



EASTBOURNE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWS

OCTOBER 2020



Welcome to

EASTBOURNE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION

With there being little change in the Coronavirus situation (in fact possibly worsening) we find ourselves still unable to organise any events or meetings or even produce and distribute our new style Neighbourhood Watch magazine. There is of course obvious frustration and exasperation amongst all our committee and coordinators, but we all realise that protecting everyone's health has to be the top priority. So, we are contacting you for now, keeping in touch, with our more simple email 'News Bulletin' and ask that you please pass this on and/or include it in any Face-Book or media channels you have access to.

You are not alone

In our previous Neighbourhood Watch News, I appealed for a helping hand, support and care to be shown throughout our community'. Under the banner of '*You Are Not Alone*' – we appealed to our members and supporters to join our '*Good Neighbour*' scheme, asking everyone to connect with anyone local who they think may be elderly, lonely or vulnerable. We asked how during lockdowns and restrictions, self-isolation, and social distancing, that people living amongst us must not be left feeling alone, or worse - abandoned!

Now, months later, with the virus situation showing no improvement we are at least proud to be able to look at the positives that have come through the actions of many caring people and associations. In these times of restrictions and government-imposed regulations due to the coronavirus pandemic, the consequences of complying with the rules to protect everyone have become very clear – a feeling

of isolation! This especially felt by the vulnerable and elderly. But throughout this the Eastbourne community has stepped up to the occasion and has shown to rally around and prove once again that we are a town that cares for each other. Neighbours checking on neighbours, making sure that everyone is safe, shopping trips being done by friends and neighbours.

Nevertheless, life with Covid is still proving difficult, very difficult for some, so your help towards your neighbour, we ask, has to be ongoing! If we continue to work together as a community, to look after each other, good things will happen. This is the ethos behind Neighbourhood Watch and the reason why we as volunteers and you as members and supporters continue to strengthen this great community asset within Eastbourne – its people!

So we ask, please still be vigilant, never forget the silent house next to you, the apartment along the corridor where you haven't seen anyone coming or going from lately, the letters still sticking out of the letterbox of the house you pass each morning or the curtains that remain closed day after day. Pick up your phone and call your neighbour, check on the needs of the nearby vulnerable and never forget the simplest of communication tools, simply drop a written message in their letter box with your telephone number, even suggesting if they need help to simply stick a note in their window for you to see – let us all look after and help protect those who desperately need our help. So once again, I repeat my previous News Bulletin headline – *You are not alone!*

Caroline Ansell, Member of Parliament

Commenting in her own newsletter Caroline thanks the services and people of Eastbourne. “The country has now moved into its three-tier system to tackle the spread of Coronavirus. Here in Eastbourne at the moment we are at medium – the lowest level. I would like to thank everyone in our town and East Sussex, the NHS, the local resilience forum, the police and social care providers and our schools and businesses for all they have done to keep the infection rate low and everyone playing their part is how we'll come through this.”

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

Fraudsters, cheats, crooks, or just old fashioned ‘scum’ (whatever you want to call them) are seemingly taking full advantage of this coronavirus pandemic and stealing (conning) millions out of the honest hard-working good-natured people. Over 600 charities have fallen victim to scams with at least £3 million stolen since the commencement of the Covid restrictions and lockdowns. The Charity Commission has warned that ruthless fraudsters are cashing on by ‘cloning’ appeals and setting up false charities.

Most of the genuine charities affected had become a much-needed source of help for the local needy and vulnerable, but their funds are being syphoned off by false appeals and collections.

Therefore if telephoned, please think twice before agreeing to part with any donations – make sure it is through previous channels you have experience with, charities that you can substantiate are genuine (beware of name cloning) – if in doubt telephone established charities that you know, asking for confirmation of collections, accounts and addresses.

Never divulge your own bank details or any private information! No one, including your own bank, will ever telephone you to ask for your account particulars.

A million pounds, and you get 10% for doing nothing

Email scams are almost a daily occurrence these days, most common is the typical (but well tried and obviously successful), ‘I wish to put one millions pounds into your bank account, to which you can keep 10%’. All you have to do is drop them your bank details so they can deposit the million, and as they say, ‘Bobs your Uncle’ and 10% is yours!

