

# Public Document Pack

## OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL

Minutes of the meeting held on 18 February 2021 at 5.30 pm via Online viewing only.

**Present:** Councillor Robert W Bayford (Chairman); Councillors Currie, Boyd, Coleman-Cooke, Hopkinson, Huxley, Keen, Moore, Paul Moore, L Piper, Roper, Rusiecki and Scott

**In Attendance:** Councillors Albon, Ashbee, Bailey, J Bayford, Garner, D Saunders and Whitehead

### 280. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair advised Members of the recent passing of Councillor Peter Campbell Councillor Campbell first became a Thanet District Councillor in 2007 and served the Central Harbour Ward in Ramsgate for 14 years. Councillor Bayford paid tribute to Councillor Campbell for his work, particularly his contributions to the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (which he was the Vice Chair at the time of his passing), commitment and character.

Members held a minutes silence as a mark of their respect.

### 281. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies received at the meeting.

### 282. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

### 283. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Councillor Coleman-Cooke proposed, Councillor Currie seconded and Members agreed the minutes as a correct record of the meeting held on 19 January 2021.

### 284. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Councillor Keen proposed, Councillor Pat Moore seconded and the Panel agreed that Councillor Currie be the Vice Chair for the remainder of the current municipal year.

### 285. DOG PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER AMENDMENTS (PSPO)

Jasmin Vickers, Secondment Director of Environment introduced the report and made the following comments:

- The new PSPO public consultation comments were now being considered before the Order was finalised for consideration by Cabinet;
- The results of the public survey were shared at the meeting via a slides presentation, which is attached as an annex to the minutes;
- Once adopted the PSPO could still be reviewed at any point during the course of the year
- The current PSPO had had a positive impact on Thanet beaches;
- There were user signs at certain locations that show the public where they can or cannot take their dogs to for exercise on the beach;
- Most of what was in the current PSPO would be retained in the amended version.

Members asked questions as follows:

- It would be helpful if the new user maps for dog walking distributed at as many sites as is possible to assist dog owners;
- How did you conduct the public consultation?
- How much work was done to show the public the impact dogs may have on the blue flag status of Thanet beaches?

Ms Vickers responded as follows:

- Public consultation was done through the communications team;
- Targeting emails were used due to the current pandemic environment;
- Moving forward, the team would look to come up with even better approaches to get the most responses;
- The dog owners guide map should be put on rails and most places where the public could see them would be great.

Members recommended the following option to Cabinet:

1. That the current PSPO is altered to support the suggested minor amendments until 2023 and adopted in accordance with the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), Crime and Policing Act 2014 to include the following restriction;

District-wide (any place to which the public or any section of the public has access. On payment or otherwise, as a right or by virtue of express or implied permission):

- a. Westbrook Bay - Currently dogs must be kept on a lead change to dog ban in bathing season. As the public voted against this change in the consultation, no amendment or change will be made.
- b. Pegwell Bay - amend to cover upper chalk shore to protect endangered wildlife. Feedback from consultation was positive with regard to this change therefore the PSPO should be amended accordingly.
- c. The activities that could be banned to protect wildlife not in the existing PSPO; Humans and dogs interfering with, trapping or attempting to trap or snare or disturb any wildlife on council owned land. Feedback from consultation was positive with regard to this change therefore we should amend the PSPO accordingly.

**286. CABINET MEMBER PRESENTATION - AN OVERVIEW OF ESTATES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO AREAS**

Councillor Duckworth led the discussion with an overview of the portfolio areas in her cabinet role and made comments as follows:

- The main areas of the cabinet post included Economic Development, Property Management (also known as Estates), Building Control (which falls under the Planning Department) and Climate Emergency;
- Currently this portfolio area was managing a number of externally funded activities most of which were related to covid funding;
- Most of the activities that fall under this cabinet post operated across a number of council departments;
- The Regeneration Team was also working on government funded activities that were aimed at helping with the reopening of the high street in Margate;
- The Estates Team was responsible for rent income from and rent reviews of council properties;
- The management of foreshore properties was cross departmental responsibility between Estates and Operational Services;

- Estates offered advice to other council departments about property management including advice on major projects.

Member asked questions and made comments as follows:

- Do you have any view on what 2020 might have been like from the point of view of tourism figures?
- Was there an indication that there were some local businesses that may not reopen due to the covid-19 impact?
- Were there any thoughts on how the district would continue to attract visitors to Thanet during winter in order to boost tourism throughout the year?
- Have asset transfers (like Harold Car Park) been affected by the pandemic as well?
- The Foreness Water Ski Club had also come up as an asset for disposal as well. Could Members be given an update on the disposal process for this asset?
- How is the developer contributions calculated and what impact have they had, particularly considering the effects of the current pandemic?
- Was the council satisfied with the current state of the rent reviews for council properties?
- Could external experts be used to conduct rent reviews?

Councillor Duckworth, Louise Askew, Director of Regeneration, Iain Livingstone, Planning Applications Manager and Madeline Homer, CEx responded as follows:

- The pandemic did affect the visitor numbers to Thanet;
- It was a mixed picture as some business adapted to the new operating environment by introducing takeaways as part of their services;
- Other business had closed down during the lockdown;
- A more detailed update on how businesses have performed under the pandemic conditions could be obtained from the economic unit at KCC's Growth Hub. This information would also inform some of the approaches that TDC could use to support local businesses;
- Local businesses could also be approached to find out how they were faring under these conditions;
- It was worth considering indoor leisure as part of boosting local tourism during the winter period;
- The council was looking into how they could join in large campaigns run by other organisations;
- It was highly unlikely that Harold Car Park would come off the disposal list;
- The disposal of some of the assets had been put on hold largely due to the pandemic. However there was currently a budget for disposal of assets next year and the team had identified how the disposals would be done;
- Estates were still working on the disposal list for the new financial year;
- Officers would provide an update to members (by email) regarding the Foreness Water Ski Club disposal;
- With regards to the calculation of developer contributions, there was a slowing down of some stats. This had affected developer contributions as the trigger for that source of revenue was either prior to occupation or prior to starting work on project site;
- This was because most of the development that had been completed in the last six months had been mostly from SME builders. This had led to few triggers of developer contributions;
- An Infrastructure Funding Statement would be announced most likely in the coming month which would provide more detail;

- Some work was still required to bring the rent reviews up to date and Estates were also working with Tim Willis, Deputy Chief Executive and Madeline Homer on how best to address the issue of rent reviews.

Members noted the report.

## **287. CRIME STATS IN THANET**

Chief Inspector Rhiannan Pepper presented her report and highlighted the following:

- Victim based crime was slowly decreasing in volume. In 2018/19 it was 130 reported cases whilst in 2020/21 it was 122;
- Arson and criminal damage, burglary, sexual offences and robbery were decreasing;
- Thanet and county resources had been used as part of the intensification week that was conducted once a month to target crime areas, including organised crime;
- During last year, a number of thefts and destruction incidents of motor vehicles and mopeds was attributed to five youths who had since been arrested and charged for the offences;
- Shoplifting had increased across Kent. There were now town beat officers in each town and at Westwood Cross and it was hoped that this time next year the stats will be lower than they were at the moment;
- With regards to violence against the person, 28% of all calls were from Thanet out of the five policing districts that fall under East Kent policing area and most of those calls relate to domestic abuse. This was disproportionately higher than calls that came from the other districts;
- There was now an eight point engagement plan that was used to engage domestic abuse victims. This had helped secure high charge rate for offenders;
- Anti Social Behaviour was particularly high in 2020/21 with April and May 2020 recording the highest stats;
- In January this year, skateboarders in Leopold Car Park and Arlington Car Park were particularly problematic. Currently there were six PCSOs who were assisting with policing in those two problem areas and the reports were now fewer, but there was a need to look for a long term solution to this problem;
- With regards to night time economy, Ramsgate area still had the highest crime rate and the police were conducting weekly analysis to identify the trends and deal with the problem;
- Hate crime had increased and the police were looking at whether there were repeat hate crime victims and ensure wrap around support was given utilising our new Hate Crime team;
- Stop and searches were being carried out mostly for drug misuse but on occasion in order to identify knife crime;
- There had been a jump in knife crime in December and this was linked to youths being robbed whilst purchasing drugs. (More stats detail was contained in the presentation slides that were attached as an annex to the minutes).

