

# Adur NHW Newsletter



## Lancing & Sompting Issue

August 2024

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Ron Marsh	Committee Member
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## Doorstep Crime

Over the last six months, the Police have seen an unprecedented rise in doorstep crime and rogue trader reports across both Surrey and Sussex. These include unsolicited doorstep calls, cold-calling by phone, and leaflets through the letterbox by scammers and rogue traders bearing false logos so as to appear genuine. And, as usual, the elderly are being disproportionately targeted.

Since the beginning of the year, Sussex Police have received 227 reports of doorstep crime & Surrey 105, which resulted in a total loss of over £1.44m (representing an average loss per person of £9.56k where losses were reported and it is likely that the true figures are far higher, because many of these crimes go unreported). The victim demographic of both forces shows that 41% of the victims were male and 59% female, with 64% living on their own and the average age being 80.

The quality of work will be substandard at best, and the price charged exorbitant. In one extreme case, an elderly victim was targeted repeatedly over the course of two years by different roofing companies carrying out work to the roof and stating that the previous contractors had carried out defective work. The victim ended up losing over £600,000.

Remember that doorstep criminals rely on being able to catch you unprepared, so it is always a good idea to rehearse your reply to an unexpected call so that it will come as second nature when the situation arises. If the call is about roof repairs, driveway jet washing or pruning trees or hedges, inform the caller that you only deal with "Buy with Confidence" County Council approved traders (Buy With Confidence is operated solely by local authority Trading Standards services, meaning that all checking and monitoring of business is done directly by them, not by third parties or private companies).

Furthermore, remember that a black and yellow door/window sticker, warning off uninvited traders and telling them that failure to leave your premises is a criminal offence under the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008, is available from the Police.

## Community food hub

Help to fight food waste at our community food hub.

Community food hubs are designed to reduce surplus food from suppliers that would have otherwise gone to waste. All residents are welcome to visit the child-friendly community food hubs and fill up a bag with delicious, rescued food.

Hubs also offer recipes, food prevention hints and tips and host information stands on various subjects including waste prevention, wellbeing and citizens advice.

Our fun Fight Against Food Waste booklet, available at all Community Food Hubs, is also free to download at <https://www.ukharvest.org.uk/lets-get-cooking>.

Please bring your own bag.

Suggested donation: £3.50

Location: Sidney Walter Centre, Sussex Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN11 1DS

Dates: Third Thursday of every month (unless otherwise stated):

19<sup>th</sup> September 2024 - 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024 - 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024 - 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024

23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025 - 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025 - 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 - 10<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Time: 10.00am to 11.00am

## Grass Cutting

With the warm, sunny weather we have seen significant levels of grass growth across the county.

West Sussex County Council is responsible for maintaining in the region of 12 million sqm of grass verges and these are cut for safety and functional reasons only. The cutting regime is split into an urban and rural schedule to reflect the different environments and levels of use. We spend approximately £1.2 million on grass cutting in West Sussex each year. Both the urban and rural cutting schedules are loaded onto our website :

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/maintaining-roads-verges-and-pavements/verge-maintenance/grass-cutting/#grass-cutting-schedule>

The urban cut currently consists of 5 overall cuts to verges maintained at public expense and equates to in the region of 5 million square metres. At the current time, the arisings from the cuts are left on site, and the contractor should blow arisings that have fallen onto the footway back onto the grass verge area before leaving site. It is not possible at the moment to collect and dispose of the arisings due to this being financially prohibitive, and any proposal to do so would likely impact the number of cuts we could undertake to make up for the cost difference. The council is exploring ways in which arisings can be used to create usable by-products such as supplements for road surfacing · for more information please see our Greenprint website pages at :

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/maintaining-roads-verges-and-pavements/verge-maintenance/greenprint/>.

It takes a minimum of 7 weeks for our grass cutting teams to complete a cut, and you'll appreciate that with the right weather conditions, that is a long time for grass to grow quickly. Bringing a cut forward due to longer grass would run the risk of having long grass on verges right through the winter, as the number of cuts is fixed at 5.

