



Staplehurst has maintained a low level of crime during the past year. I cannot access any data on crime statistics internally any more, However, going by the monthly crimes I report for the parish meetings we are sustaining the reduced level of crime we have benefited from during the past few years. This has been possible through the support of the community and the Parish Council. We have dealt with a number of issues throughout the year, which have included the following:

- Several arrests and convictions of local youths throughout the year for burglaries/ shed breaks and car thefts in and out of the area.
- Follow-ups on the victims of burglaries/breaks to give crime prevention advice and information booklets.
- Visits/talks and meetings with the staff at Woodlands House to discuss and advise on issues relating to the facility. I now also run Bi-Monthly surgeries at the facility.
- New Neighbourhood Watch areas have been identified and passed to the local organiser David Ralph to follow up.
- Speed enforcement checks and speed monitoring checks throughout the village.
- Talks throughout the year to various local groups. Beavers/Playgroups/school etc...
- Patrols of outlying areas to deter and stop vehicles known for scrap metal thefts. This has been backed up with pre-arranged Policing Operations County-wide involving numerous authorities and scrap yard inspections.
- The parish CCTV cameras have been used to great effect this year in detection and prevention of crime. These cameras have had a positive effect on reducing crime and nuisance in the area and are an excellent tool for me to use/ promote and educate with.
- The mobile police station still comes to the village every 2 weeks and parks in the parade for residents to discuss any issues they have and I still run my surgeries at the library on a monthly basis.
- And we have finally managed to get the advertising car parked in Headcorn road removed. Let's hope it does not return.

We are always trying to keep on top of any nuisance youth issues in the village. As with the previous year this has also not been a major issue this year and any incidents of this type of behaviour have been swiftly dealt with to good effect. We encourage residents to call in any incidents of this type of nuisance behaviour.

I have been covering the areas of Sutton Valence and Langley for a large part of the year. The new PCSO is now in position so these areas have now been taken off me.

Anyone wishing to contact me about any issues or crime prevention advice can call the non-emergency Police number 101.

Thank you for your continued support in making Staplehurst safe.

PCSO Pete Gardner - Maidstone Neighbourhood Team