

Subject: Weekly bulletin - Chichester district

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Message sent by

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News and appeals

Police to increase patrols as part of Christmas crackdown on drink and drug-drivers

A quick drive under the influence of drink or drugs could lead to a life behind bars.

This is the message being issued by Surrey Police and Sussex Police as they prepare to launch their Christmas crackdown on drink and drug-drivers.

Under new Government proposals, motorists who cause death by careless driving while under the influence of intoxicating substances face a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. The current maximum term is 14 years.

The plans have been put forward following significant support from people including bereaved families of victims and road safety experts.

But while the penalty for the offence looks set to increase, the advice from police remains the same – if you're prepared to drive with drink or drugs in your system, prepare to face the consequences.

Chief Inspector Warren Franklin, of the Surrey and Sussex Roads Policing Unit, said: "Each and every year, people's lives are destroyed through drink and drug-driving, and it won't be tolerated on our roads in Surrey and Sussex.

"Our officers will be carrying out dedicated patrols to target offenders across the two counties between 1 December 2017 and 1 January 2018, and will deal robustly with anyone caught driving under the influence.

"Patrols will include static stop checks at various locations, which will be in addition to responding to reports of drink and drug-drivers all year round. Our priority is to educate people of the clear risks associated with drink and drug-driving, and to keep road users safe."

During the same campaign last year (1 December 2016 to 1 January 2017), a total of 187 arrests were made in Sussex, of which 143 have since led to convictions.

Driving under the influence of drink or drugs is among the four major causes of serious injury and fatal collisions, along with speeding, not wearing a seatbelt and using a mobile device while driving.

Chief Insp Franklin added: "Christmas is a time for friends and family, but it's also a time when a stupid decision could lead to the loss of someone's life.

"For those caught and convicted, it will have dire consequences – offenders face a minimum 12-month disqualification, fines up to £5,000 and up to six months' imprisonment. If you kill someone, you could face life behind bars.

"This could happen to anyone. You may think it's only a short drive home or you've not been caught before, but you might not be so lucky next time.

"We always encourage motorists to plan ahead. If you're going for a night out or you're likely to be hungover in the morning, for example, arrange a taxi or a lift with someone sober. Don't chance driving yourself. It's really not worth the risk.

"Please ensure you make the right decision this festive season, and don't ruin Christmas."

The month-long initiative is supported by the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership, DriveSmart in Surrey and the independent charity Crimestoppers.

People in Sussex can text officers on 65999 with the details of people they suspect of drink or drug-driving, or visit the Operation Crackdown website.

Alternatively, you can visit the Crimestoppers website or contact the independent charity anonymously on [0800 555 111](tel:0800555111).

If you know someone is driving while over the limit or after taking drugs, call 999.

Two women killed in Chichester collision

At about 9.25pm on Wednesday (22 November), police were called to a serious collision on the A286 Stockbridge Road, Chichester.

A grey Suzuki Grand Vitara, travelling north, collided with a wall and two parked cars, and overturned. No other vehicles were involved.

The driver, a local woman in her 70s, and her passenger, a local woman in her 60s, were sadly pronounced dead at the scene.

The road was closed between the junctions of the A27 at St George's Road until about 2.40am on Thursday (23 November) while emergency services were in attendance.

Police are appealing for anyone who saw what happened to report it online or phone 101, quoting Operation Penmark.

West Sussex investigation into non-supply of Rugby international tickets

Police in West Sussex are investigating an allegation of rugby match ticket fraud.

A local resident in Crawley Down has reported paying £300 by bank transfer for four tickets for the England v Australia rugby international at Twickenham on 18 November. The tickets were never supplied.

Investigator Kirsteen Bethel said; "If you have recently paid money by bank transfer or any other means, for tickets at any major sporting events, and have not received them, please contact us online or call 101, quoting serial 411 of 30/10."

The investigation is at an early stage and no arrests have been made at this stage.

Arrest summary

Between the 22nd - 29th November more than 18 people were arrested from across the Chichester district. Offences included shoplifting, domestic assault, burglary, assault police, driving a vehicle whilst under the influence of alcohol and criminal damage.

Crime updates

Chichester and surrounding area

Colworth Farm, West Dean - Between 14th and 15th November shed used to store chemicals entered. Nothing reported stolen.

Edgell Road, Emsworth - Between 10am and 1pm, 21st November, an attempt was made to force rear door of property. Ref 1097 of 22/11.

Dean Lane End, Rowlands Castle - Break to a garden shed between 5pm, 21st November - 12pm, 22nd November. Entry gained by breaking lock. Two bikes reported stolen. Ref 0078 of 24/11.

[Plainwood Close, Chichester](#) - Break to 2 x vehicles overnight into 25th November. Wallet reported stolen. No signs of forced entry. Ref 0910 of 25/[11](#).

[Stavelly Gardens, Chichester](#) - Overnight into 25th November, iPad, Laptop and a briefcase were stolen from a vehicle. Ref 0949 of 25/[11](#).

[Oak Avenue, Chichester](#) - Theft of Lambretta scooter from garage overnight into 29th November. Ref 0179 of 29/[11](#).

Selsey, The Witterings and surrounding area

Itchenor Road, Itchenor - Break to stables overnight into 26th November. Forced entry to three sheds. Theft of strimmer's. Ref 0595 of 26/11.

[Marine Drive, West Wittering](#) - Two new houses under construction have been entered overnight into 27th November. Roof windows and copper stolen. Ref 0306 of 27/[11](#).

Midhurst, Petworth and surrounding area

Portsmouth Road, Milland - Entry gained to a vehicle overnight into 22nd November. Sunglasses and keys reported stolen. Ref 0036 of 22/11.

Lickfold - Between 22nd - 24th November, there was break to a property. Entry was gained by jemmying back door open. Theft of car keys and car from drive. Ref 1162 of 24/11.

Tennysons Lane, Haslemere - Window smashed to front door and garage door forced open. Nothing reported stolen. Occurred 19th November - 25th November. Ref 1015 of 25/11.

Rogate - Break to shed overnight into 23rd November. Nothing reported stolen. Lock broken off. Ref 0571 of 24/11.

Heathfield Green, Midhurst - Report that a white Ford Focus pulled up to block of garages and a male was seen breaking into garages. On attendance by Police, 11 garages found to have been broken into. The vehicle was located, stopped and three persons were arrested on suspicion of burglary. Ref 0522 of 27/11.

Nyewood, Petersfield - Break to garden shed, theft of tools. Occurred between 22nd - 28th November. Ref 0072 of 29/11.

Help us keep Sussex safe

If you saw or heard anything, or have any information about any incident in this message please [contact us online](#), email us at 101@sussex.pnn.police.uk or call **101**, quoting the reference number provided.

Alternatively you can contact the independent charity **Crimestoppers**, anonymously, on **0800 555 111**, or online at www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Your local teams

[Visit our Website](#) to contact your local team, view local news and follow our social media accounts. Simply type your post code in the '**Find a Local Area**' box located in the top right of the web page.
