

Worthing NHW Newsletter



June 2024

Your Committee:

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Worthing Neighbourhood Police meeting

Police cadets, Operation Downsway, sextortion, shoplifting and mental health problems all featured as topics at the Worthing Neighbourhood Police meeting on Thursday 16th May.

More than 200 Volunteer Police Cadets were recognised for their outstanding achievements at an annual awards ceremony at Ardingly on the 12th April, at which Finley Anderson from Worthing Cadets won the Overall Cadet of the Year award. Entry is open to young people aged 13-17.

The Cadets meet weekly and participate in a wide range of activities including learning law and police procedure, scenarios, and finding out about the different jobs and roles within the force. They regularly attend and assist at carnivals, parades, marathons and other community events. They also help with operations such as test purchasing, fraud and knife initiatives, and preventing under-age vaping.

Operation Downsway, which was launched on the 1st March in West Sussex and will run until the end of the year, is aimed at reducing the number of people who are killed or seriously injured on the roads of West Sussex, reducing the number of reported incidents of anti-social driving, increasing public confidence in local policing through increased visibility and patrols and targeting road users who drive in an anti-social or irresponsible manner. PCSOs can now stop cars and in March alone, 552 Section 163 stop checks were conducted across West Sussex.





A National Crime Agency alert has been issued about criminals using AI to sextort young people with the victims being mainly young males who are scared into paying up and are the most likely category to be driven to suicide. Elsewhere, bogus solicitors are contacting people to tell them that they have inherited large fortunes, with at least one huge loss reported in Chichester as a result.

Shoplifting remains prevalent with the biggest driver of acquisitive crime and exploitation being drug addiction, and QR codes have been seen on lamp posts whereby addicts can purchase marijuana. Opium-based drugs are more likely to be cut with fentanyl and nitazines following the burning of opium poppy crops by the Taliban, and are therefore far more potent and dangerous

Web Site : <https://worthingnhw.ourwatch.org.uk/>



In April 2024 our Highways Teams...

-  Received 6533 enquiries from the public, of those 3736 related to potholes
-  Delivered 4327 safety repairs, of these 3267 were for potholes.
-  Completed 320 find and fix jobs (covering 205sqm) (this is a proactive approach to roads with multiple potholes)
-  Repaired 607 safety potholes using the Velocity Jet Patcher covering 450.5sqm

Report a pothole @

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-pothole-online/>

Worthing Street Buddies

The Worthing Street Pastors may no longer be part of Worthing nightlife, but the town appears to have found a worthy replacement in the form of the Worthing Street Buddies who, following an initiative by Diane Guest at The Broadwater, saw their first night of action on the 21st April and have since been out and about from midnight until 4.00 am on Fridays and Saturdays, helping vulnerable individuals get home safely after a night out.

This initiative has been funded by Katy Bourne, Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner, and Pinnacle Clothing of South Farm Road have supplied Street Buddies' bright orange and very conspicuous uniforms.

So far, they have ably continued from where the Street Pastors left off, mostly doing a lot of little things that have, notwithstanding, counted for a great deal. This, in their first four weeks of action, included waiting with over ten people until either their taxi or lift home arrived; charging a mobile phone; reassuring a seizure victim and waiting with her until the ambulance arrived; finding a necklace and pendant that had been lost during a fight; clearing up broken glass; providing shelter under their umbrellas when it rained; helping a lady retrieve her handbag from a night club; reunited a lost reveller with his friends; and, in the best tradition of the Street Pastors, handing out bottles of water, lollipops, flip flops and providing a listening ear whenever needed.

The team is in need of more volunteers – volunteering just once a month would be enough – and no experience is necessary, though DBS checks are required. However, the Street Pastors were provided with training by the Police over three intensive sessions, including street scene and youth culture training, and maybe more volunteers would be attracted if they knew that such training was on offer. Indeed, our previous Neighbourhood Police Inspector, Allan Lowe, credited the Street Pastors with having contributed much towards the reduction of violent crime, and it is hoped that the Street Buddies can make significant progress in that direction, following an auspicious beginning.