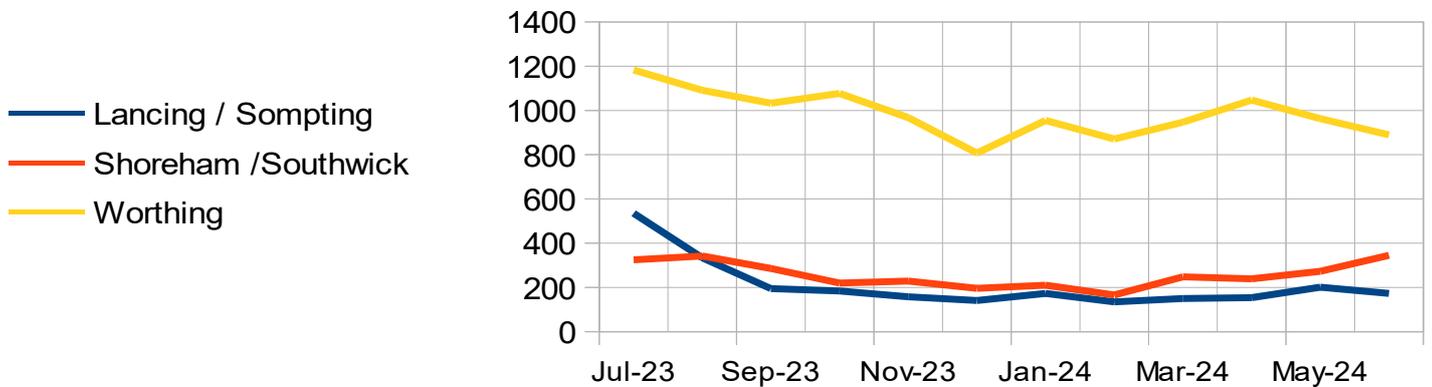
Our rural verge cutting schedule recognises the positive impact these verges have on our pollinators and wildlife corridors. In light of that we only cut 3 times per year, focused on highway safety and sideways clearance. The first cut is a safety visibility splay cut at junctions only, the second cut is a visibility splay and one metre swathe cut for sideways clearance and the final cut is an overall cut of the verge in October/November. This gives wildflowers time to set seed and pollinators time to take advantage of wildflowers and valuable habitat in rural environments.

If you are made aware of issues that may impact the safety of highway users in between cuts (such as visibility at junctions), please do report to us in the normal way and we'll organise for an inspection and any subsequent works, as necessary.

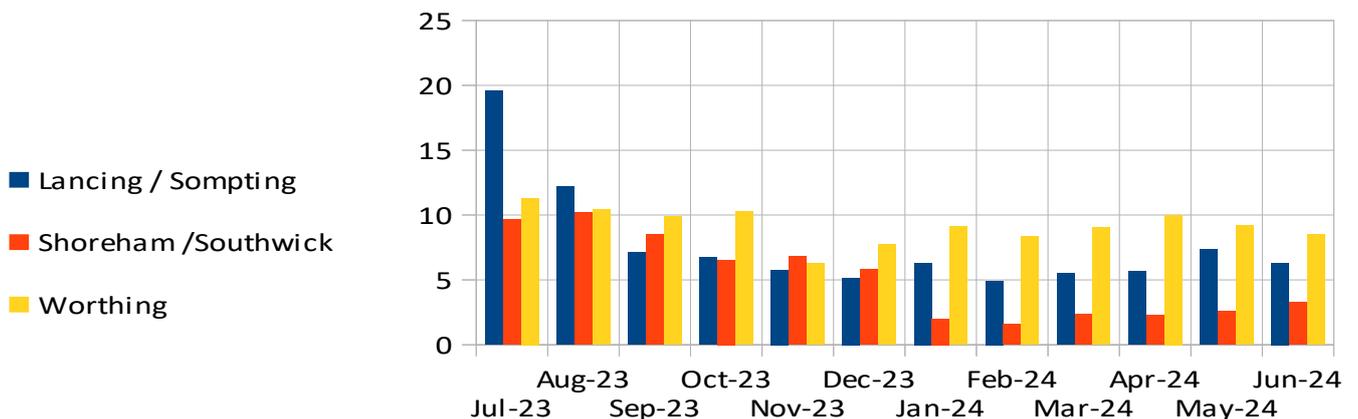
## Crime Statistics for June 2024

June 2024	Churchill	Cokeham	Manor	Mashbarn	Peverel	Widewater	Sub Total
Antisocial Behaviour	6	4	4	8	0	11	33
Bike Theft	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary	0	3	1	0	3	3	10
Criminal Damage	0	1	1	5	2	6	15
Drugs	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
Other Crime	1	2	2	0	1	1	7
Other Theft	6	0	2	3	1	2	14
Weapons	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Public Order	0	3	1	1	1	7	13
Robbery	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Theft Shop	0	0	0	6	8	0	14
Theft Person	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicle Crime	0	2	0	1	0	1	4
Violence & Sex Offences	11	13	6	16	4	9	59
<b>Totals</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>173</b>

### Crimes July 2023 to June 2024



### Crimes per 1000 of Population



See the latest Alerts at : [https:// worthingnhw.ourwatch.org.uk/](https://worthingnhw.ourwatch.org.uk/)