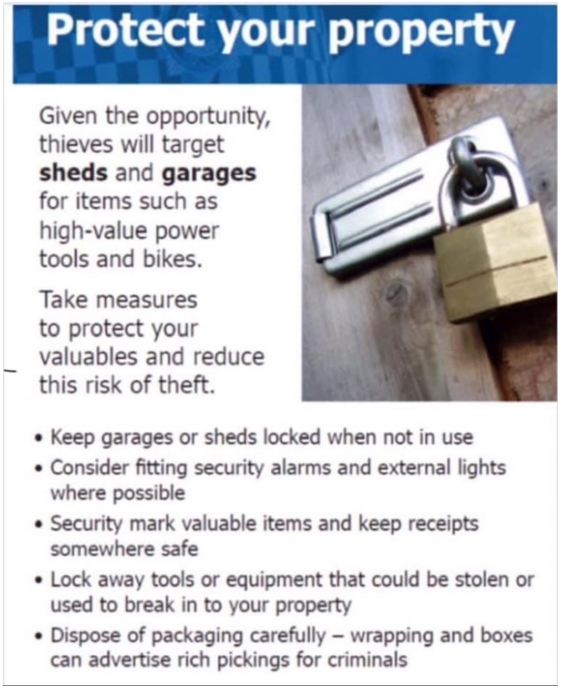
RUCKINGE MONTHLY NEWS MAY 2024

Criminal activity around villages have centred on the risks to,
BARNS, SHEDS, GARAGES, STABLES and any form of EXTERNAL STORAGE. The need to be vigilant, alert and secure cannot be overstated.
Alongside that however is the need for all attempted/failed crimes to be reported.
Recently across the Saxon Shore area there have been several attempts to gain access to the types of properties above.
Please always report all crimes so that we can build a picture of what the extent of the problem in the area is and even more important to get out alerts and warning plus any crime prevention advice.
There is always a risk that criminals will return if they have failed in an attempt OR they may have seen items that require tools to cut security devices OR they need better transport to remove stolen goods.

All my fire service career the general public never ever hesitated to call the brigade but with the police there is a reluctance. **PLEASE DON'T HESITATE!**
I know some of you feel "the police won't come" "they are too busy" both may well be true however put the onus on them, let Force Control make those assessments and decisions. So many times, across the whole district residents write on Facebook and other platforms what they saw happening especially in the early hours of the morning but do not report to the police!

Ring the police on 999 these are most certainly "crimes in progress" or crimes about to happen or indeed premises being scouted out for later visits.

Please risk assess what you are leaving in sheds. Expensive fishing/golf equipment/bikes/mowers are a common target. Remember tools stolen may be used in other crimes to gain entry to other buildings.



Chain items together to try to make it difficult for items to be taken. This will hopefully stop the "chancer and opportunist".

At the last council meeting I was asked by your Chairman for guidance about DRONES flying in or around properties.
I have written to the Police and Ashford Borough Council for their up-to-date guidance. I especially asked about if drones were worrying livestock in rural areas and the actions a farmer could take.

I have posted this statement

At the last Ruckinge Council meeting the Chair of the Council,Steve Hewison, asked for guidance and advice to give to residents as there had been instances of drones flying in or around properties.

I wrote to Ashford Council and Ashford Police as to was there any newer guidance to what is a fast changing subject.

Many organisations now use drones in their businesses so to that end we must also accept that criminals may also deploy their use. Maybe not the "chancers and opportunists" which are the normal criminals we have to prepare for but maybe a slightly more planned crime, then yes.

Also there is persons privacy to be taken in account.

By chance I also had an enquiry from a more urban area of Kennington. That resident immediately called 999 and the Force Control took a very serious stance and despatched a response to the area and kept the caller talking for directions.

I have also posed the question that in the context of animal and livestock worrying have there been any incidents reported by farmers of say Ewes about to deliver new born lambs suffering problems by drones.

AS YOUR NHW PERSON THIS IS MY BEST ADVICE until further guidance is issued

If drones fly in, around and over your property causing you concern and distress call 999 and let Force Control decide how to respond.
Farmers/farmer workers especially if animals are being worried which could cause them alarm or injury make that a 999 call to.

This issue is very clearly a moving beast and we only have to look about the swift introduction of rules around airports.

With more businesses using drones the duty of care to act responsible must be there and only reporting issues will document what is exactly happening.
It many cases there may need to be a non urgent report made so please use those in that circumstance

As well as the Police I would ask you report to Ashford Borough Council Safety Unit on csu@ashford.gov.uk
Many thanks

COMMUNITY HELP
The community can assist greatly with crime prevention and community safety by two ways.
1.**Reporting** all incidents of Crime, Attempted crime, and Anti Social Behaviour
2. **Joining Neighbourhood Watch** (it's completely free.) to help communities you just read and stay safe and secure. Ruckinge NHW continues to grow steadily



"Crime cannot flourish in Communities that care." Never ever forget we cannot ever quantify what we have prevented or indeed in the future prevent.



Thank you for your support. Stay safe,secure,alert and vigilant
Peter

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Kent Police Volunteer & Community Neighbourhood watch