Tim Drew

Allocation of Capital Funding to create increased provision for girls' changing at St Andrew's CE High School, Worthing CYPLS08 (24/25)

In October 2020, following a public consultation, the proposal to alter St Andrew CE High School for Boys, Worthing to a co-educational school from September 2021 entry was confirmed ([Decision ES08\(20/21\)](#)).

Following the change in 2021, the number of girls attending St Andrew's CE High School is increasing and therefore a further increase to changing provision is required to ensure adequate provision for girls. As St Andrew's CE High School is a Voluntary Aided School and the County Council do not own the freehold of the building, it has been agreed that the project can be delivered as a school managed project. The Governing Body has appointed consultants who are currently undertaking the design work for the proposed scheme.

Following detailed design and associated cost estimates the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Learning and Skills will be asked to approve the budget required and the passporting of funds to St Andrew's CE High School to deliver the extension to girls' changing facilities.

Decision:

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Learning and Skills has approved;

- (1) An allocation of £0.760m from the Basic Need Capital Budget to fund works to increase the girls' changing facilities at St Andrew's High School as set out in paragraph 2.2 of the report,
- (2) The passporting of £0.760m to the school subject to the negotiation, agreement and completion of a Development and Funding Agreement before any funds are released, and
- (3) The delegation of authority to the Assistant Director (Property and Assets) to oversee the checks on the works as a School Managed Project (SMP) to ensure the works are completed in accordance with the agreed schedule.



Partnership Engagement (Dates subject to change)

Goring Library

Wednesday 17th July 2024 - 11:00 Hrs to 12:30 Hrs

Broadwater Library

Thursday 25th July 2024 - 10:00 Hrs to 11:30 Hrs

Durrington Library

Tuesday 6th August 2024 12:00 Hrs to 13:30 Hrs

Bramber Primary School

Broadwater

The playing field at Bramber Primary School is currently deemed unsafe for educational purposes due to flints from the underlying soil structure coming to the surface; there are also drainage issues which create waterlogging that affect use of the field.



It is proposed to undertake an improvement project to rectify the issues identified and restore the playing field to a safe and usable condition thereby providing suitable outside space for physical education in accordance with the curriculum.

Approval is required for the allocation of funding to carry out the remedial works to improve the playing surface and drainage to enable the school to resume use of the playing field.

Decision:

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Learning and Skills has approved:

- (1) The allocation of £650K to enable the delivery of the required remedial works to the playing field at Bramber Primary School.
- (2) The authorisation to commence a procurement process to select and secure a contractor to carry out the works.
- (3) The delegation of authority to the Assistant Director (Property and Assets) to enter a construction contract with the successful tenderer.

WhatsApp group chat members are being warned they could be targeted by criminals.

Action Fraud reveals it has received 636 reports from victims of the messaging app this year.

The fraud often begins when a member of the group receives a WhatsApp audio call from the fraudster, pretending or claiming to be another member of the group. This is done to gain the individual's trust, and often the scammer will use a false profile picture and/or display name, so at first glance he or she would appear to be a genuine member of the group.

The fraudsters will tell the victims that they are sending them a one-time passcode which will allow them to join an upcoming video call for group members. The criminal then asks the victim to share this passcode with them so they can be "registered" for the video call.

In reality, the criminal is asking for a registration code to register victims' WhatsApp accounts to a new device so their accounts can be taken over.

Once fraudsters have achieved this, they will enable two-step verification which makes it impossible for victims to regain access to their account. Other members of the group, or friends and family in the victims' contacts, will then be messaged asking them to transfer money urgently as they are in desperate need of help.

Here's how to secure your WhatsApp account:

Set up two-step verification (2SV) to give an extra layer of protection to your account. Tap Settings > Account > Two-step verification > Enable.

CALL. If a family member or friend makes an unusual request on WhatsApp, always call the person outside of WhatsApp to confirm their identity.

Report spam messages or block a sender within WhatsApp. Press and hold on the message bubble, select Report and then follow the instructions.

Detective Superintendent Gary Miles, head of the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau at City of London Police, said: 'WhatsApp remains an integral mode of communication for many people across the UK, however fraudsters still find ways to infiltrate these platforms. Sadly, anyone can become a target for fraud.'

The Dark Net

The Dark Net is generally believed to be a complex, secretive environment that involves encryption and hackers, where drug dealers, weapon buyers, child pornographers, terrorists and other criminals can work anonymously with little chance of getting caught. Certainly, its combination of encryption, support for privacy and ease of use creates a simple medium for criminals to exploit.

