



Pick-Pockets - Maidstone Town Centre

Hello,

There have been a number of reports over the past couple weeks of pick pockets operating in the Maidstone Town Centre area. Enquiries are ongoing with victims and Police are working hard to identify a number of people involved through CCTV work with partners and Maidstone Borough Council and local businesses.

One tactic that has been noticed in Maidstone is that the suspect will push or bump up against a victim in a crowded shop or street then quickly reach into the victim's pocket and steal their wallet, phone or purse.

If you travel to the town centre please bear in mind the following to keep your belongings safe:

- Keep purses and bags closed and secure at all times
- Carry bags in front of you or diagonally across your chest
- Return cards to your purse or wallet quickly and zip it up or button it
- Use a purse that's difficult to open. One that zips or snaps shut is best, and keep it closed
- Use a money belt if you're carrying a significant quantity of cash
- Conceal your wallet in a buttoned or zipped pocket where it doesn't bulge
- Keep a list, separate from your wallet and phone, of contact numbers of family in case your phone is stolen

Remember, having a zipped bag doesn't mean you're totally safe. Thieves have been known to walk behind victims while slowly unzipping bags. Yes, they can be that bold. So, never underestimate a pickpocket.



Have you noticed anything else that is suspicious in the town centre or where you live that we should be aware of?



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