

## REPORT TO WOODCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL APRIL 2025

I trust council had a good Easter and recharged batteries for the months ahead.

Please accept my apologies for tonight's meeting (Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April) I am attending another meeting.

I am more than content that you all know how I feel and understanding of how I think, and work and prevention is front and centre of that NHW work.

The last council meeting was well attended but I think you guessed that the chair brilliantly gave everyone the chance to speak on a very sensitive issue for the community and I swiftly covered my report so as not to take up too much time. I felt it was just not the time to give a long presentation on crime prevention as tempting as it was with many residents present. I hope they attend another meeting when we can show our plans and strategies for a safe and secure Woodchurch.

My work until I see you again will be to continue to build NHW in Woodchurch. To recruit residents into NHW. Keep crime prevention following through your newsletter, by posting on community Facebook groups and holding surgeries at your Woodchurch Hub.

All crime trends for Woodchurch remain the same

**Vehicles, vans, sheds, garages, bogus callers, rogue traders plus the risk of internet shopping parcels off doorsteps as the vans are followed into rural areas too.**

The need to report all crimes/ attempted crimes must be stressed to the community.

I have again included for you the "Animal Crime alerts" for this time of year.

Finally, I have been in long conversations with the Crime Commissioner and his office dealing with Ashford Police failure to attend council meetings. You have been luckier than most councils with P C Darren Laker. Many councils have not seen an officer in years, and many cannot even name their Beat PC at all.

I quote from correspondence from the office of the Commissioner.

**"The Commissioner's expectations agreed with the Assistant Chief Constable is that the local beat officer for each area should be attending the Parish council meetings at least on a quarterly basis."**

This ongoing battle I have had has not made me the most popular person with Ashford Police, however, knowing me now as you do, I am not in this to be popular. I am in this like you to keep residents as safe and secure as we possibly can, not about winning a popularity contest. A vital cog in that overall strategy is police officers attending council meetings offering advice, campaigns, strategies and picking up intelligence and

information none more so than from you the councillors so deeply rooted in the community and fingers firmly on the pulses.

I will keep you posted on progress on this matter.

## 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**



**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?**

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

"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 attacks or chases livestock in a way that may cause injury, suffering or loss, you could be prosecuted, fined and ordered to pay compensation.

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

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.

**Kent Police** **NFU**

I hope council are comfortable with my approach, understand my approach but even more important will 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.**