Members asked questions and made comments as follows:

- Was there any specific issues relating to online crime be it about scams or bullying?
- Did the police record Thanet Villages' crime stats?
- Could councillors arrange a street walk down with PCSOs? Westgate councillors would be interested in undertaking such an activity;
- Could Westgate Town Council get crime stats reports at its meetings?

- The Margate Task Force visits to Cliftonville were useful. Could these be resumed?]
- Could the Panel receive a presentation on crime stats that provided a comparison with other districts in the county?

CI Pepper responded as follows:

- There was no online crime that was Thanet specific that the Police were aware of. Kent Police would be conducting school visits for awareness engagement with school children about child sexual abuse;
- Thanet Villages crime stats were recorded and regular meetings were held with Thanet Villages to share this information;
- A presentation could be given to the Panel on domestic violence and what preventive measures the Police had taken to address the issue;
- Once the lockdown was over PCSOs would be encouraged to visit and engage ward councillors and perhaps conduct street walks;
- Moving forward, visits to wards (including in Cliftonville area) by Margate Task Force could resume;
- A presentation on a comparison of crime stats between Thanet and other districts in the county could be brought to a future Panel meeting.

Members noted the report.

**288. FORESHORE AND COASTAL PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER (PSPO)**

Ms Vickers introduced the report and said the following:

- The new PSPO would have in support a new coastal code of conduct for users;
- It will have similar penalty fines to the Dog PSPO for breaches and will be in force for three years. The current fines were £100;
- The code of conduct would help with managing anti-social behaviour by beach users. This code would help business as well that were particularly affected by ASB;
- The Order had been drafted in a way that was more understandable and clear to coastal users;
- This Order was about advising the public on what we expect from them and what they can expect from the council;
- Deploying patrols at beaches to have that presence was a good idea that would be followed through;
- There were also rule changes regarding BBQ at beaches and jet skis;
- An FAQs list would be drawn up for the public to refer to;
- There would be further clarification on obstruction on promenades;
- Targeted enforcement at hotspots like car carks would be considered;
- The use of mobile CCTV was suggested and would be considered as well;
- There would be a dedicated officer in the enforcement team supported by a dog warden focusing on PSPOs;
- There would also be covid wardens who would be focusing on coastal areas;
- Officers were also looking at the unintended consequences of the PSPO, which could be displacement of ASB to other areas of the district.
- Members asked questions and made comments as well:
- Stakeholders were keen to engage the council regarding the content and enforcement of the proposed PSPO;
- Was Pegwell Bay going to receive specific funding to help create public awareness about the conservation matters relating to the area?
- Was there any plan to manage kite surfing in Ramsgate Main Sands?

- One of the reasons for obstruction at promenades was a lack of understanding by users, be they walking, running or cycling;
- Would the council be issuing special BBQ bins for beaches?
- In order to manage the nuisance caused by unauthorised vehicles at beaches and promenades, would pop up barriers be installed?
- How would bonfires be managed using the new Order?
- Will there be a dedicated telephone number that the public can call to report breaches?
- Ms Vickers responded as follows:
  - With regards to Pegwell Bay, the council was trying to engage external agencies to ensure that they increased their presence more frequently in the area;
  - The council was considering increasing signage and informing the public about what was expected of them when they are visiting the bay area;
  - Officers could look into the issue of setting up BBQ bins at beaches;
  - Pop up barriers were set up last year. Extra bollards had been installed during this winter. Officers would be speaking to Your Leisure Council about setting up pop up barriers for Broadstairs;
  - Multi-agency meeting would be held ahead of the coming summer to find the best ways of policing hotspots for unauthorised parties.
  - Members noted the report whose officer recommendation to Cabinet that on 18 March 2021 Cabinet consider and adopt the new beaches and coast PSPO, in accordance with the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), Crime and Policing Act 2014.
  - With regards to Pegwell Bay, the council was trying to engage external agencies to ensure that they increased their presence more frequently in the area;
  - The council was considering increasing signage and informing the public about what was expected of them when they are visiting the bay area;
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  - Multi agency meeting would be held ahead of the coming summer to find best ways of policing hotspots for unauthorised parties.

Members noted the report whose officer recommendation to Cabinet that on 18 March 2021 Cabinet consider and adopt the new beaches and coast PSPO, in accordance with the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), Crime and Policing Act 2014.

## **289. REVIEW REPORT ON THE COUNCIL'S ABANDONED VEHICLE PROCESS**

Ms Vickers led the discussion and made some comments as detailed below:

- The process for dealing with reported cases of abandoned vehicles was prescribed in law;
- The Refuse Disposal Act 1978 was the one that was used to remove from public land, any abandoned vehicles;
- Fines could be imposed on the owners of such vehicles. In some cases prosecutions could be preferred as well;
- Removal of abandoned vehicles was expensive;
- If the vehicle posed a hazard such as a leak, there was a 24 hour notice that the council could issue before removal of the vehicle;
- In less urgent circumstances a 7 day notice (most commonly used) or a 15 day notice could be used;
- The DVLA would normally be approached to provide the details of the registered keeper who would be given a grace period to remove the vehicle;

- If the vehicle was claimed then there would be no further action to take;
- The Police also had powers to deal with abandoned vehicles as well;
- There was a need to create more awareness on what the public could do to assist with dealing abandoned vehicles problems.

The Chair summed up the discussion by confirming the recommendation that Communications could be strengthened on the council's process to inform residents of the procedures and timescales that the council was confined to under the legislation.

Thereafter Members noted the report.

## **290. PLANNING ENFORCEMENT REVIEW**

Iain Livingstone, Planning Manager introduced the report and made the following comments:

- The enforcement service was a complaints based service and was more reactive to issues being raised with the Enforcement Team. This approach helped to balance resources for the Planning Department;
- When a complaint for a planning permission breach was report, the first stage was to find whether indeed a planning permission was required;
- If the breach was established, an informal process would be used to correct the situation and help bring the issue through a planning process for a proper permission to be granted;
- If no action was taken by the offending party, enforcement action would be taken by the council;
- There were no defined statutory deadlines by which complaints should be resolved. The enforcement focus would always be to try and bring a planning matter back into the planning protocol;
- There were often delays in the enforcement process whose control would be outside the council, for example the appeals process which could take anything between six months up to a year or longer in some instances, during which time enforcement action would be kept in abeyance;
- Thereafter compliance would be from when the decision was made. The grace period given for compliance would be anything between three months and up to fifteen months;
- The council was currently reviewing and updating the 2015 enforcement protocol. The updates would include developing a process map. Planning date would used to integrate planning applications and enforcement information;
- The issue of funding of the enforcement function would also be reviewed with input from Finance.

Members asked questions and made comments as highlighted below:

- The council's enforcement team of two officers was one of the smallest in the county, whilst some neighbouring councils had up to four enforcement officers;
- It was important to review the staffing for the enforcement team as the council was expecting a number of large developments in the district in the coming years. These developments would have tougher bio diversity conditions attached to them. These would require enforcement to ensure compliance to the new planning policies that try to address climate emergency issues;
- There was a need to set up a scrutiny project to review the effectiveness of enforcement in the district;
- Why was the council not penalising those who did not have planning permission in order to deter others from committing breaches?
- Continuity of enforcement - How long could the council keep enforcement in abeyance?

- How long did it take the council to intervene when there was a breach of the planning protocol;
- Information updates by the Enforcement team would be most welcome by the public. Such updates could be published on the council's website
- Some of the conditions that were showing on the planning applications considered by the Planning committee showed landscaping to be done. However when it came to project implementation, not all of the project followed through with the landscaping as reflected in the documents submitted to the council. There was a need to effectively enforce these conditions.

