

# Newsletter

Autumn 2021



## Welcome

Welcome to this edition of the Tonbridge and Malling Community Safety Partnership (CSP) newsletter. The aim of the newsletter is to provide regular updates on some of the work of the Community Safety Partnership.

In this edition you'll find details about preventing flytipping, our upcoming neighbourhood engagement meetings and how the police are keeping Tonbridge & Malling safe.

For further details about any of these items please contact Alison Finch, Safer & Stronger Communities Manager on [Alison.finch@tmbc.gov.uk](mailto:Alison.finch@tmbc.gov.uk) or Anthony Garnett, Head of Service, Licensing, Community Safety and Customer Service ([Anthony.garnett@tmbc.gov.uk](mailto:Anthony.garnett@tmbc.gov.uk)).

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## Targeting flytipping

Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Scott has launched a campaign focussing on rural crime in Kent. As part of this he has been speaking to farmers, parish councils and residents to gauge the issues that they are experiencing, and many are seeing an increase in flytipping.

Fly-tipping is the illegal dumping of large items or waste on public roads, land or into rivers. This could include large household appliances like washing machines or discarded materials from construction sites.

Farmers report that cases of industrial fly-tipping has increased during the pandemic and data from Kent County Council show that fly-tipping increased by 15.5% in the last seven years. In the South East as a whole, it rose by just over 8%.

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council clear fly tipped waste from public areas under their control. Waste dumped on private land is the responsibility of the landowner and in certain circumstances the landowner can be made to clear away the rubbish.

The council, environment agency and police can prosecute anyone caught fly tipping. Fines can be large - up to £50,000 or a six-month prison sentence. If convicted in a crown court the fines are unlimited. The police can also seize vehicles involved in fly tipping.

If you are asking a third party (e.g. a builder) to remove your waste as part of a job, you should ensure that they are a registered waste carrier. Ask to see their certificate, or alternatively check with the Environment Agency.

You can report fly tipping by using the Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council online form [Report fly tipping – Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council \(tmbc.gov.uk\)](#)



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## Neighbourhood Engagement meetings



Tonbridge & Malling Community Safety Partnership

### Neighbourhood Engagement Meeting

Wednesday 22 September 2021  
7pm until 8pm

If you live in Tonbridge & Malling this is your opportunity to talk to the Police and other agencies about community safety issues in your area. This might include issues around anti-social behaviour or community tensions.

To register your interest in attending this online meeting contact [csp@tmbc.gov.uk](mailto:csp@tmbc.gov.uk) by 5pm on Friday 17 Sept.

For further information contact:

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council      Kent Police on



The Community Safety Partnership is arranging a number of Neighbourhood Engagement meetings (NEMs) which will take place across the borough throughout the year.

The aim of the meetings are to allow residents the chance to talk to Kent Police, Kent County Council and Borough Council representatives about community safety issues of concern (i.e. anti-social behaviour, criminal activities etc.) and then the representatives can look at any appropriate actions that can be taken to address these issues.

The next NEM will be held on Wednesday 22 September and after that on Wednesday 8 December. These will start at 7pm and will be held via Microsoft Teams. If you would like to attend the meetings please email [csp@tmbc.gov.uk](mailto:csp@tmbc.gov.uk) to register your interest.

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## New online tool for women and girls to flag unsafe areas to police

StreetSafe is a pilot service for anyone (but primarily women and girls) to anonymously tell the Police about public places where they have felt or feel unsafe, because of environmental issues, e.g. street lighting, abandoned buildings or vandalism and/or because of some behaviours, e.g. being followed or verbally abused. The information will be used alongside other key data by policing, in partnership with other organisations, to deliver improved wellbeing and safety for communities. Please note: 'StreetSafe' is not for reporting crime or incidents.

If something has happened to you or someone you know (including in public spaces online) you can call Kent Police on 101 or report online.

The link for StreetSafe is <https://www.kent.police.uk/notices/street-safe/street-safe>

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## Over 55's Advice and Information Fair, Snodland

Tracy Crouch, MP, will be holding an over 55's advice and information fair at Holmesdale School, Malling Road, Snodland on Friday 29 October from 10am until 1pm. The Fair helps ensure that older people are aware of the services available to them and how collectively, organisations can assist older people to continue to play an active role in the community. The event is free to enter.

