RUCKINGE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH MONTHLY NEWS OCTOBER 2024

This month there is a need to warn residents of the risk of internet shopping parcels being stolen form doorsteps.
Normally that would not be a high risk crime in villages as the passing foot traffic is minimal to the risk of a “chancer and opportunists “just passing by.

The risk has increased and will greatly increase as we head towards Christmas.
This risk has developed over a period of 2 to 3 years and was fuelled by the arrangements to operate safely as COVID restrictions were relaxed.

1. The theft of a parcel from a doorstep mainly in town areas where there is foot traffic by a “Chancer and opportunists” Sometimes the thief had no intention of committing the crime but there was a parcel and then it was gone!

2. Criminals developed a more serious approach, and vans are now followed that risk grew around the time of Black Friday sales and of course Christmas as more and more online shopping took off.
   It also now brought into play more rural and isolated premises so no property off the beaten track was safe now

   There were crimes where complete vehicles were stolen as drivers left their vehicles to make deliveries.

   We had vans taken as delivery drivers went to premises and the criminals were frustrated that many deliveries were being accepted by residents and so when the opportunity arose, they stole the complete van and all deliveries inside.

3. Sadly, and I have no in-depth details as yet, but a delivery van driver was killed recently in the North of England as criminals tried to take the van and the driver was killed as the van drive off.

My work will need to address this risk in the coming months as we start to move towards Christmas, the New year sales and then Black Friday type sales in 2025.
We must encourage safe delivery arrangements.





CRIME

Parcel thefts rise from doorsteps as gangs follow courier vans



Another risk now for all areas and to be aware of is the is the DELIVERY SCAM shown below.

Kent Fraud Alert System

TAKE FIVE TO STOP FRAUD™

Delivery Scams

How the scam works –

An unexpected parcel is delivered to the victim's door, which will normally contain a high value item such as a laptop or iPhone. Shortly after the delivery, a person wearing a unform from the same company will attend and state that the item was delivered in error and that they are there to take it back. However, it is a scam. The item would have been ordered in the persons name without their knowledge and the criminals would have tracked the order to know when it was delivered and when to knock on the door to say it is all one big error. The totally unaware occupier will not know there has been a scam until they receive letters requesting payment for the item.

If you get an unexpected delivery that you have not ordered, then contact the company and agree with them which courier company will collect it and on what day they will attend.

If you think that you may have been a victim of this or any other type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

For further information about Fraud, visit our website at Advice about fraud | Kent Police

Preventing fraud

Together, let's stop scammers.

Remember, ABC:

never **A**ssume

never **B**elieve

always **C**onfirm

Get the latest scam advice: **@KentPoliceECU**



Kent Police

Report a non-urgent crime online **www.kent.police.uk/report**
Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 **www.kent.police.uk/contact**
In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call **999**
If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our textphone service **18000**.
Or text us on 999 if you've pre-registered with the emergency SMS service.

www.kent.police.uk