

# Ashford C.S.U Newsletter

## Rural East Ward



**Kent  
Police**

Get the latest crime statistics by visiting: <https://www.police.uk/>

MARCH 2026

**Acting on Community Concerns** The top 3 area concerns:

**Wildlife Crime Issues, Road Safety Issues, Farm Equipment Thefts**

### Tackling Your Concerns

#### Wildlife Crime Issues

Police have issued a Community Protection Warning to an individual involved in poaching in the local countryside. This includes illegal activity such as poaching, lamping and hare coursing. A Community Protection Warning sets clear rules that must be followed to stop behaviour that harms local communities. The warning applies across seven police force areas. This means the individual is not allowed to travel to other counties to continue this behaviour in rural areas.

To help protect local communities, warning signs have also been provided in areas where poaching is reported most often. These were supplied at the request of local councils and are intended to warn and discourage people from coming into these areas to poach.

We continue to work closely with local councils, residents and our partners in the Rural Task Force to tackle wildlife crime and protect rural communities.

#### Road Safety Issues

Ashford Community Safety Unit officers are carrying out regular, high visibility patrols across the district to improve road safety and tackle traffic offences.

PC Picton stopped a vehicle after it was seen in suspicious circumstances around Ashford Truck Stop, including the exchange of items believed to be drugs. A search of the vehicle uncovered approximately £10,000 worth of illegal tobacco along with a quantity of cash.

A second vehicle and individual were stopped shortly afterwards, resulting in a similar amount of illicit tobacco being recovered. Both men were arrested on suspicion of excise and importation offences.



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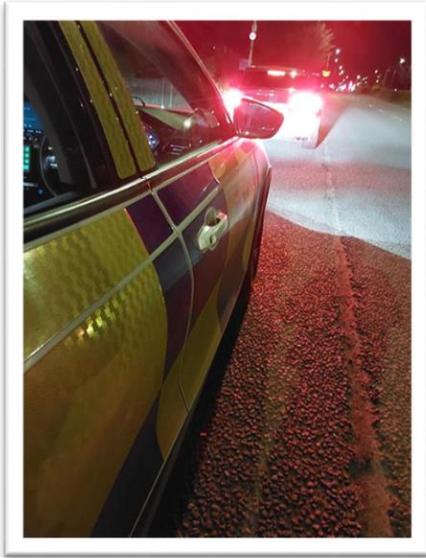


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We continue to target anti social vehicles which draw unwanted attention due to their manner of driving and excessive speed. A driver was issued with a Section 59 Warning for anti-social driving, with the clear notice that the vehicle may be seized if this behaviour continues.



Speed checks have been carried out across the area to deter and target drivers who continue to flout speed limits. The operation has been well-received by local residents, who have provided positive feedback on the increased visibility and enforcement.

### Farm Equipment Thefts

Officers carried out high visibility patrols over several days, focusing on suspicious vehicles in remote and vulnerable rural areas. This included routes that are often used by criminals.

We also worked closely with Sussex Police during a joint cross border operation to tackle farm equipment theft and share intelligence. This led to a number of vehicles being stopped, useful information being gathered, and added reassurance for people living in rural communities.

Property marking events are taking place across the district. We encourage farmers and landowners to have their equipment marked, as this helps deter theft and makes stolen items easier to identify and return. Following concerns raised about a farm in Ruckinge linked to rural crime, and information suggesting stolen items were being stored there, officers carried out checks at the location. During this visit, two stolen Land Rovers were found. The vehicles had been stolen from outside the area, and the investigation is ongoing.

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### Community Engagements:

- Meeting to raise Concerns – 10:00 to 11:00 – 07/04/2026 – Hamstreet Garden Centre, Marsh Road, ASHFORD TN26 2JZ
- Meeting to raise concerns - 10:00 to 11:00 – 24/04/2026 – Woodchurch Hub, The Green, ASHFORD TN26 3PA

Your local officer:  
**PC 13322 Picton**



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