



# Community Safety News

**Issue 57**  
**October 2021**

## Safeguarding Women & Girls

Our resident's safety is one of our first priorities and we want our streets to be secure for all. It's everyone's responsibility to be vigilant but there are lots of things individuals can all do to protect themselves whilst out in the District.

We and Kent Police are holding a number of events over the next few weeks to help address this topic and you are welcome to attend:-

### **Women & Girls Defence Classes**

We are working in partnership with Cobra Defence London to deliver 2 **FREE** self-defence workshops.

**Friday 22 October 1pm–3pm at Bat and Ball Station Function Room, Sevenoaks, TN14 5AP**

**Saturday 23 October 11am-1pm via Zoom**

This is a **FREE** workshop giving you advice and training covering the following and more;

- \* Safety Strategies and tactics on travelling alone
- \* How to deal with unwanted encounters/situations
- \* What to do if you feel you are being followed
- \* Physical techniques to escape grabs and holds, that are easy to learn and remember
- \* Places of safety

Please contact COBRA Defence London via Facebook to book your space.

<https://www.facebook.com/COBRAdefenselondon/>

### **Kent Police Public Engagement**

Kent Police puts victims and witnesses at the heart of everything it does. You are invited to share your views at a local public engagement event on:

**Thursday 11 November 2021, 6pm - 8pm at The Alexandar Suite, St Mary's Rd, Swanley BR8 7BU**

This event will be attended by members of our Chief Officer Team as well as local policing teams. We hope you can join us in person. You are welcome to bring friends, family members or colleagues with you.

Please confirm your attendance including numbers of those attending by responding to this email - [csu.sevenoaks@kent.police.uk](mailto:csu.sevenoaks@kent.police.uk) - by 4th November 2021

## Volunteer to make a difference

Sevenoaks District Independent Police Advisory Group (IPAG) are looking for people to volunteer to help represent diverse communities across Sevenoaks District and to assist Kent Police with its work in supporting victims of crime.

Residents have the opportunity to join the Independent Police Advisory Group (IPAG), which acts as a critical friend to Kent Police, Sevenoaks District, West Division.

The group is totally independent of the force and helps improve the services Police provide to people from different backgrounds.

It includes volunteers who can offer their perspectives around issues such as race, sexual orientation, disability, age and gender.

The IPAG provides a platform and an opportunity to engage, consult and discuss the impact of policing on communities in your local district.

Members are able to share feedback to Kent Police from the communities and local areas they represent, as well as give advice and support during critical incidents.

The IPAG also includes people from minority groups and diverse backgrounds; volunteers have the opportunity to bring along independent thoughts and views which Kent Police will listen and respond to.

If you are interested in joining the Sevenoaks District IPAG, please email [DiversityAcademy@kent.police.uk](mailto:DiversityAcademy@kent.police.uk)

## Halloween & Fireworks



The Community Safety Unit is working hard to address Halloween and Fireworks evening, which can cause issues for some residents, Police have therefore ensured suitable resources for the events being held by changing shifts for the PCSO's and Community Policing team.

Our KCC Community Safety Wardens are also out and about in the community working with residents and local community groups and keeping them updated regarding local concerns in the area.

We want you to have a great time during in this period, but if things don't go according to plan please contact us in the CSU [community.safety@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:community.safety@sevenoaks.gov.uk) If a crime is being committed please report online or via telephone to Kent Police on 101 unless it is an emergency then call 999

# Have Your Say

We would like your help to shape local public services and to tell us what is needed to make the Sevenoaks District a better place to live, work and travel.

**If you complete our survey, you can choose to be entered into a free prize draw for £100 of shopping vouchers of your choice. The draw will take place on Monday 10 January 2022**

Your comments will help us deliver the long-term vision and identify the priorities for action for the next Community Plan Action Plan.

**The long-term vision for the Community Plan is:**

- **Safe Communities:** making Sevenoaks District a safer place to live, work and travel
- **Caring Communities:** where children are given the best start and people can be supported to live independent lives
- **Green Environment:** where people can enjoy high-quality urban and rural environments
- **Healthy Environment:** where people have healthy lifestyles, access to quality healthcare and exercise thus reducing health inequalities
- **Dynamic Economy:** a thriving local economy where businesses flourish, where people have skills for employment and tourism is supported
- **Sustainable Economy:** where people can live, work and travel more easily and are empowered to shape their community

The Community Plan is a District-wide initiative delivered by a partnership made up of representatives from Sevenoaks District Council, the Police and Kent Fire and Rescue Service, Kent County Council, the health services, housing associations and voluntary and community organisations.

**The Community Plan is available until 31 December 2021 and can be seen at [www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/communityplan](http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/communityplan)**



# Making it Happen Community & Voluntary Awards

Our 'Making it Happen' Community and Voluntary Awards will return next year, once again giving you the chance to nominate your local unsung heroes.

The awards will take place on Wednesday 9 March at the St Nicholas's Church in Sevenoaks and will see more inspirational community stalwarts and dedicated volunteers being recognised for their amazing work to help others. As ever, you can expect one or two celebrity guest of honours handing out the certificates!

Cllr Lesley Dyball, our Cabinet Member for People and Places, says: "Our volunteers and community heroes are the backbone of our District, and even more so over the past 18 months, we are thrilled to be able to host these awards to recognise their incredible work which is really important to us.

"Maybe there's a volunteer who coaches your child's sports team, a local business who works hard within your community or a charity raising thousands for a worthy cause. If so, please make sure you get involved and submit a nomination so your local heroes can get the recognition they deserve."

## This year's categories are:

- Charity Project of the Year
- Community Arts or Sports Group of the Year
- Youth Group/Young Person of the Year
- Best Business in the Community
- Local Hero - Outstanding Individual Community Champion
- Carer of the Year
- Lifetime Achievement
- Volunteer Group of the Year
- Older Person's Group/Older Person of the Year
- Contribution to the Environment
- Healthy Living Award

To nominate a person, voluntary organisation or group, visit [www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/communityawards](http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/communityawards). You can also request a nomination form by e-mailing [communities@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:communities@sevenoaks.gov.uk) or by calling us on 01732 227000.



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