Mr Livingstone responded to questions as follows:

- The issue regarding imposing fines was a statutory function that was the preserve of the government;
- The issue of continuity is important. The council would always work towards ensuring consistency in application of enforcement;
- The council had up to four years from when a breach was committed to take corrective action;
- Southampton City Council had online access to their enforcement activities. The council would be studying the experience from Southampton, before coming up with such an online facility. However it should be noted that there would be a cost implication for setting up such a facility as the current system did not have the capacity to add that in;
- There was a planning assistant who predominantly dealt with planning conditions and worked with the Enforcement team to enforce conditions on major development as was approved.

Members agreed that the Chair would discuss with officers and report back to the Panel on how best and what resources would be required to support a scrutiny review of the effectiveness of planning enforcement.

**291. REVIEW OSP WORK PROGRAMME 2020/21**

Members noted the report.

**292. FORWARD PLAN**

Members noted the report.

Meeting concluded: 8.00 pm





# Kent Police

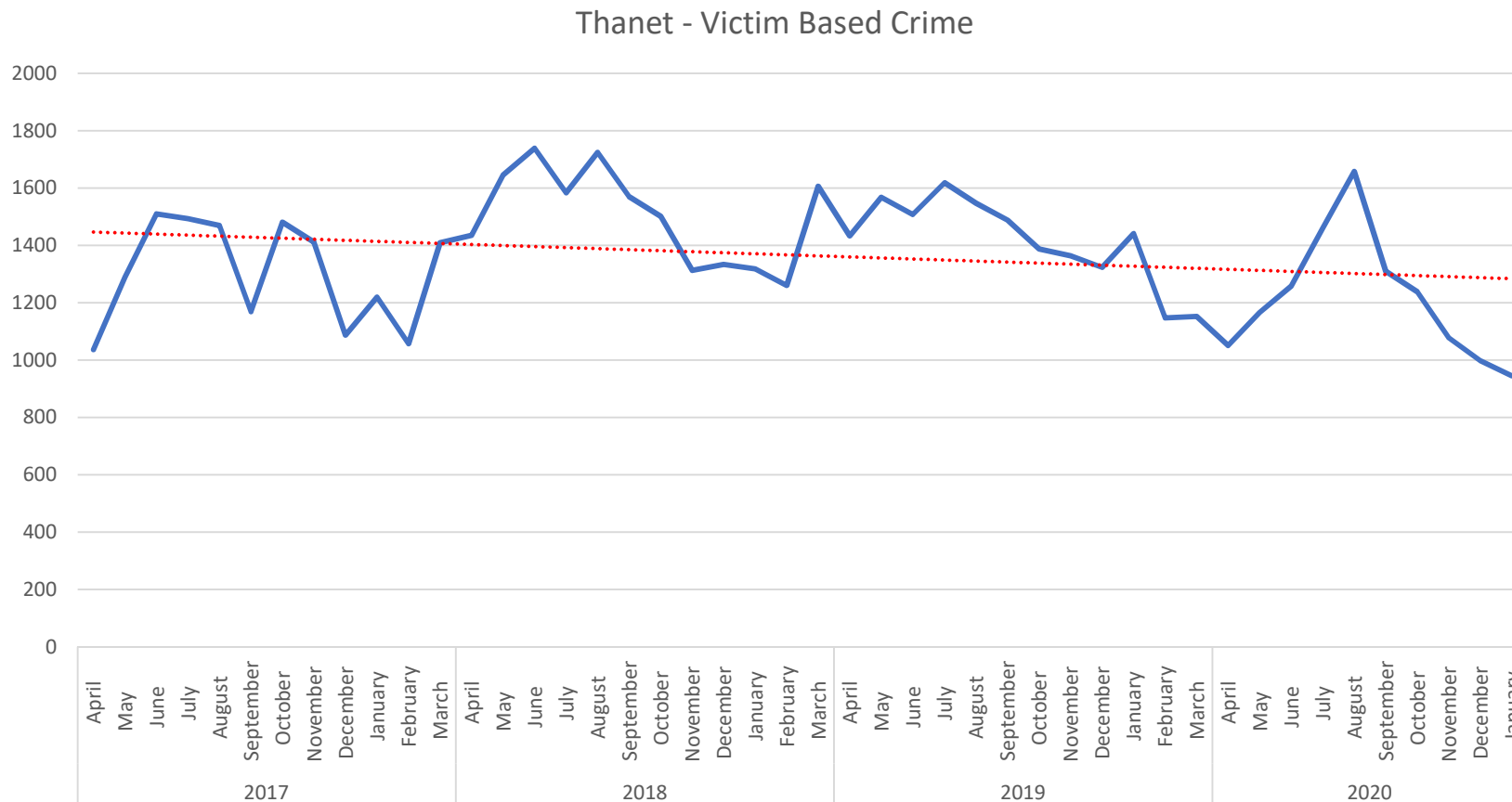
## Thanet Crime & ASB Statistics 2017-20

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021

# THANET CRIME STATISTICS

## Victim Based Crime (VBC)

The last four years of Performance data show Thanet to have a very marginally decreasing trend in the volume of Victim Based Crime (VBC).



VBC = 18,002 Crimes (2018/19) – Population 138,400 (2014 Census) – Crimes Per 1000 Population – 130.1

VBC = 16,968 Crimes (2019/20) – Population 138,400 (2014 Census) – Crimes Per 1000 Population – 122.6

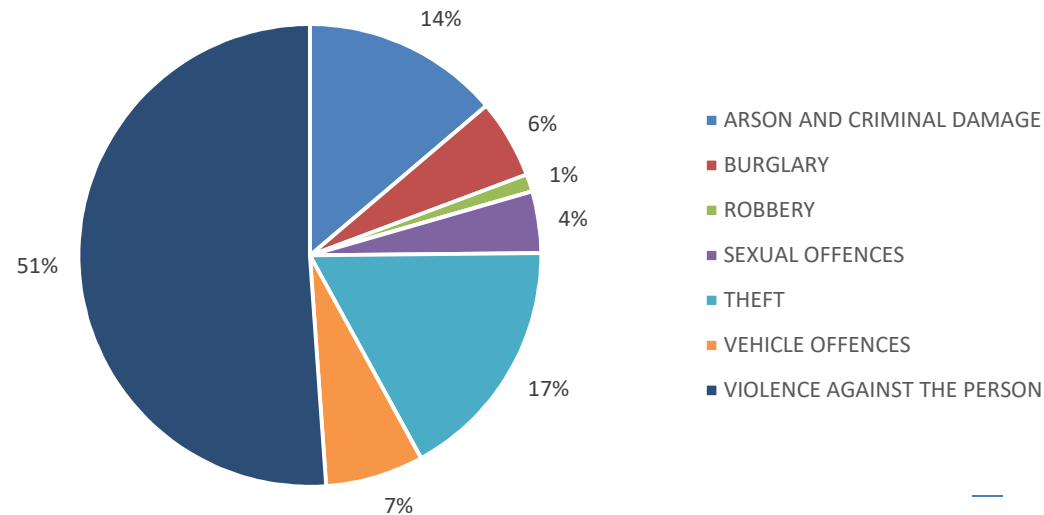
# THANET CRIME STATISTICS

## Victim Based Crime (VBC)

When looking at the proportions for Victim Based Crime, Violence against the Person is the main contributor to the District volume.

