

Sheerness Summer

During the Summer period, Kent Police sees a rise in demand - and this year has been no different. The extreme heat brought further challenges to us all, and whilst endless sunshine brings many positives it can also put further pressure onto the emergency services. The Neighbourhood Task Force have continued their deployment to the Island to assist the Beat Team, with their focus on Sheerness. This has now been made a permanent move, and the team will be targeting their patrols in and around the town and aiming to drive down Anti-Social behaviour and crime in general.

Catapults and ASB (Anti-Social Behaviour)

There has been a significant decrease in calls and reports of catapult use in the Sheerness area, which has subsequently resulted in a decrease in related criminal damage and harm to wildlife reports.

This is a nationwide issue and not isolated to Sheerness, however the view of the Police is the same – it will not be tolerated. It causes reckless damage, causes fear to the community and although it is not currently illegal to possess one in public, it will be removed from you should you be found in possession of one in public without a lawful excuse.

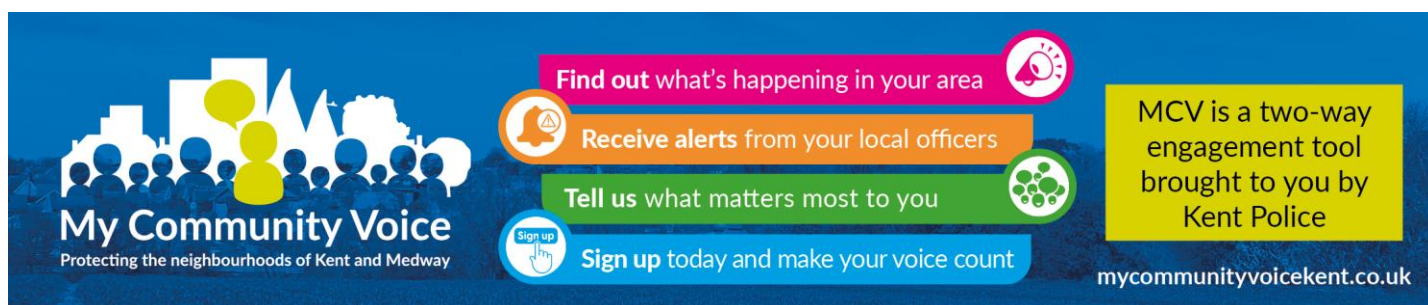
There is no doubt that this decrease has been aided by support from you, the public, being vigilant and reporting direct to us.

Please continue to report any sightings of persons with catapults in public either using 999 if an emergency, 101 or live chat via Kent Police Website.

Nuisance Vehicles

There continues to be reports and sightings of nuisance vehicles in Sheerness, much like elsewhere across the county. This has consistently been highlighted as a ward priority through My Community Voice Surveys, with most complaints involving off road dirt bikes, adapted e-bikes and Sur-Ron's, riders with no protection but wearing face coverings. Riders are travelling at speed, riding illegally on roads, pavements and public spaces and putting themselves and others at risk with no regard at all for anyone else.

A lot of work is ongoing to try and tackle the issue – where patrols can attend, they are being deployed, however there are frustrating limitations on pursuing vehicles such as these due to the



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dangers they put themselves – and other members of public – in. Our Child Centred Policing Team have been in schools to educate young people on the law and safety, we are working closely with CCTV to obtain footage of those riding illegally and dangerously (not just in the location but then following up where they are coming from and going to) and using both plain clothed uniformed Officers and drones to try and get hold of them.

Over the Summer, several e-bikes and e-scooters have been stopped and seized.



Please continue to report any sightings on either 999/101 or live chat. We know that residents will have ideas on where these riders are coming from, and may feel too scared to give specific details due to being in close proximity – however any information received can be provided anonymously and will still be looked into. If something is having such a detrimental effect on the lives and well being of the local community we need to work together to tackle it.

We are receiving a large amount of calls to nuisance vehicles and anti-social behaviour in the Clyde Street area in Sheerness, and are working with Swale Borough Council and housing to tackle this.