It had its origins in the 1990s, when the lack of security on the internet and its ability to be used for tracking and surveillance was becoming clear, and scientists at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory therefore sought a way to create internet connections that do not reveal who is talking to whom, even to someone monitoring the network. Their answer was to create and deploy the first research designs and prototypes of onion routing. From this eventually emerged the TOR Project, with the development of the TOR browser (the one most associated with the dark net) commencing in 2008.

TOR is the acronym for "The Onion Router" and supports multiple dark net forums and markets through encryption, in common with sites that don't rely on TOR (such as password-protected forums where hackers trade secrets and stolen credit card numbers) and can also be considered part of the dark web. Instead of sites ending with .com or .org, TOR users connect with sites that end in .onion. Many high-profile organisations have dark net sites, including BBC News and Facebook.

One of the main aims of the TOR project was to help conceal the identity of whistleblowers and dissidents living under repressive regimes to communicate with the outside world, so technologies used to facilitate dark net activities are not inherently good or bad.

Criminals using the dark net are no longer assured of a safe hiding place, however, and Police worldwide have an extensive array of different techniques to identify, arrest and convict them. One of the most commonly used policing techniques in cyber investigations, including those on the dark net, is the use of Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) which is data and information that is collected legally from open and publicly available resources.

Vehicle Thefts

Motorists are facing an escalating threat - the stripping of vehicles for their parts. The rate of thefts has soared as the cost of car parts has surged by approximately 35 per cent, leading many to steal rather than buy replacements. Last year's data revealed a shocking 72 per cent increase in chop shops compared to 2022 - leaving many motorists to foot the bill when it comes to replacing their beloved vehicles.

Clive Wain, head of police liaison at Tracker, the UK's leading stolen vehicle recovery specialist, explained that the production of new parts has been impacted by various global factors. These, coupled with the cost-of-living crisis, have seen demand grow for quality second-hand parts leading to this latest car crime spate. Even basic parts prices like discs, brake pads and wiper blades have shot up, so car cannibalisation can be a very lucrative market for criminals. Mr Wain further warned that the surge in cases, along with the rise in chop shops, signifies an urgent need to ramp up vehicle security.

He cautioned that these crimes occur either in illegal chop shops or even at the roadside in broad daylight. Criminals are stealing items such as headlights and steering wheels, which are then sold for cash or on the black market, both domestically and internationally.

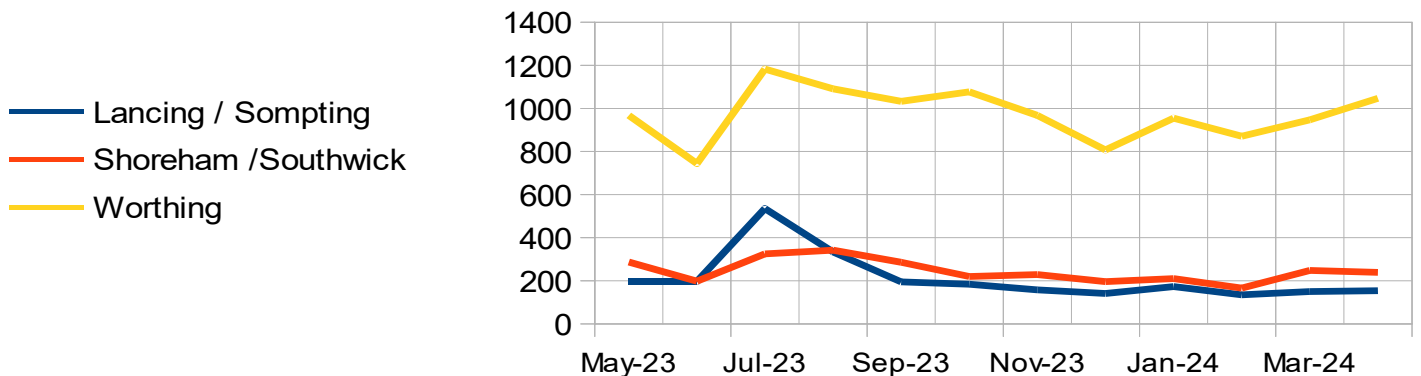
Tracker, which works with police forces across the UK and has its equipment fitted in 2,000 police cars and every police helicopter, claims a 95 per cent success rate when it comes to stolen vehicle recovery. It offers patented VHF location technology, which is effective at finding stolen vehicles even if they are hidden in shipping containers, lock-ups or underground car parks, where GPS-only tracking can struggle.