Despite the decreasing trend, Theft & Vehicle Offences have increased in volume, when compared to the previous fiscal year

Thanet VBC Proportions



Offence Group	Fiscal Year			% Change on 2018-19	Crime per 1000 population
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20		
ARSON AND CRIMINAL DAMAGE	2331	2376	2346	-1.3	17.0
BURGLARY	924	1128	906	-19.7	6.5
ROBBERY	189	251	222	-11.6	1.6
SEXUAL OFFENCES	750	754	701	-7.0	5.1
THEFT	2886	3009	3071	2.1	22.2
VEHICLE OFFENCES	1072	1194	1415	18.5	10.2
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	7467	9290	8307	-10.6	60.0

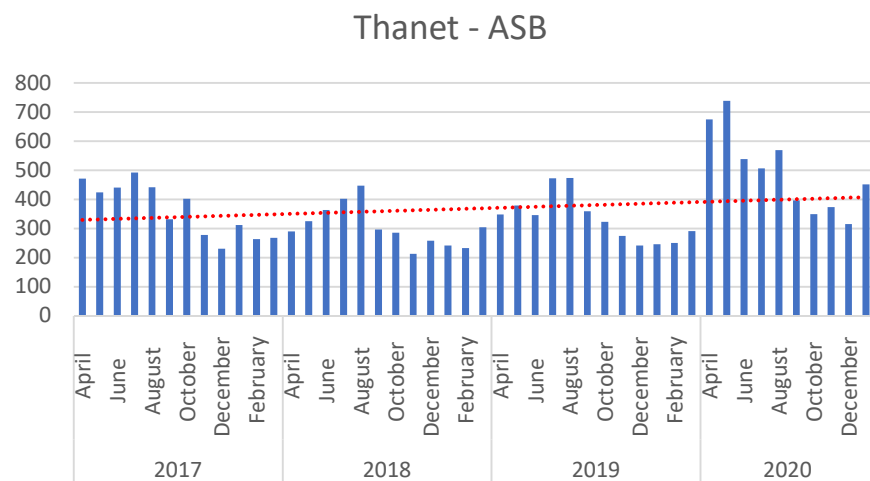
# THANET CRIME STATISTICS

## Anti Social Behaviour (ASB)

ASB has an increasing in Thanet since 2017/18 being particularly high so far in 2020/21.

As is to be expected the majority of ASB in Thanet is related to the Towns of Margate and Ramsgate, however Broadstairs has seen the biggest increase.

A graph that shows the overall ASB volume for the district of Thanet. (Fiscal Years)



A table that shows Thanet town volumes for ASB, for the Rolling Years

Town	2018/19	2019/20	% Change
BIRCHINGTON	91	100	9.9
BROADSTAIRS	383	458	19.6
MARGATE	1591	1766	11.0
RAMSGATE	1500	1577	5.1
WESTGATE ON SEA	93	100	7.5

A table that shows the proportion each Town contributes to the monthly total of ASB 2020/21 to date.

Fiscal Year & Month	BIRCHINGTON	BROADSTAIRS	MARGATE	RAMSGATE	WESTGATE ON SEA
<b>2020</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>2227</b>	<b>1879</b>	<b>130</b>
April	19	75	330	231	18
May	25	97	351	236	30
June	15	66	249	199	9
July	19	51	216	210	11
August	13	53	256	229	17
September	9	33	180	167	8
October	13	25	142	156	13
November	10	37	148	170	8
December	13	30	134	132	6
January	15	56	221	149	10

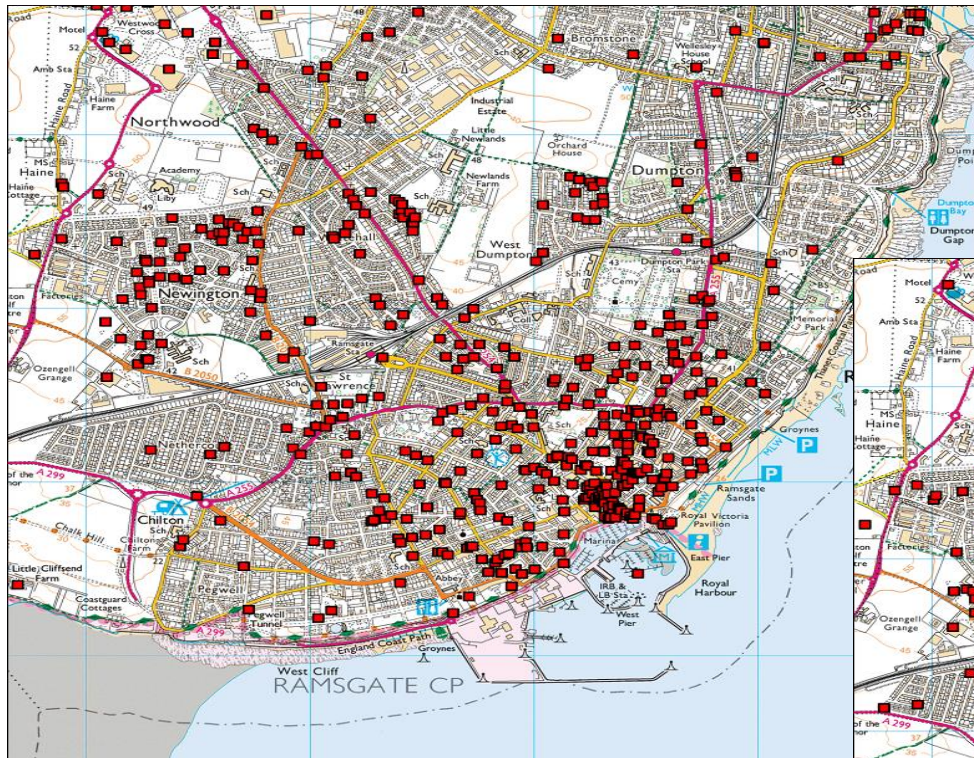
A table that shows the top 10 Wards for ASB, for the Rolling Years

Ward	2018/19	2019/20	Grand Total
Margate Central	531	613	1144
Central Harbour	512	542	1054
Cliftonville West	386	444	830
Eastcliff	322	347	669
Dane Valley	295	333	628
Northwood	286	331	617
St. Peters	137	185	322
Newington	149	140	289
Salmestone	114	119	233
Westbrook	88	101	189
Westgate-on-Sea	90	99	189

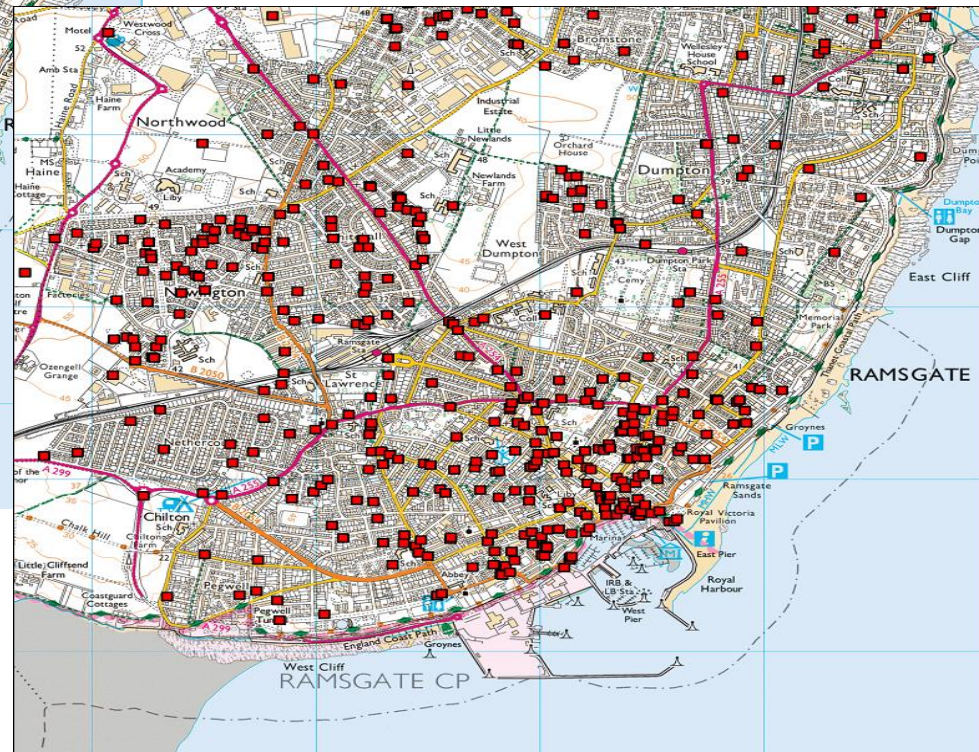
# THANET CRIME STATISTICS

## Ramsgate NTE (Friday 19:00 – 04:00 & Saturday 19:00 – 04:00)

The NTE in Ramsgate for Violence & Drunken Behaviour is fairly consistent in terms of volume over the last two summers, with a slight reduction in the density of Crime amongst the Port of Ramsgate (Clubs/Bars/Restaurants)