Of course, the problem is, the million won’t come in, and whatever you have in your bank account, will go out! I am a great believer in the old saying – “you cannot con an honest man – only a greedy one.”



A massive current rip-off at the moment is happening through the British Poppy Appeal. The Royal British Legion has identified over ‘sixty’ websites offering fake items featuring the charities distinctive design. Whilst their lawyers are slowly closing down these fake sites - the most recent was with the plausible name of In-FlandersFields which sold £12.95 lapel badges (breaking copoyright rules). Others still exist, even one of the most popular websites is selling a black £6.50 face mask featuring a poppy - with no mention of ‘any’ of the money going to the charity. Genuine items can be bought online through the Legion’s official poppy shop -

rbl.org.uk/poppyappeal

- or go in to your local Sainsbury’s, Tesco, Asda, Aldi or Morrisons; buy a Poppy

Home Security

There are several new and technically easy to install (?) home security devices on the market this year. The ‘video doorbell’ is probably the newest of these innovations of which we will especially be looking into for our next issue – checking their prices and, more importantly, installation costs.

Whilst our team of enthusiastic Sherlock Holmes detectives and secret agents go out investigating these appliances, we would like to hear from local companies/electricians on their costs of supplying and fitting (including technical help on any installation of telephone app’s etc.,) these home security devices.

Eastbourne Police – Neighbourhood Policing Team Updates – October 2020

Significant arrests made, following day of action on the roads of Eastbourne.

Officers from the Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) and the Roads Policing Unit (RPU) joined forces on Thursday (October 8) to patrol hotspot areas for noisy and anti-social driving.

A car in Langney Road was stopped and checked, which revealed a small plastic tub containing cocaine in the centre console. A subsequent search of the driver’s address led to the discovery of hundreds more wraps of suspected drugs with an estimated street value of £20,000, and around £2,000 in cash, the driver was arrested.

A second man was arrested on suspicion of aiding / abetting the use of a motor vehicle without insurance and possession of a class B drug., after NPT officers stopped a car suspected of being driven without insurance.

A third arrest was made by RPU officers for driving or being in charge of a motor vehicle with a concentration of a specified controlled drug above the specified limit. One motorist had their vehicle seized, after being reported for driving while disqualified.

A fixed penalty notice was issued to a driver with a defective exhaust creating excessive noise, and words of advice were given to five motorists – two for lighting offences and three for speed.

The Safety Camera Team also picked up six offences on the A2270 Willingdon Road, and 60 offences on Lottbridge Drive.

Chief Inspector Di Lewis, district commander for Eastbourne, said: “This day of action saw our officers stop dozens of vehicles and engage with drivers to highlight the importance of safe and considerate behaviour on the roads - While the majority of motorists were understanding and supportive of our activity, we did identify and deal with a number who were committing offences. We understand the distress ASB driving can have on members of our community, and we will continue to listen to the public’s concerns around this, please continue to report issues to police, either online or by calling 101.

Van to tour Sussex & raise awareness of knife crime dangers launches this month.

A new initiative has been launched this month to help tackle knife crime and raise awareness of the dangers of knife possession. Officers, with the aid of a specially-designed van, will be visiting local communities, including schools, high streets and supermarkets, across Eastbourne and surrounding areas of Sussex to engage, inform and educate about the serious risks of knife possession. Members of the public will hear real-life stories of people whose lives have been impacted by knife crime and receive information and advice on where they can get help.



Last weekend (17th October 2020) officers were out engaging with members of the public in Eastbourne town centre where we spoke to numerous individuals raising awareness of the dangers of knife crime. In addition there are plans to deploy the van and a team of PCSOs/PCs across Eastbourne on 15th November. We will also be using the van for public engagement again across the district during Op Sceptre week between 23rd – 27th November where Youth Officers will be visiting local schools in the area.

This forms part of a wider campaign to combat knife crime after Sussex Police secured additional funding from The Home Office’s Serious Violence Fund for 2020/21. Other tactics include targeted days of action, increased patrols, knife sweeps, test purchasing activities and a multi-agency awareness campaign. Sussex is a safe place to live, and we take any reports of knife crime seriously in Sussex so it continues to be, if you’re concerned or have information about knife crime, you can report online or via 101. In an emergency always dial 999.

Ken Ross
Chair, ENWA

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