

December 2019 PCSO Report Kingsnorth

Operation Alpine

During December Operation ALPINE is in place from the 19th December to the 6th January. The aim of this operation is to address and target any Anti-Social Behaviour caused as a result of the Christmas period, reduce the call demand and provide public reassurance.

Bridgefield buses running again

Offenders from the buses were identified and have been dealt with accordingly. We have been working closely with Stagecoach. All PCSO's are giving this location as much high visibility patrolling as time allows, including our Hawkeye vehicle which has CCTV.

Catapults

Catapult incidents are still being reported in all wards. We are regularly patrolling the areas to deter this and actively dealing with names associated to this. Please call 101 or 999 if this incident is happening at the time, we are still being advised of incidents that are not being reported.

Polling Station

On the 12th of December, All PCSOs were required to do polling station visits. The visits involved going into the polling station and communicating with staff in order to ascertain if they were having any issues.



Shopping Online

- **If you shop online, make sure you check that the companies are genuine. If you are not sure, make contact with them to confirm before purchasing, or purchase from an alternative online retailer.**
- **When making online purchases make sure the connection is secure by looking for the padlock icon at the top or bottom of the Internet browser. Secure web addresses should also begin with 'https'.**
- **Purchase online using a secure payment method such as PayPal, or credit and debit cards.**

If you have been conned by people misrepresenting goods or services online; either through auction or shopping sites you should:

- **Keep all correspondence and all goods involved**
- **Use the online disputes section on the website concerned**

- **Report it to Action Fraud - either via telephone (0300123 2040) or their website www.actionfraud.police.uk**

Safety tips for driving in winter.

Vision

- Keep the windscreen and other windows clear – if your vision is obscured through dirt, snow or even sticker-infested car windows you could face a potentially heavy fine. Clear snow from the roof as well as from windows as this can fall onto the windscreen obscuring your view. It can be a hazard to other road users as well.
- Dazzle from a low winter sun can also be a problem when trying to see the road.

Visibility

- Make sure that all bulbs are working and that lenses are clean for safety and to be legal on the road. When roads are mucky you might need to clean lights after every journey. Keep the number plates clean too, as you can be fined if they are dirty and illegible.
- If you must clear snow from the car it's important to clear it from the lights - front and back - as well as from the glass and roof.
- You must use headlights when visibility is seriously reduced. You may also use front or rear fog lights, but these must be switched off when visibility improves as they can dazzle other road users and obscure your brake lights.

Tyres

- It is recommended at least 3mm of tread for winter motoring, and defiantly no less than 2mm.
- It's rare to need snow chains unless you live in an isolated area hit with heavy snow, and where the roads are not cleared. They must be removed to drive on a metalled road without a reasonable covering of snow.
- Consider changing to winter or all-season tyres – these have a higher silica content in the tread which prevents it hardening at lower temperatures, and therefore gives better grip in cold wet conditions.

Safety checks before your journey

- Get up at least 10 minutes early to give you time to prepare the car.
- Don't drive off like a tank-commander, with a tiny hole cleared in the windscreen. Clear all windows using a scraper and de-icer.
- Use a cigarette lighter to warm a key for a frozen lock. Don't breathe on the lock, as the moisture will condense and freeze.

- Plan routes to favour major roads which are more likely to have been cleared and gritted.
- Put safety before punctuality when the bad weather closes in. Allow extra time for winter journeys but be prepared for the inevitability of being late for work due to unexpected delay.
- Gentle manoeuvres are the key to safe driving - stopping distances are 10 times longer in ice and snow.
- Don't reduce tyre pressures to get more grip – it doesn't work and reduces stability.

Secure your home whilst on holiday

Follow this advice below to help keep your home safe while you're away.

- Fit good quality kite marked British Standard locks or bolts to all outside doors. Lock all windows and doors and remove the keys to a safe place when you leave the house.
- If you have an intruder alarm, make sure it's set. If you don't have one consider having an approved alarm system installed.
- Make use of timer plugs with lamps and radios to make your house seem occupied. Try and let a trusted friend or neighbour know that you're going to be away from home. You could ask a trusted neighbour or friend to collect post, open and close curtains.
- Don't leave valuable items such as laptops and jewellery in view of windows. Lock valuable items away in a ground anchored safe or you could consider leaving important documents and valuable items with other family members whilst away.
- Make sure all access points are secured such as gates and activate any external security lighting that you may have.
- Ensure gardening equipment, tools and ladders are put away and securely stored. Don't leave them lying around in your garden as they could aid offenders.
- Ensure that sheds and out buildings are locked and secured. Use good quality locks on garages and sheds (ensure screws on latches and hinges cannot be undone easily from the outside) and where possible ensure that they are alarmed.
- Register your valuables online on the national property database at www.immobilise.com You can register almost any kind of item on the database free of charge. Immobilise helps Police reunite stolen items with their rightful owners.
- Cancel milk and newspaper deliveries if you have them. Don't announce your departure to a shop full of people. Only tell people who need to know you're going away.
- Think before posting status or commenting on social media about going on holiday. You wouldn't display a sign in your window advertising that you're going on holiday, so don't advertise it online.
- Make sure that you have up-to-date contents and buildings insurance.

journey. Put this only on the inside of your cases.

- Ask a neighbour to park a car on your driveway so that passers-by assume someone is at home.
- Finally, just before you actually set off it's worth allowing a quiet couple of minutes on the doorstep to check you've done all you had to do and taken everything you need with you.

Securing your shed

Sheds are often targeted by thieves because they are not designed to store valuable equipment and property - they were originally designed to house potting plants. Their fairly flimsy construction makes them easy to break into via the door, windows, walls or even the roof.

However, many homes have little outside storage space, so the shed inevitably becomes a place for storing items that are not wanted indoors.

Ways to better secure your shed:

- Fit a strong hasp and padlock to your shed door. Make sure the door is strong enough to resist being kicked or pushed in. Replace standard hinges with strap hinges secured by coach bolts or use security screws on existing hinges.
- Consider fitting a battery-operated shed alarm.
- Visibly mark the property you keep in your shed and garage and use anchor points to secure larger tools and equipment.
- Register your valuables on the national online property database Immobilise so that Police can reunite you with them if they are ever stolen and later recovered. Visit the Immobilise website