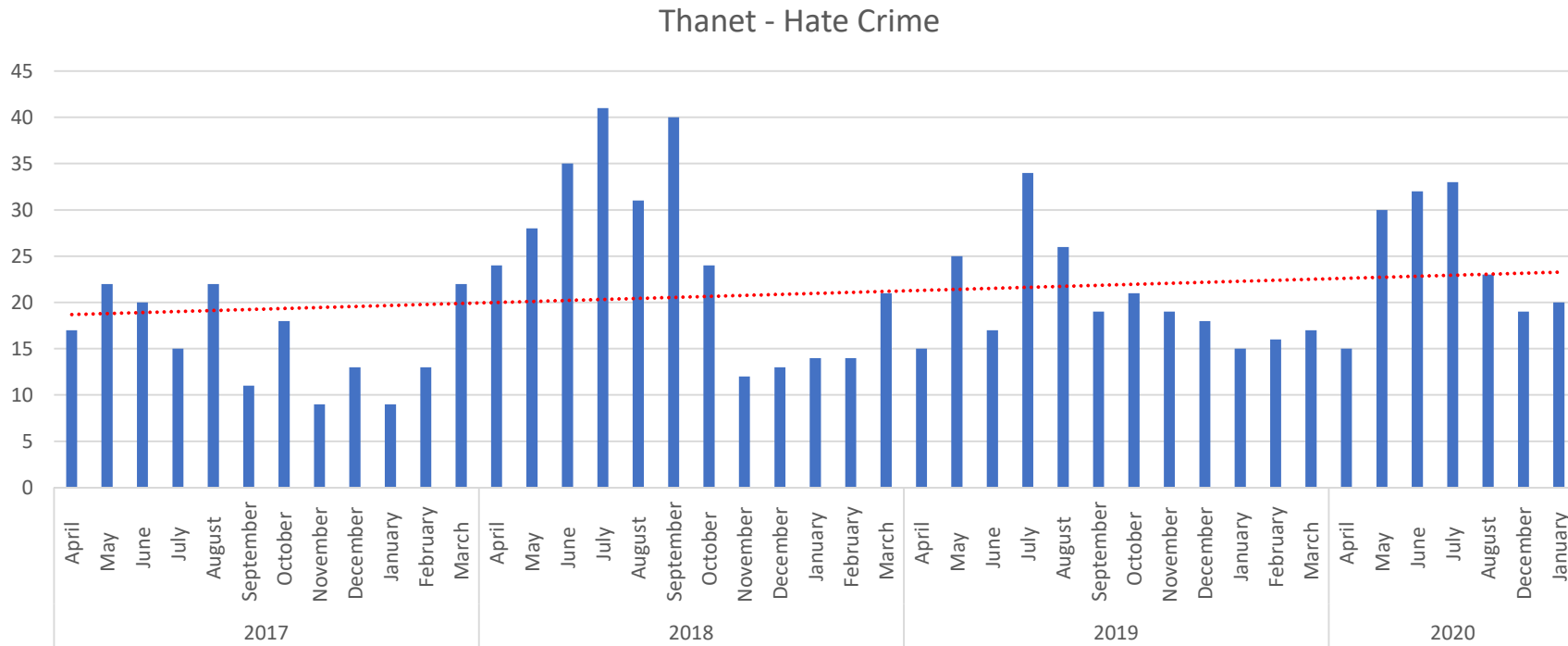
2019 (Apr – Dec)



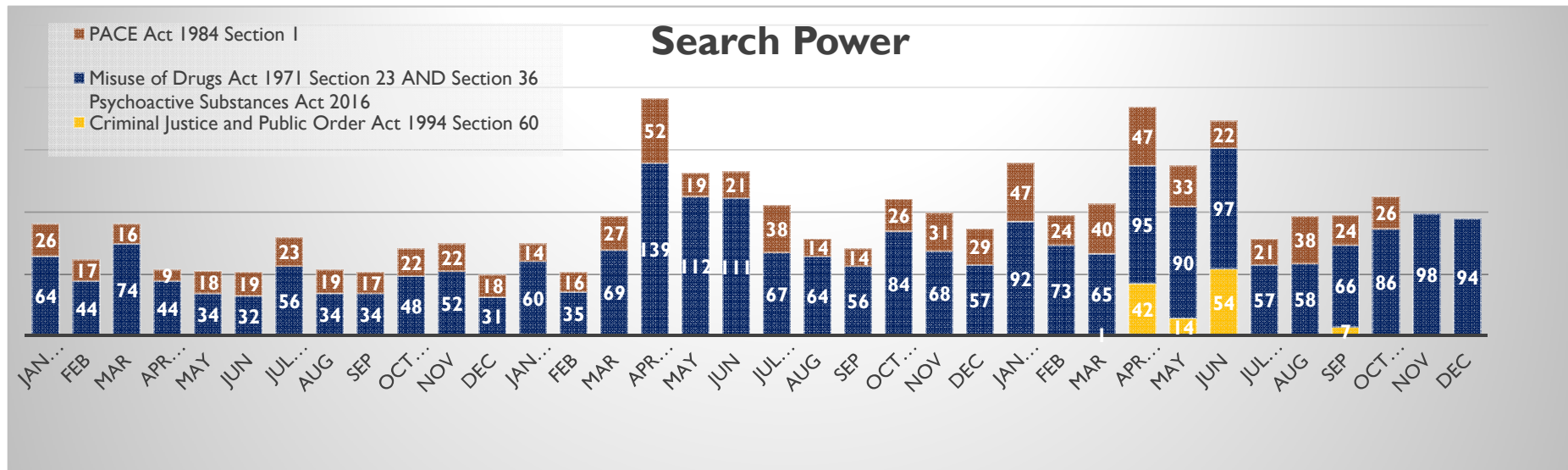
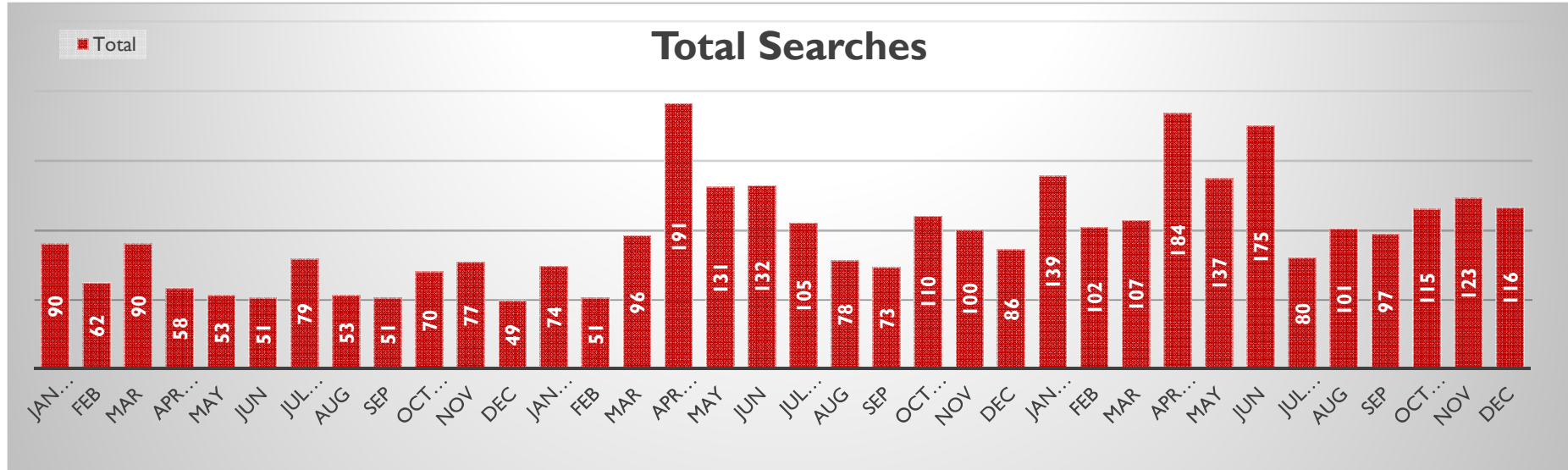
2020 (Apr – Dec)

## Hate Crime

Hate Crime volumes are increasing gradually in Thanet for the period 2017 - 2021, although below the peak level seen in 2018/19.



