



WATCH OUT

the newsletter for North Kent Neighbourhood Watch members

SUMMER 2022 EDITION

Littering - the scourge of our modern society

Mention the word 'litter' in a conversation with a group of people and it's almost guaranteed that everyone present will have a horror story or example of the scourge of litter.

The main cause of this blight on the landscape is the anti-social behaviour of individuals dropping litter indiscriminately and dumping household waste illegally. Much of it ends up in storm water drains, resulting in periodic flooding.

But it isn't just council staff that pick up the slack for lazy residents, there is also an unseen team of volunteers behind the scenes who take great pride in where they live and volunteer their time to improve the quality of the local environment.



Cllr Croxton thanks the street champions for their excellent work

These volunteers are a key part of Street Champions initiative set up by Gravesham Council under the management of Cllr Lee Croxton who is the chair of the operational services cabinet committee.



Some of the Gravesham street champions at the meet and greet event held on 24th May

Joel Simons, Waste Projects & Compliance Officer for Gravesham Borough Council told us: "This network of resident volunteers do more than just litter picking - they act as our eyes and ears; reporting fly-tipping, graffiti and other problems. Some even suggest locations for new litter bins and educational signage, all helping to make Gravesham a cleaner, greener borough. The success of the Street Champions scheme has shown the level of civic pride across the borough and has demonstrated that many people take pride in their local area."

To date there are 442 active Street Champions in Gravesham who have pledged to 'adopt' 299 streets, parks, open spaces and alleyways. They are supplied with their own litter picker, a hoop to hold rubbish sacks open, a Hi-Viz

jacket and orange waste sacks.

Volunteers are free to litter pick as often as they like, and leave the orange sacks at pre-agreed locations so that they can be removed later by the council's Street Cleansing Operatives.

Volunteers communicate with Council Officers via a dedicated mailbox, and report their monthly litter picking activities via an online reporting form.

The results are quite staggering. In the past year, 2857 sacks of litter were collected by volunteers in 1,052 litter picks. In April alone, almost 200 litter picks and in excess of 500 sacks of litter were collected by Street Champions.

And if there's a punchy message in all this, it has to be: Take Your Litter Home - Others do!

No room for drug dealing in north Kent

Eight arrests were made during a recent police operation targeting drug dealing in north Kent leading to class A drugs, cash and six vehicles being seized.

Proactive patrolling by the North Kent Community Policing Team alongside the execution of drug warrants helped to achieve these results across Dartford and Gravesham Districts.

Inspector Trevor Jenner, from the Dartford Community Safety Unit said: "Proactive policing takes place every day across north Kent and we



will always target individuals who we suspect are causing harm to our communities.

"We will never show any tolerance

for drug dealing and will always use a variety of tactics to take robust and proportionate action. This includes obtaining warrants to enter properties, or using intelligence reports to proactively search for, and stop, vehicles linked to criminality.

'Everyone has a role to play to help us stop drug dealing and residents with concerns about such offending in their area are urged to report it to us through our website or by calling 101. If a crime is in progress, dial 999.'

FRAUD ISN'T JUST A SCAM IT'S A CRIME

Achieve online privacy with our tips on cookies

The first step to navigating digital cookies is understanding what exactly they are. Cookies are like identification cards made up of small bits of information in the form of text that help computers interact with websites. On the one hand, they allow websites to remember information, such as logins or items stored in an online shopping cart. On the other hand, they can record your browsing activity so advertisers can use it for targeted advertising.

- If you want to limit the information websites can access, choose

a browser that blocks third-party cookies (those created by websites other than the one you're visiting) by default.

- It's good digital hygiene to clear cookies regularly. You can do so in the settings or preferences of your browser of choice. Deleting cookies helps to keep your browser running smoothly.
- Some websites allow you to control what cookies to accept or reject via a pop-up window that appears before you access them. It is good practice to only accept the cookies required for

websites to function, such as language and region, and reject those related to advertising and tracking.

- For more privacy-conscious people, consider rejecting all cookies but expect website performance issues. Alternatively, choose a secure browser with anti-tracking technology to block web trackers, including cookies, to minimise companies' amount of online surveillance.

Extract from Neighbourhood Watch national magazine OUR NEWS, May edition.

Will you join us?

A Committee without a secretary is like a ship without a rudder!

And that's why North Kent Association of Neighbourhood Watches is in need of a new volunteer to take on this important role.

In our case, it's not an arduous task, just another face at the table to take a few notes for the minutes of Committee meetings, which take place four times a year, and liaise with the Chair on the content of agendas before circulating them to the rest of the Committee.

If you feel you could join this small friendly Committee of people from all walks of life you will be helping us keep the Neighbourhood Watch movement



alive and with a strong voice within all the varied communities in North Kent.

Even if you have only a few hours to spare it would be good to hear from you via our new email address: northkent.nhw.association@gmail.com

Neighbourhood Watch is for everyone

If you think your neighbourhood might benefit from belonging to a Neighbourhood Watch group (you would be joining this national grassroots charitable voluntary movement of 2.3 million members) we would be delighted to help you get started. Please contact our Volunteer & Watch Liaison Officer Michael Laidlow at Michael.laidlow@kent.police.uk

Could you help?

With all aspects of criminal behaviour on the increase, there is a greater need than ever before for people to come together to help each other and the police in the fight against crime.

Uniquely embedded within its communities, Neighbourhood Watch is ideally placed to deter local crime and cooperate with the police, enabling them to be truly effective.

North Kent Association of Neighbourhood Watches is the local Committee that works to increase the number of Watches in Gravesham and Dartford Boroughs and foster a sense of community spirit that serves us all well.

But this small Committee needs additional new blood to bring ideas and enthusiasm for the job at hand. Could you help? If you think you could spare a few hours we would be delighted to hear from you. No particular skills are needed, just one or two fresh faces around the table.

Drop us a line on our email address: northkent.nhw.association@gmail.com

Local Photographer

- product/marketing
- event & exhibitions
- social & documentary
- building and architecture
- all commercial work undertaken



I can digitise your old photographs, slides and negatives, preserving them for posterity and sharing – give new life to your memories!

www.4exposure.co.uk

Important contact information

In an Emergency: dial 999 • Non Emergency: dial 101 or online at www.kent.police.uk/services/report-online/kent-police-online-reporting
To report anonymously: Kent Crimestoppers dial 0800 555111 or online at www.kent.police.uk/services/crimestoppers
Neighbourhood Watch: Call Michael Laidlow our Volunteer & Watch Liaison Officer (VWLO) dial 07816 291343
Victim Support Kent: Freephone 0808 168 9111
Newsletter Editor: Chris Cook email address christopher.cook@kent.police.uk
North Kent NHW: northkent.nhw.association@gmail.com