The Tonbridge & Malling Community Safety Unit will be having a stand at this event, so come along for free crime prevention items and to talk to representatives about any issues of concern.

## Keeping safe in Tonbridge & Malling

Pubs and bars in Tonbridge are being visited by police as part an initiative aimed at promoting women's safety. Officers are assisting licensees with measures they can take to safeguard both customers and staff and prevent issues including drink spiking.

Premises throughout the town have been given 'Spikeys' to distribute to drinkers. The devices fit inside the neck of a bottle and leave room for a straw and prevent a drink being tampered with.

*Inspector Lizzie Jones, of the Tonbridge and Malling Community Safety Unit, said: 'The vast majority of women enjoy the nightlife in towns such as Tonbridge without incident and we remain committed to doing everything we can to keep it that way.'*

*'There are no specific premises with an issue around drink spiking, which remains extremely rare. However, it can happen and tampering with someone's drink can make a person vulnerable and a victim of other crimes including sexual assault and theft.'*



Patrols are also engaging with businesses in areas surrounding Tonbridge, ensuring employees are familiar with the Ask for Angela initiative which enables people to discreetly ask bar staff for help if they feel they are in danger.

Ask for Angela can be used for those who do not feel safe with the person they are with, such as an abusive partner, or if they are on a first date with someone who is not who they previously claimed to be. Bar staff will know the person needs help and provide discreet assistance, which may include notifying police.

Officers are also providing personal alarms to female members of staff working at late night venues, and who may feel vulnerable if they have to walk home late at night.

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## Halloween and Firework safety/advice

As schools break up for the half term holiday, Kent Police will be using its powers to ensure that everyone enjoys a safe and happy Halloween and bonfire night. They will be running high profile policing throughout the county and using stop and search powers to clamp down on the possession and use of prohibited fireworks. Anyone aged 16 or over caught flouting the rules could face an £80 fixed penalty notice for disorder. The police will also be working with Trading Standards to make sure retailers play their part in the responsible sale of fireworks and Halloween goods.

The Community Safety Partnership has produced Trick or Treat window posters and an advice leaflet which are available to download from the website ([www.tmcommunitysafety.org.uk](http://www.tmcommunitysafety.org.uk)). The posters can be placed in your window to help prevent Trick or Treaters knocking at your door.



## Anti-slavery day – Monday 18 October



Anti-slavery day will be held on Monday 18 October and aims to raise awareness of the dangers and consequences of modern-day slavery and human trafficking.

Slavery is illegal and can include:

- sexual exploitation
- forced labour
- domestic servitude

Someone is in slavery if they're:

- forced to work by being mentally or physically threatened
- owned or controlled by an 'employer', usually through mental or physical abuse or the threat of abuse
- dehumanised, treated as a commodity or bought and sold as 'property'
- physically constrained or has restrictions placed on his/her freedom of movement.

If you suspect that someone is at risk of human trafficking or slavery you should contact Kent Police on 101. If you don't want to give your name you can give information to Kent Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or call the National Modern Slavery Helpline on 08000 121 700.

If you, or someone else is in immediate danger call 999.

For support and guidance, you can call the Salvation Army on their 24-hour confidential helpline on 0800 808 3733. Their helpline provides guidance for people who suspect modern slavery and support for modern slavery victims.

For further details look at: [Modern slavery | Kent Police](#)

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## Useful contact details

Community Safety Unit	<a href="mailto:csp@tmbc.gov.uk">csp@tmbc.gov.uk</a>	01732 844522
TMBC ASB Officer	Contact the Borough Council for help with ASB issues	01732 844522
Kent Police	To report a non 999 call	101
KCC Community Wardens	Contact Sandra Edmonds, Team Leader	07969 584183
DAVSS	Offer support for victims of Domestic Abuse	01892 570538
Maidstone Mediation	Support to help resolve conflicts or disputes	01622 692843
West Kent Mediation	Support to help resolve conflicts or disputes	01732 469696

### Newsletter produced by Tonbridge and Malling CSP

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