

## REPORT TO WOODCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL MARCH 2025

I will be pleased to report to council on NHW work since we last met. The need to stay focused on the core crime trends remains very important.

Cars, vans, sheds, garages, barns, stables and any external storage. Delivery scams and theft of internet shopping parcels remains high. As always SCAMS generally are a risk.

At this time of year, we must alert the community to Rogue Traders calling to carry out and try to get residents to agree to **UNSOLICITED WORK ON THEIR DOORSTEPS.**

Never ever agree to unsolicited work no matter how cheap and attractive the price. These criminals start by being pushy and then can become extremely aggressive as the price rises from that first quoted.

Close your door and call the police on 999. Remember one resident may be strong and resist. Further down the road a more vulnerable person will become a victim.

These criminals have no moral compass what so ever and will look for our elderly, our vulnerable, our disabled especially those who live alone.

Sometimes when a person is a victim, they are so embarrassed they do not tell family, friends or the police so we are completely unaware and so unable to issue crime prevention advice.

To that end I hope that I will be reporting my first visit to the Woodchurch Hub. The skill required is to give advice and guidance but not scare residents.

Rural areas will be a target as there is unlikely to be police patrols in the area which is why an early report to the police is vital so they can attend the area and hopefully intercept.

**These calls must be 999 CRIME IN PROGRESS OR CRIME ABOUT TO HAPPEN PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE**



**Beware of suspicious callers**

Most people who call at your home are genuine. But sometimes people may turn up unannounced and try to:

- Trick their way into your home to steal valuables or money
- Sell you services or items you do not want or need
- Carry out unnecessary repairs to your home at inflated prices.

If concerned about someone calling at your home, **don't open your door.**

You can also:

- Ask for identification and call their company yourself (not on a number they provide) to check they are genuine
- Never leave your door unattended
- Ask the visitor to return another time when someone can be with you.

# Kent Fraud Alert System



TO STOP FRAUD™

## Rogue Traders

We have seen an increase in reports of this type of criminality recently.

Opposite is our leaflet on how you can protect yourself against these types of scams.

If you think that you may have been a victim of this 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](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040.



## Protect yourself and others against rogue traders

Most people who call at your home are genuine. But sometimes people may turn up unannounced and try to sell you services or items you do not want or need or carry out unnecessary repairs to your home at inflated prices.

If you're concerned about someone calling at your home, **don't open your door.**

### You can:




- Ask for identification and call their company yourself (not on a number they provide) to check they are genuine
- Ask the visitor to return another time when someone can be with you
- Get three written quotes
- Ask family and friends for recommendations
- Agree payment arrangements and start and finish dates in writing beforehand, and never pay in full until you're completely satisfied with the work.

### Pressurised selling on your doorstep is a crime and you can report it:

- [kent.gov.uk/tradingstandards](http://kent.gov.uk/tradingstandards) or call 0808 223 1133
- For advice: [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/)
- Follow @kent\_ECU or email [kfas@ecis.police.uk](mailto:kfas@ecis.police.uk)



#### Contacting Kent Police




Report a non-urgent crime online [www.kent.police.uk/report](http://www.kent.police.uk/report)  
Talk to us on LiveChat - available 24/7 [www.kent.police.uk/contact](http://www.kent.police.uk/contact)  
In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call 999  
If deaf or speech impaired, text 'police' and your message to 60066  
[www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk)   

#### Preventing fraud

Together, let's stop scammers.



Remember, ABC:

-  Never Assume
-  Never Believe
-  Always Confirm

Get the latest scam advice.  
@KentPoliceECU

## Another matter I wish to alert council to is the plague of catapults across the Ashford district.

I am helping to run a petition to Government to help change the law on Catapults. I needed 10000 signatures to get a government response and at the time of writing this report I have almost 16000. As part of that process I have met with one of the Ashford MPs and I await an appointment with the other. Sojan Joseph MP has raised a question already to ministers.

# Offensive Weapons: Ashford

▼ [Show full question](#)

## Question for Home Office

UIN 38801, tabled on 17 March 2025

### Question



**Sojan Joseph**

Labour

Ashford

Commons

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to tackle the use of catapults against (a) people, (b) animals and (c) property in Ashford constituency.