## Stop & Search



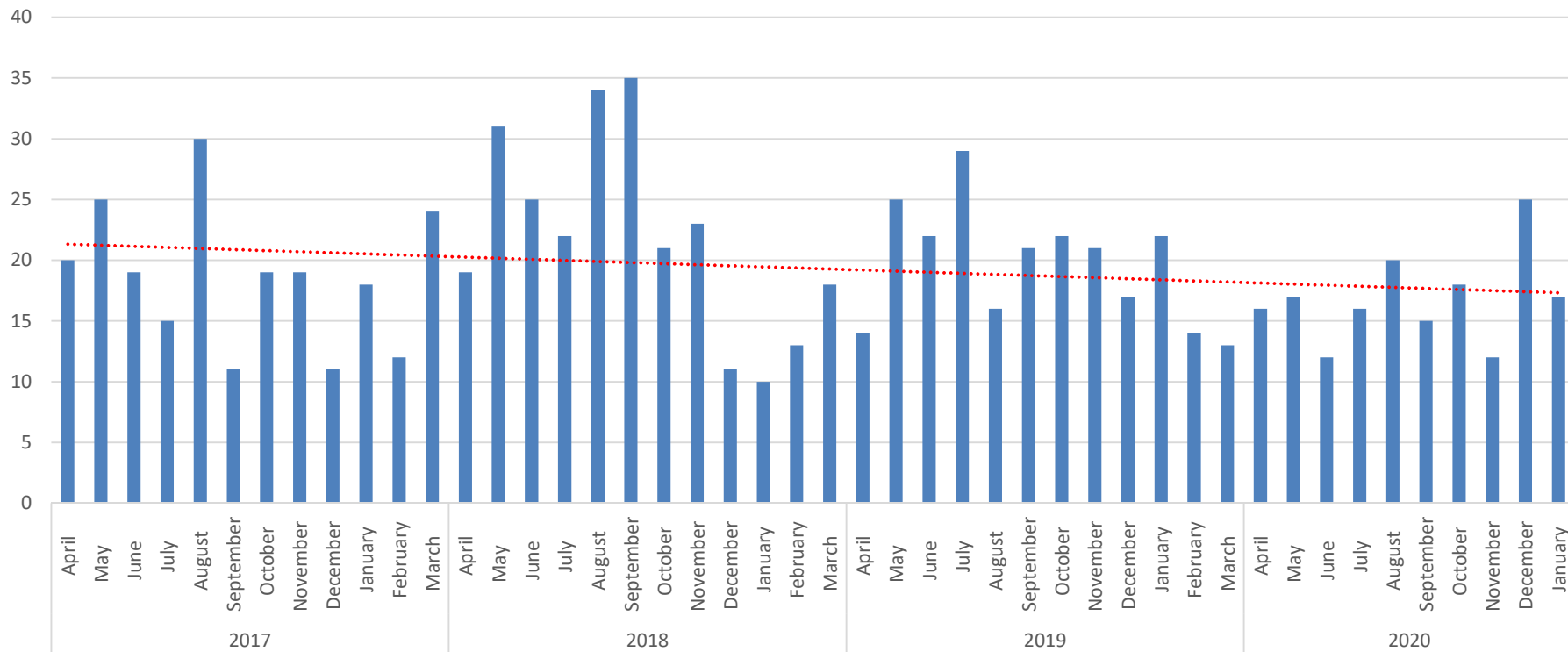
# THANET CRIME STATISTICS

## Knife Crime

For the current fiscal year to date, Thanet has recorded 168 Knife Crimes/Knife Related Crimes against a overall trend of knife crime slightly increasing.

Of the 168 Crimes, 133 (79.2%) are VAP, 16 (9.5%) are Robbery & 12 (7.1%) are Criminal Damage.

Thanet - Knife Crime





# Beach & Coast Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPPO)

Overview & Scrutiny 18th February 2021

# Introduction

- Thanet District Council is proposing to introduce a new Beaches and Coast Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) and coastal code of conduct.
- Creating a new PSPO will help protect our coastline and beaches with one code of conduct that replaces all previous beach byelaws.
- The introduction of the new PSPO will create a safer beach environment for all to enjoy, through deterring and reducing crime and anti-social behaviour and other undesirable activities, which our local communities and visitors are impacted by currently.

- Public Space Protection Orders are valid for 3 years after which they have to be extended.
- Fixed penalty notices are currently set at £100.
- Over recent years, issues with the misuse of our beaches and coast have led to wide scale complaints of anti-social behaviour, a general disregard for the public realm and our natural coastal environment. These complaints have increased during the summer months over the last two years.
- The introduction of the PSPO and accompanying code of conduct will proactively address these issues and impact positively on the lives of people who live, work and visit our beaches and coastline.

- PSPOs are only to be used to protect communities from unwanted anti-social behaviours and shall only be enforceable where there is reasonable evidence to do so. A breach of the order is a criminal offence reported to the court or the breach being discharged through a Fixed Penalty Notice.
- Most of the content has not fundamentally changed from the old byelaws, some have been updated, some are changes to wording to make rules clearer.
- Fundamental changes are to the Water User Group rules, PWC usage and some new additions to beach rules to strengthen these and design out problems ie jet ski related ASB

# Education and information is the key focus:

## Making the rules of our coast clear

There are rules and expectations for coastal users for a multitude of H&S, legal and environmental protection reasons

## Telling people what we expect from them

Signs, social media, leaflets that remind people of the rules and that there are penalties for breaking them

## Being present and visible

Patrols of TDC officers, Tourism, YL, RNLI & other stakeholders all reiterating the same messages

# Consultation Feedback to date

25th Jan- 21st Feb. Feedback received & responses include:

Mostly positive with regards to jet ski proposals, bbq proposals.

Clarity asked regarding rules specifics, amendments to wording/clarity may be needed which is all being taken into account and amended accordingly.

Work with clubs such as Foreness to clarify arrangements moving forwards

Proposing to answer all queries, but also issue a release post consultation with clarifications/FAQs, you said- we listened and changed certain elements etc.

Include obstructions to prom

# Feedback from members

Targeted enforcement operations

Monitor & publicise the interventions/enforcement activities

Mobile cctv that can be used

Arrangements at Foreness club

Page 23

Marker buoys, bins- captured in BMP 2021

Botany Bay situation

Designated areas for busking

Electric bikes- separate set of guidelines

# Potential Questions for OSP

- **What evidence is there that the anti-social behaviour is or is likely to be persistent, detrimental and unreasonable?**

Evidence has been collated for each issue, kept in case of challenge. Used to justify pspo content.

- **Why is a PSPO being proposed to address this issue or issues?**

Many of the issues faced around our coast have an anti social element to them, they may pose a risk to people's safety, but certainly the enjoyment of the coastal environment, or their own home environment if they live in close proximity to the coast and are impacted by the issues covered. An example of this might be jet ski noise from anti social use. The ability to use FPNs to deal with the issues rather than prosecution processes as with byelaws.

- **Is the proposed restriction proportionate to the specific harm or nuisance that is being caused?**

Many of the issues we have included used to be covered by byelaws. In the case of the PSPO we are looking at educating, informing and challenging as the initial actions. FPN will then be used for repeat/persistent non compliance.

