope that you will do something you would not normally do. They may also promise that things will be better soon and that there will be no more money trouble. The fraudster may send you expensive items, or ask to send money to your bank account. The circumstances may seem genuine, but you could unwittingly be laundering money, which is a criminal offence.

Keeping secrets - They may ask you to keep the relationship a secret. This is a tactic to isolate you from your family and friends, who may be able to identify the fraud. The fraudster may act upset or insecure when you talk about them to others. They may make you feel sorry for them or distract you with promises of a future together. They may act hurt if you doubt them, even though your doubts are reasonable. They may introduce other people to help the fraud seem more real. This could be family, solicitors or medical professionals, but this is also part of the fraud.

Victim stories - The Met, in collaboration with West Midlands Regional Organised Crime Unit and the City of London Police, has created a series of videos showing victim accounts and crime prevention advice on identifying the signs of romance fraud.

They highlight both the financial and emotional consequences. These can be viewed

at <https://www.kent.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/fa/fraud/personal-fraud/romance-fraud/> <https://www.kent.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/fa/fraud/personal-fraud/romance-fraud/>

Have your say on local issues: Kent Police are currently running a new priority survey through MCV to understand the three biggest priorities affecting our community. Your feedback plays a vital role in helping us focus on the issues that matter most to you. Please take a moment to complete the short survey so we can better support you and work together to address the local priorities over the next three months



MCV is a two-way engagement tool brought to you by Kent Police

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