

## **Thief Jailed Thanks To Vigilant Member Of The Public - 17.12.19**

A vigilant member of the public has helped to secure the conviction of a man caught stealing from cars.

In the early hours of 5th September, a resident in Willowbed Walk, Hastings, was alerted by a security light and spotted an unknown man entering his neighbour's car.

He dialled 999, and officers located a man matching the description of the suspect nearby shortly afterwards. He was identified as Mark Lewis, 39, of no fixed address.

Lewis was found in possession of items including cash, two torches, a bank card in someone else's name and a quantity of ammunition.

He was subsequently arrested and charged with theft by finding, going equipped for theft, possession of ammunition without a certificate and two counts of vehicle interference.

At Brighton Magistrates' Court on Friday 12th December, Lewis was sentenced to eight weeks' imprisonment and ordered to pay costs of £85. Magistrates took the seriousness of the offences and his recent history of offending into account during sentencing.

Julie Maley, of the Hastings Investigations Team, said: "Motorists are reminded to keep the doors of the vehicles locked when unattended, and to keep belongings - especially expensive items such as sunglasses - out of sight.

Preferably, do not keep any valuables in your vehicle at all.

"Without a resident acting on their suspicions and reporting this to us, we would not have caught Lewis and he may have continued his criminal activities, rather than spending the next few weeks in prison.

"Sussex Police needs the help of the public to catch criminals, and people are urged to report incidents such as this to us immediately, as sometimes there are no other lines of enquiry for us to investigate."

If you witness a crime in action, call 999.

Or, if you have information which could assist us in an investigation please call us on 101.

### **Help Us Keep Sussex Safe**

Seen something suspicious or have information about a crime or incident? Please contact us at <http://www.sussex.police.uk/contact-us/>, email us at [101@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:101@sussex.pnn.police.uk) or call 101.

Alternatively you can contact the independent charity **Crimestoppers**, anonymously, on 0800 555 111, or online at [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)