

Police Report for Ash-cum-Ridley APM – April 2026

For those of you who don't me I'm PC Weatherall, one of the two beat officers assigned for New Ash Green, alongside PC Ellie Collins who can't be here tonight unfortunately

I wanted to give a brief overview of the past year and what we've been working on, some of these were completed by my predecessor PC Guest when he covered the area prior to me taking over in Dec 2025 –

- We established the Coffee with a Cop events in partnership with the Parish Council, these events are designed as a informal way for residents to meet with us as your beat officers, raise any local concerns and hear about what we've been doing in the local area. Feedback about the events has been really positive so far.

We've held three of these events so far, with a fourth now confirmed to take place on Friday 22 May 2026 from 2pm-4pm outside the Primary School gates.

- As your beat officers, we've attended a number of other events within the community including the Christmas Family Fun Day, Hodsoll Street Christmas fete, New Ash Green Fireworks Night to name a few. We have plenty of events in our diary to attend in the Summer months too!
- We have supported the Parish Council with the reintroduction of youth provision to the village and we look forward to attending the sessions in the coming months to introduce ourselves to the young people and build a positive relationship with them.
- Working with the Parish Council and our colleagues in the Child-Centred Policing Team we are holding a Community Safety Day on Saturday 6th June which will also include a Police vs Young People football match. The event will have a range of Police teams and partner agencies with stalls offering advice and guidance. More details about that will be released soon!
- We continue to attend the Focus Group meetings convened by the Parish Council which bring together a number of agencies to discuss the local community safety issues and steps that we can take to reduce these. During Summer 2025, PC Guest also attended the dedicated ASB Task & Finish Group that was established to resolve concerns around catapults and ASB relating to young people.
- During the course of the year, we've monitored compliance of licensed venues and retail units with licensing conditions and enforcement of Challenge 25 policies. Working with the licensing team, one retailer was issued a warning letter following breaches of licensing conditions.
- PC Collins and I continue to meet regularly with the Chairman of the Parish Council and the Community Warden to ensure close partnership working between all agencies

- We have been aware of the efforts from the Parish Council to bring Community Speedwatch to the village and look forward to working with those volunteers once it is fully established
- Throughout the year we've dealt with all manners of reports, from neighbour disputes, to drug dealing, and catapult incidents. We strongly encourage residents to keep reporting incidents to the Police because the more reports we have, the better intelligence there is and we can appropriately target Police resources to tackle the issues.
- PC Collins and I continue to patrol the local area as and when we can. I'm always make sure to engage with the shop owners in the Shopping Centre when patrolling through that area. If you see us out and about, please do stop and say hello.
- Happy to answer any questions and also any suggestions on how we can further engage with the community to hear the concerns that matter to you.