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A portal has been created for members of public on the Island to share footage or images of anyone using an off road/dirt bike, illegal e-bike, e-scooter on a public road/highway or public place. Please do not put yourself at risk obtaining any such images or footage but it can be uploaded to the portal using this link:

<https://kep.uk.evidence.com/axon/community-request/public/pmp480426>

or this QR code:



In addition to nuisance vehicles, we have also recently run an operation to tackle untaxed vehicles (Op Cubit). This was a joint operation involving Swale CSU officers, the DVLA and the Council's Environmental Response Team (ERT) and has resulted in a number of positive outcomes aimed at tackling vehicle-related offences and improving road safety within the community.

During the operation, officers and partner agencies targeted vehicles suspected of being untaxed or otherwise non-compliant with road traffic legislation. As a result:

- **6 vehicles were seized**
- **13 vehicles were clamped**
- **1 warning notice was issued**

The operation provided a highly visible enforcement presence across Sheerness, as well as Rushenden and Queenborough; helping to deter offending, remove non-compliant vehicles from the roads, and engage with members of the public, resulting in lots of intelligence gained.



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This activity highlights the benefits of effective partnership working, with agencies coming together to address issues that matter to local communities and improve the safety and quality of life for residents.

VAWG (Violence against Women and Girls)

It remains a Force Priority for Kent Police to work to reduce violence against women and girls (VAWG), and new legislation has recently been used twice in Sheerness to arrest for inappropriate behaviour. The Public Order Act 1986 (England and Wales), Section 4B creates the offence of intentional harassment, alarm or distress based on a person's sex (or presumed sex). It came into force on 1 April 2026 and essentially makes it an offence to make persistent unwanted comments directed at someone because they are male or female, 'catcalling' or making obscene remarks intended to cause harassment, alarm or distress; or following, intimidating, or verbally abusing someone because of their sex.

In June reports were made of a male at a bus stop close to Sheppey College making comments towards females that were inappropriate and made them feel uncomfortable. PC HONESS attended and the male was located and arrested. In August, another male was reported to have approached a



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female on a regular basis in Sheerness and continued with unwanted attention and behaviour, even when it was made clear it was not appropriate. This resulted in the female having to alter her daily routines, in a bid to avoid the male. He was subsequently located by PC HONESS and arrested. Both males have been subject to strict bail conditions, and charges are being sought.

The introduction of this legislation helps many women feel safer by recognising that harassment targeted at someone because of their sex is unacceptable and can be treated as a criminal offence. By giving police specific powers to deal with behaviour such as catcalling, intimidation, and abusive conduct intended to cause harassment, alarm or distress, the legislation sends a clear message that women have the right to move through public spaces without fear of sex-based abuse. We hope this can increase confidence in reporting incidents and reassure victims that their experiences are being taken seriously by the criminal justice system.

Sports Connect Returns to Sheerness!

SPORTS CONNECT

SWALE

FREE COMMUNITY SPORT FOR AGES 10+ - TURN UP + PLAY

THURS	Sheerness Sand Pit, Isle of Sheppey, ME12 1RE	15:30-17:00
THURS	Thistle Hill Green, Aspen Drive, Sheerness, ME12 3FG	17:15-18:30

MORE SESSIONS TO BE CONFIRMED SOON!

SPORTS CONNECT **VRU** **Town & Country Housing**

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The Sports Connect Team will be back at Beachfields in Sheerness every Thursday between 15:30 – 17:00. Its free sports sessions are for any child aged 10yrs and over – just turn up and play!!

Upcoming surgeries and events:

Drop in Surgery at Sheerness Town Council Offices – Thursday 24th September 2026 between 10:00 – 12:00 hours.

Drop in Surgery at Sheppey Gateway – Monday 28th September 2026 between 10:00 – 12:00 hours

Drop in Surgery at Hope Street Centre – Wednesday 23rd September between 09:00 – 10:00 hours



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