

Romney Marsh Newsletter



Kent Police

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January 2024

Hello everyone!

In addition to 'My Community Voice' (MCV) posts that I regularly put out I will be sending out a monthly newsletter about what I've been up to, good news reports, crime prevention advice etc and when/where the next monthly surgeries will be.

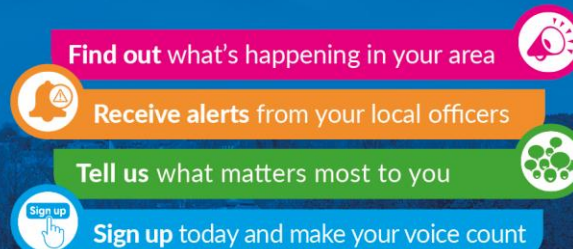
I have a monthly surgery and alternate it between Lydd/New Romney and Dymchurch to give everyone a fair chance of attending. It doesn't matter where you live on the Marsh, you are welcome to attend any of the surgeries.

The surgeries are there for you to come and meet me and raise any concerns/questions that you have within the community for example, anti-social behaviour, nuisance vehicles, drug dealing or anything else that you think I should be aware of. The surgeries are generally on a 'first come first served' basis but I'll always try and cater for everyone who attends even if that means arranging an appointment for me to come and see you another time and don't forget you can contact me via My Community Voice (MCV) by signing up for free at www.mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk



Drop-in surgery

Your local officer is



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- Next one is 20/01/2024 10:00-1100 at Dymchurch Town Council Office.

PC Steve Putland

MY COMMUNITY VOICE

Some of you may have already seen my recent posts on My Community Voice (MCV) which are very kindly copied/pasted onto The Real Marsh Watch Facebook page by a local resident, this is great because it broadcasts the information I give to a wider audience so please feel free to share my MCV posts on other social media platforms. It also sends the information right across the Romney Marsh and if it is crime prevention advice that I'm giving then that can only be a good thing!



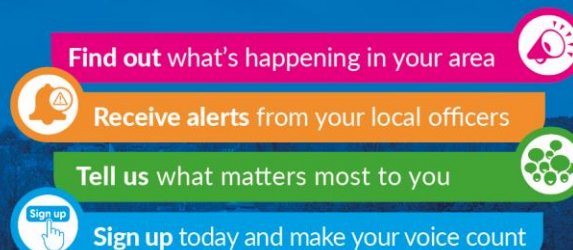
GOOD NEWS!

A vehicle that was stolen from Greatstone on 30/12/23 was located intact within the Met Police area and is now back with its owner!

We appear to have stopped or at least heavily reduced the early morning theft of sweets from Morrison's in Lydd, this was done with the vigilance of staff, the help from one of the schools and I'll take a tiny bit of credit being present around the time that thefts were happening (wearing my big hat!)

We've also curtailed some of the anti-social behaviour that a small minority of children from the Marsh Academy were regularly causing in some of the shops in New Romney and again this was helped by the same reasons I've mentioned above.

A few days ago, I managed to disrupt some cannabis smoking that was taking place behind the football pavilion in Station Road New Romney, I pulled up in the Ranger and a couple of them sprinted off, they might have been in training for their next marathon I suppose?! However, all joking aside, I won't stand for it so where I can I will disrupt the use of cannabis or any illegal drug taking especially when it's in public.



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CRIME PREVENTION

Please remember to be vigilant with your vehicles, make sure they're locked, and the alarm is activated, if you have a tracker, please check with the manufacturer whether it's activated as this is normally by subscription. It was a tracker that enabled us and the owner to locate their vehicle. If you have a 'keyless' vehicle please keep the key in something like a 'Faraday' bag, this blocks the signal from the key to the vehicle's computer, they're very cheap to buy and do the job. Whatever type of key you have for your vehicles, please don't leave them hanging up by the front or even back door, keep it as far away from the vehicle as possible even if it's in Faraday bag or a metal tin, I always want to make it as difficult as possible for those that want to steal our possessions!!

With regards to the above, the rural areas of the Marsh are favourite targets of the criminals due to the nature of them being able to do what they want with little chance of being seen and although we are not riddled with crime on the Romney Marsh, due to our vast rural areas, we can be vulnerable at times so please, if you have CCTV, ensure that they are working, are cleaned regularly as our 8 legged friends love a CCTV camera, your subscription for the storage of footage is up to date and they're covering the areas of your property that are most vulnerable. If you have security lighting then great because thieves don't like being lit up and if you live in the rural and don't have security lights or cameras, please consider investing in some as although money is tight nowadays, these CCTV systems and lights are relatively cheap security options nowadays and will give you peace of mind, act as a deterrent and if the worst happens, will give us half a chance of identifying them.

If you believe that a crime is in progress or has just happened or is just about to happen, ring 999 and the police call taker will triage the information you're giving which will determine whether a police car attends on blue lights or not.



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FOOT PATROL

I try and do my foot patrol in as many places as possible across the Marsh and not just in the main towns, I quite often get out to places like Newchurch and Ivychurch but because it doesn't take me long to do a circuit, I've probably passed your home in a flash! I always pop into the churches too. I know that there's lots of other villages which even if I don't get a chance to walk about in, I try and cover as much ground as I can with my trusty Ranger which is in the photo being a good speed deterrent along the stretch of road between St Mary's Bay and Dymchurch, this was whilst I was out on foot recently.

If you see me out and about on foot, come and have a chat!

HANDHELD SPEED DEVICE

I now have access to the above device, some of you probably refer to it as a 'speed gun' so do I to be honest however, the biggest difference is that unlike a gun, it doesn't do any harm and just does good by helping to keep motorist's speeds down and in some cases enabling me to take formal action against those who think they can use the Marsh's roads like a race track! I'm not anti-motorist as I

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love driving too but we all have to adhere to the rules of the road especially when it comes to the speed limits because they're there for a reason and we all need to keep each other safe when we're in our tin on wheels!!




AND LASTLY A 'THANK YOU'

I've been the Romney Marsh Beat Officer for 3 months now and in that short time I have received lots of positive comments in person and in emails from residents who are very happy (and somewhat surprised) to see a Police Officer 'on the beat' in their areas and have been made to feel very welcome! My intention is to be visible and available to you as much as I can and along with my colleagues who I can call on, we can target some of the things that affect your daily lives like anti-social behaviour which can come in many guises, motoring offences like speeding, and general crime as I've mentioned earlier however, as the saying goes '*Rome wasn't built in a day*' so please bear with me/us!!

Thank you.

Steve.



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