- **What alternative approaches are available and why is a PSPO appropriate in these circumstances?**

Alongside the PSPO we are introducing a code of conduct and rules for using our coastline which covers many more issues than are appropriate for inclusion in the pspo. We consider the PSPO to be the most effective tool to tackling the issues we face around the coast.



- **Will the proposals alleviate each of the problem behaviours?**

We expect the combination of education alongside challenging of behaviours, with FPNs as a last resort to act as not only a suitable deterrent but also an effective long term solution to change behaviour.

- **Have exemptions been considered?**

Yes through our EIA

- **What might be the unintended consequences for each aspect of the PSPO?**

We have considered the potential for displacement of behaviours to other areas as a result, however Canterbury are looking to review their byelaws in relation to similar issues at the same time as us.

- **What will be the impact on different groups?**

Water users will see significant changes to how they use PWCs. There is little change other than this which will impact people using our beaches and coast responsibly.

- **Has an equalities impact assessment been undertaken and what were its findings?**

Yes- link to EIA

- **How have the consultation outcomes and other evidence collated been taken into account?**

All consultation responses and feedback have been collated, and considered. Several amendments have been made as a result of the consultation.

- **How will the PSPO be enforced for each restriction/requirement?**

Officers of the council will be patrolling the coast. Their procedures cover the general approach but also specific approaches for each of the 9 issues covered.

- **Are there sufficient resources to do this effectively?**

Page 26 Yes we will have one dedicated officer working at peak times, targeting hotspots and generally patrolling. We will also have a dedicated dog warden patrol, who will also deal with issues arising under the beach and coast pspo. We will have an education enforcement officer patrolling the coast on peak days talking to the public, signposting and challenging behaviour where needed with the power to issue FPNs as well. We are looking to give our new CEOs extra responsibility to be able to enforce against the pspo in addition to parking

We will have coastal wardens 7 days a week acting in an advisory capacity on top of these resources.

## 1. Vehicles

**Vehicles** - No motorised or electric vehicles may be parked or driven on the promenades or beaches as follows:

Cars, vans, lorries, trucks, motorcycles, scooters, segways and any other motorised vehicles. With the exception of mobility scooters. Unless permission has been granted by the Council and evidence of this can be produced. No deliveries to concessions after 10am.

## 2. Bicycles

### Bicycles

At any time of year between the hours of sunrise and sunset, and from 1 May to 30 September inclusive between the hours of 10.00am and 6.00pm, a person shall not ride any cycle on any of the promenades **where localised signage requires you to dismount. You must adhere to the signs which vary around the coast.** This is for the purposes of health and safety in busy areas.

i) (A cycle means a bicycle, a tricycle or a cycle having four or more wheels, including one power-assisted by electrical (or other means not being in any case a motorcycle or motor vehicle.) Please refer to our safe cycling guide (that includes tips for where you will need to dismount regardless of signage ie beach huts mean dismount, and rules for electric powered bikes, segways and scooters, disability scooters)

### 3. Bonfires, Barbecues and large gatherings

#### **Bonfires, Barbecues and large gatherings -**

- i) Bonfires are not permitted on any of the Council's land at any time. BBQs are not permitted on any of the Council's land, with the exception of beaches where they are permitted after 6pm. \*
- ii) Large gatherings are not permitted on the Council's beaches without prior permission. Large groups of 20 or more need to seek permission from Thanet District Council.

## 4. Begging, Touting, Hawking, Selling

**Begging, Touting, Hawking, Selling** - Begging, Touting, Hawking, Selling is not permitted anywhere on Thanet's beaches, promenades and coast.

This includes;

- i) Begging or soliciting for money
- ii) Advertising any article verbally or by the distribution of leaflets and flyers, circulars or advertisements of any kind
- iii) Flyposting and other fixed notices on railings, posts or other street furniture without prior permission from the Beach and Coast Team, and a fee may be chargeable for this. Notices must be taken down within an agreed period.
- iiii) Selling goods, products or services without prior permission of the Council.

## 5. Horse riding

### Horse riding

Horse riding is not permitted - between 1st May and 30th September, between the hours of 09:00 am and 19:00 pm on beaches or promenades.

## 6. Encampments

### Encampments

Camping or the erection of any structure (This includes but is not exclusive to vehicles, tents, yurts and any other temporary building) being used to occupy land is not permitted on beaches, promenades, clifftops, nearby green spaces, car parks and surrounding areas of the public realm without prior consent of the Council with the exception of sunshades.



## 7. Preaching, lectures, music and entertainment, sporting events, other events

### **Preaching, lectures, music and entertainment, sporting events, other events**

Lectures, speeches, sermons, live music, busking and other types of entertainment performances/shows etc are not permitted, unless prior permission has been granted by the Council as per our events policy. In any case any activities of the kind, including filming and photo shoots, intended to be held on the beach/coast need prior permission from the Media Team and Beach/Coast Team.

## 8. Other actions which have a detrimental impact on the quality of life of others in the locality

### Other actions which have a detrimental impact on the quality of life of others in the locality

- i) Urination, defecation, spitting or littering are not permitted\*
- ii) Drinking alcohol in a public place, after being told not to: No person shall consume alcohol or have an open alcohol container in any public place after request by an Authorised Officer or Police Constable to cease consumption or hand over the container. This provision does not apply to alcohol being consumed on licensed premises (enforced under existing Alcohol PSPO).
- iii) Ingesting, inhaling, injecting, smoking or otherwise using drugs or substance reasonably believed to be psychoactive substances.
- iiii) Possessing or releasing any canister containing compressed gas\*

## 9. Beach recreational activities and water sports

### Beach recreational activities and water sports\*

To adhere to the set of Coastal and Beach 'Codes of Practice' set out by Thanet District Council. Within the code of practice specific rules will apply for powered water craft usage (including jet skis) and other areas of health, safety and anti social behaviour concern.

**On signing up to our water user group you agree to abiding by the Council's rules and regulations. Any breach of these will result in your water user group membership being terminated, with no refund. You will also face the same financial penalty as any breach of our rules incurs under the PSPO.**

#### **Examples of breaches these penalties will apply to include:**

- The copying of issued barrier keys
- Leaving barriers open for non group members to access
- Launching of craft that is not permitted at a particular site
- The use of craft in a manner that poses a risk to the safety of people or wildlife
- The use of craft in a manner that has the potential to cause harassment, alarm and distress to any other beach or coast users, or residents

## Powered Water Crafts (PWC)

Due to reports of people acting in an antisocial and unsafe way on PWC's (predominantly Jet Skis), the decision has been made to reduce the number of areas that PWC's can launch unsupervised from along our coastline.

- All public launch sites will be restricted and membership to the Water User Group for owners of these crafts will not be available. If a PWC user wants to launch in Thanet they will be able to do so from existing clubs including:
  - Either Jet Ski World or the Beresford Water Ski Club (day rates and membership may be required)
  - Ramsgate Harbour (once launching/mooring fees are paid. Daily rate available)

Any individual joining a club will be expected to follow their rules, which may include:

- Not removing the silencers from their machines or carry out any other modifications to the exhaust system
- Display the unique registration number for PWC
- Be over the age of 17
- It's also desirable for the individual to hold the PWC proficiency qualification which is a one-off, one day course costing around £160

Other changes affecting WUG and other coastal users

- The Ramsgate Western Undercliff slipway will no longer be used for fishing boats
- The Walpole Bay Bathing Pool is for bathing only, no watersports or craft are permitted.

# Enforcement approach

- A dedicated enforcement officer working at peak times in hotspots proactively, and reactively. Supported by 2 other officers in the enforcement team focusing on the coast over the season. Support from covid wardens.
- Enforcement officers will decide what enforcement action is the most appropriate on a case by case basis.
- Timetabled beach patrols, public engagement activities, planned education workshops, courses and behaviour change interventions.
- Types of action from the enforcement officers will be on a case by case basis and range from no action to arrange of actions and consequences as listed below.
- Consequences; No Action, Informal Action (verbal/written advice), Educational Courses, Beach Workshops and Training, £100 Fixed Penalty Notice.