"We work closely with the police to find and shut down illegal chop shops, but regrettably, these 'businesses' are so profitable and operations so slick that as soon as one is closed, another pops up to replace it," says Mr. Wain. "However, by acting together with the Police and our customers, we can continue to disrupt organised criminal gangs and bring them to justice."

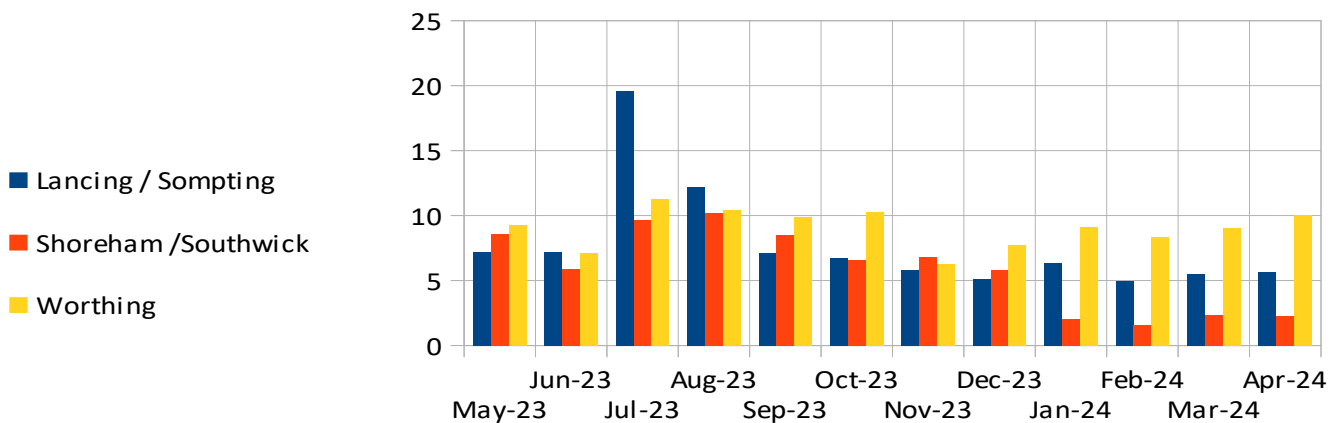
Crime Statistics for April 2024

April 2024	Broadwater	Castle	Central	Durrington	Findon	Gaisford	Goring	Heene	Marine02	Northbrook	Offington	Salvington	Selden	Tarring	Sub Total
					BN Codes										
Antisocial Behaviour	6	18	52	4	1	8	6	15	3	9	2	9	7	8	148
Bike Theft	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	7
Burglary	2	3	5	0	0	1	1	6	2	1	0	0	0	5	26
Criminal Damage	5	7	18	5	0	2	0	5	1	7	0	3	3	1	57
Drugs	2	1	4	1	0	2	0	0	0	7	0	2	1	2	22
Other Crime	4	2	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	4	1	23
Other Theft	8	5	15	3	1	1	4	3	2	3	1	1	4	4	55
Weapons	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	9
Public Order	4	8	21	2	0	4	4	11	2	10	8	7	8	7	96
Robbery	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	6
Theft Shop	18	25	56	17	0	7	5	33	11	0	26	17	16	28	259
Theft Person	1	0	7	0	0	3	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	15
Vehicle Crime	5	4	4	0	0	4	0	6	5	0	0	2	2	2	34
Violence & Sex Offences	23	32	89	9	5	19	8	18	11	23	7	18	16	12	290
Totals	78	107	286	42	7	51	28	103	37	66	47	60	64	71	1047

Crimes May 2023 to April 2024



Crimes per 1000 of Population



See the latest Alerts at : [https:// worthingnhw.ourwatch.org.uk/](https://worthingnhw.ourwatch.org.uk/)