### Answer



**Dame Diana Johnson**

Labour

Kingston upon Hull North and Cottingham

Commons

### Answered on

20 March 2025

We are clear that catapults should not be used for illegal purposes, whether against wildlife, people or property.

The law already provides the police with powers relating to the use of any item as an offensive weapon including a catapult, and also if used in anti-social behaviour or for criminal damage.

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996, there are also offences around injuring and inflicting unnecessary suffering on wildlife. These measures give the police powers to deal with cases where wildlife is attacked, including cases involving the misuse of catapults.

We continue to keep all relevant legislation under review in the interests of public safety.

### Answered by

Home Office



### Named day

Named day questions only occur in the House of Commons. The MP tabling the question specifies the date on which they should receive an answer. MPs may not table more than five named day questions on a single day.

These weapons are used by feral youths and thugs and have struck at property causing expensive damage to property, Injuring people, and killing innocent defenceless wildlife and animals. Firing at vehicles and even high speed trains.  
Should this problem arise in Woodchurch again this must be a 999 call giving the police every chance to intercept.

Petition

## Make the sale of catapults/ammunition and carrying catapults in public illegal.

Make it illegal to carry catapults in public places, so the police can arrest those carrying, especially in areas of known wildlife crime, regardless if ammunition is found or not.

▼ More details

Also ban companies selling catapults and ammunition in the UK, so they are not so easily accessible.

I am an wildlife rescuer and believe we are currently in a wildlife crime pandemic. There has been an increase in reports of wildlife being attacked by groups of youths carrying catapults and ball bearings. 75% of my call outs are due to apparent abuse of wildlife offences. We think the law needs to change to give the Police more powers to arrest those carrying catapults.

[Sign this petition](#)

**15,541** signatures

[Show on a map](#)

100,000

### Government will respond

Government responds to all petitions that get more than 10,000 signatures

Waiting for 15 days for a government response

### At 100,000 signatures...

At 100,000 signatures, this petition will be considered for debate in Parliament

Two other areas I wish to raise with council.

Animal crimes especially Sheep Worrying and then Fly tipping which can occur in rural areas.

## Protecting livestock – know the law

'Worrying' livestock is a crime under the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953.

If you are on agricultural land and a dog you own or are in charge of **attacks** or **chases** livestock in a way that may cause **injury**, **suffering** or **loss**, you could be **prosecuted**, **fined** and **ordered to pay compensation**.

Under the Animals Act 1971, a person acting to **protect livestock** may be able to **kill** or **injure a dog**, without incurring any criminal or civil liability, if he or she believes it is worrying livestock.



**Please keep your dog on a lead.**

If you see a dog worrying livestock, please call the police on **999**.



**Kent  
Police**

**Protecting and serving  
the people of Kent**

# LAMBING SEASON

PLEASE WALK YOUR DOG RESPONSIBLY

Keep to footpaths

Keep dogs on leads



## Protecting livestock – signage available

Owners are urged to keep dogs away from livestock, on a lead near farm animals and be aware of where their dogs are at all times while on countryside walks.

Property owners near fields where livestock are kept are also asked to ensure their gardens are secure, so pets can't escape.

The Rural Task Force has signage available for any livestock owners who have footpaths near their grazing fields. Contact the team for more information.

Are you a...

## RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNER?



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## FLY TIPPING



I have been delighted with the steady response from the community for enrolling into Neighbourhood Watch.

As I said when I first met you, I do not do “boom and bust” I like to grow steadily carrying the community with me, listen to local concerns and tailoring advice to them and indeed to you as a council.

The whole of my strategy is to keep Woodchurch as crime free as possible and as important to me keep residents free from the fear of being a victim of crime also.

It is essential every crime, no matter how small, is reported even failed attempts so we can understand the risks and crime trends we may face, thereby we are able to tailor our crime prevention advice.

A classic example would be several shed thefts not reported and then suddenly there is a real serious theft but had we been warned of early attempts or small thefts we may have been able to prevent that more serious crime.

I hope council are comfortable with my approach, understand my approach but even more important help to shape our strategy for the area.

I am so very grateful for all your support which may I assure you I never ever just take for granted.

**Thank you**

**Peter**

**Peter New  
Community neighbourhood Watch.**