# Supporting communications activity

- Members briefing
- A public consultation is intended to be held in January and will include proactive contact with a variety of stakeholders. The consultation will be made available online, or on request in hard copy format and will be promoted via a TDC Press release, social media, and other methods of public communication. During this time certain key stakeholders will be consulted directly (if not already) including; Kent Chief of Police, Parish and Town Councils, RNLI, Kent Wildlife Trust, Coastal Groups, KCC, Volunteer Groups, Porchlight, Keep Britain Tidy and their Blue Flag Awards team. A Summary of consultation results will be included in the report to Overview and Scrutiny and Cabinet.
- Signage, QR codes
- Social media, webpages, press releases

## Alternative to FPNs

- Thanet District Council has now registered as an approved AQA (the Assessment and Qualifications Alliance) Training Centre, with two officers registered to deliver training within the enforcement team.
- Putting education first we also propose to deliver these AQA Courses for people receiving FPNs; (we will only deliver once per person/ the one off course fee of £50 will halve the cost of the FPN).  
The process would be as follows:
  - Step 1: Education enforcement would encourage the offender to participate in one of our anti-littering courses paying a course fee instead of full FPN and proceeding to Step 2: FPN payment Step 3: Non FPN Payment; Court.
  - We are interested in developing this scheme further in the coming months and to begin delivering this option after April 2021.
  - It could be a source of income generation if offered to schools, colleges, other institutions



# Next steps

## Key Dates

Early feedback and comments have been sought from Key Managers and external partners including Kent Police. December 2020.

28 day public consultation to commence 25th January- 21st February

Members briefing 16th Feb

Updated report with consultation outcomes/ and necessary amendments to Overview and Scrutiny-  
18 Feb 2021

Cabinet- 18 March 2021

PSPO adopted and in force -1 April 2021

# Dog PSPO amendments 2021

## Where can you take your dog?

We'd love dogs to be able to enjoy all our beaches and foreshores. However, to ensure everyone is able to enjoy our coastline, there are some places where dogs can't go or will have to be kept on a lead.



**Dogs are welcome off their lead at any time of the year on:**

- Grenham Bay - Birchington
- Northern Seawall - Birchington
- Epple Bay - Birchington
- Dumpton Gap - Broadstairs
- Kingsgate Bay - Broadstairs
- Foreness Point - Cliftonville
- Sacketts Gap - Cliftonville
- Palm Bay - Cliftonville
- Fulsam Rock - Margate
- Eastcliff - Ramsgate
- Western Undercliff - Ramsgate

**Dogs are not allowed on the beach between 10am and 6pm from 1 May to 30 September at:**

- West Bay - Wesgate-on-Sea
- St Mildred's Bay - Wesgate-on-Sea
- Botany Bay - Broadstairs
- Joss Bay - Broadstairs
- Stone Bay - Broadstairs

**Dogs are not allowed on the beach between 1 May and 30 September at:**

- Minnis Bay - Birchington
- Viking Bay - Broadstairs
- Margate Main Sands
- Ramsgate Main Sands

**Dogs must be kept on a lead between 10am and 6pm from 1 May to 30 September on:**

- Louisa Bay - Broadstairs
- Walpole Bay - Cliftonville
- Westbrooke Bay - Westbrooke

**Dogs must be kept on a lead 24 hours a day all year round on:**

- Pegwell Bay - Ramsgate (Upper chalk shore - at low tide)

**Dogs are not allowed 24 hours a day, all year round at:**

- Pegwell Bay (mudflats & saltmarsh)

[thanet.gov.uk/dogs](http://thanet.gov.uk/dogs)

Map Data - 2018 Google

# Dog PSPO amendment

- In 2017 Thanet District Council consulted on a new dog fouling and dog control Public Space Protection Order which covered dog fouling, dog exclusion and dog control, this was subsequently adopted 25 October 2017 and extended until 25 October 2023.
- The impact of the original order (2017) and the three year PSPO restrictions have had a positive impact and helped prevent detrimental effects on the quality of the district's coastal water, the quality of cleanliness on Thanets 21 blue flag and seaside award winning beaches, and protection of our coastline, cemeteries and playgrounds. The order has helped protect the diversity of bird populations and wildlife at Pegwell Bay upper chalk shore, mudflats and saltmarsh. The order has protected the quality of public health and welfare through enforcement which has been helping promote cleaner beaches, parks, churchyards and fenced playgrounds.

# Dog PSPO amendment consultation

18 November - 22 December 2020

- The amended PSPO will be the same as that which has been in force for the last three years.
- All 3 amendments were proposed for consultation as a result of requests for consideration from the public and other stakeholders.
- We proposed the following 3x changes to Schedule 1;

a) Westbrook Bay - Currently dogs must be kept on a lead -consultation suggested change to become a dog ban in bathing season - people responded in the majority against this change therefore no amendment or change required.

b) Pegwell Bay - amend to cover upper chalk shore to protect endangered wildlife - positive therefore should proceed with amendment. No major amendment or change required on site, however NNR would need to look into updating signage.

c) The activities that could be banned to protect wildlife not in our existing PSPO; Humans and dogs interfering with, trapping or attempting to trap or snare or disturb any wildlife on council owned land - positive should proceed with amendment.

**The recommendation is that the current PSPO is altered to support minor amendments until 2023 and adopted in accordance with the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), Crime and Policing Act 2014 to include the following restrictions;**

**b) Pegwell Bay - amend to cover upper chalk shore to protect endangered wildlife - positive therefore should proceed with amendment. No major amendment or change required on site, however NNR would need to look into updating signage.**

**c) The activities that could be banned to protect wildlife not in our existing PSPO; Humans and dogs interfering with, trapping or attempting to trap or snare or disturb any wildlife on council owned land - positive should proceed with amendment.**

### **3rd Proposed amendment not to be taken forward**

**a) Westbrook Bay - Currently dogs must be kept on a lead -consultation suggested change to become a dog ban in bathing season - people responded in the majority against this change therefore no amendment or change required.**

## Results

### Westbrook

Agree & Strongly Agree 41.50%

Disagree & Strongly Disagree **52.17%**

### Pegwell

Agree and Strongly Agree **49.16%**

Disagree and strongly disagree 31.51%

### Wildlife protection

Agree and Strongly Agree **75%**

Disagree and strongly disagree 17.80%

# Where can you take your dog?

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**Dogs are welcome off their lead at any time of the year on:**

- Grenham Bay - Birchington
- Northern Seawall - Birchington
- Epple Bay - Birchington
- Dumpton Gap - Broadstairs
- Kingsgate Bay - Broadstairs
- Foreness Point - Cliftonville
- Sacketts Gap - Cliftonville
- Palm Bay - Cliftonville
- Fulsam Rock - Margate
- Eastcliff - Ramsgate
- Western Undercliff - Ramsgate

**Dogs must be kept on a lead between 10am and 6pm from 1 May to 30 September on:**

- Louisa Bay - Broadstairs
- Walpole Bay - Cliftonville
- Westbrook Bay - Westbrook

**Dogs must be kept on a lead 24 hours a day all year round on:**

- Pegwell Bay - Ramsgate (Upper chalk shore - at low tide)

**Dogs are not allowed on the beach between 10am and 6pm from 1 May to 30 September at:**

- West Bay - Westgate-on-Sea
- St Mildred's Bay - Westgate-on-Sea
- Botany Bay - Broadstairs
- Joss Bay - Broadstairs
- Stone Bay - Broadstairs

**Dogs are not allowed on the beach between 1 May and 30 September at:**

- Minnis Bay - Birchington
- Viking Bay - Broadstairs
- Margate Main Sands
- Ramsgate Main Sands

**Dogs are not allowed 24 hours a day, all year round at:**

- Pegwell Bay (mudflats & saltmarsh)

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Map Data - 2018 Google