

## Speech for Ash Annual Parish Council Meeting

Good evening Chair, Councillors, and residents of Ash.

Please accept my sincere apologies for my absence this evening. I am disappointed not to be with you, as I would very much have liked to attend. I want to reassure you, however, that I remain thoroughly enjoying my role as your local beat officer and continue to be fully committed to the community.

As the beat officer for Little Stour and Ashstone Parish, my responsibilities also cover Wingham, Stourmouth, Preston, Staple, and Wingham. As part of my proactive work across the area, I have recently been undertaking speed enforcement along the A257, issuing tickets for excess speed — particularly within the 50-mile-per-hour limit near Wingham Wildlife Park. This work will continue, especially as the days become longer and the weather improves.

I am pleased to report that overall crime across the beat has reduced by 4.3% over the past twelve months, which reflects positive progress. There has been a 32% increase in reported criminal damage; however, this is balanced by some significant reductions elsewhere. Theft of motor vehicles has reduced by 60%, and violence against the person, including assaults, has fallen by 15.7%.

Reports of anti-social behaviour have increased by 26.1%. This rise is largely attributable to fly-tipping, which has increased by 400% and is recorded within the ASB category. Fly-tipping is primarily dealt with by Dover District Council, with support from Kent Police. Encouragingly, reports of drunken and rowdy behaviour have reduced by an impressive 50%.

I would like to remind everyone of the importance of reporting crimes and anti-social behaviour through the correct channels. Please call **999** in emergencies or if a crime is in progress, and **101** or the Kent Police website for non-urgent matters. As has been the case previously, I would strongly advise against reporting incidents via local social media pages.

Ash remains an extremely safe community in which to live, and it is one I am very proud to police.

Finally, I would encourage all residents to sign up to **Kent “My Community Voice”**. This free service allows myself and other officers to keep you informed about local incidents, issues, and events on a regular basis.

Thank you for your time this evening, and once again, please accept my apologies for not being present.

PC 111454 Jon Bowler