# Violent incidents escalate in Kirkby with six fatal shootings in two years



# Tension and Tragedy in Kirkby: A Community on Edge

Kirkby, a town in Merseyside, is grappling with a concerning spate of violent incidents that resonate through its tight-knit community. Recently, police cordoned off a block of flats on Beech Rise following reports of blood found at the scene. Residents were advised to remain indoors as authorities investigated the circumstances surrounding the incident. Such measures have become alarmingly familiar in recent months, reflecting a growing unease among locals.

Restlessness has permeated Kirkby, particularly after a deeply disturbing series of events. Last January, a 30-year-old woman was discovered unconscious at a property on Roughwood Drive. Despite the immediate response from emergency services, she tragically succumbed to her circumstances, leading to the arrest of a 23-year-old man on suspicion of murder. The family of the victim has sought answers as the investigation unfolds, with police appealing for information and reviewing local CCTV to piece together the events of that fateful day.

Then, in a shocking incident in July 2024, Rikki Berry, a 36-year-old man, was fatally shot in broad daylight. Police responded rapidly, but Berry was pronounced dead shortly after arrival at the hospital. Authorities revealed that a 20-year-old man was arrested at the scene, highlighting the escalating nature of violence in the region. Detective Chief Inspector Cath Cummings urged witnesses to come forward, emphasising that the community's cooperation is vital for justice. This tragic event marked the sixth fatal shooting in Merseyside within a mere two-year span, reflecting a troubling trend that is raising alarms among residents and officials alike.

The police's challenge is compounded by a recent high-profile incident where a grenade was unearthed outside a residential property in September 2023, prompting the evacuation of surrounding homes. The device, discovered early in the day, was safely detonated later at Millbrook Park, allowing residents to return by afternoon. Chief Inspector Simon Owen remarked on the serious implications of such weapons, noting that “grenades have no place on the streets of Merseyside.” The community has been left rattled, as the discovery underscores the type of dangers they face on a day-to-day basis.

Moreover, in May 2024, police launched an appeal following a serious incident that resulted in the death of a 51-year-old man. The authorities are exploring various lines of inquiry, including potential vehicular involvement or assault. This tragic loss has intensified calls for increased vigilance among residents, with police urging those with relevant information or surveillance footage to assist in the investigations.

In light of these disturbing developments, there is a palpable need for heightened public awareness and cooperation. Merseyside Police have underscored the importance of community involvement, as they strive to regain control over the escalating violence that has gripped Kirkby. Additional measures, such as the introduction of dispersal zones in response to rising anti-social behaviour, have been implemented in a bid to deter crime.

The atmosphere in Kirkby suggests a community teetering on the brink, caught in a cycle of violence that seems to worsen with each passing incident. As the police strive to uphold safety and justice, it is crucial for residents to unite against the tide of crime, challenging the narrative that such violence is an inevitable part of their lives. In a climate of uncertainty, collective resilience will be essential in reclaiming their streets and restoring peace.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2052500/kirkby-police-incident-live-block)
* Paragraph 2 – [[2]](https://www.merseyside.police.uk/news/merseyside/news/2024/january/investigation-underway-after-police-incident-in-kirkby/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/article/2024/jul/18/investigation-launched-after-man-shot-dead-in-merseyside)
* Paragraph 4 – [[4]](https://www.itv.com/news/granada/2023-09-07/grenade-detonated-after-being-found-outside-home)
* Paragraph 5 – [[5]](https://www.merseyside.police.uk/news/merseyside/news/2024/may/update-appeal-for-information-following-serious-incident-in-kirkby/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[6]](https://www.mynewsdesk.com/uk/merseyside-police/news/police-make-first-arrest-in-connection-with-an-assault-in-kirkby-362993)
* Paragraph 7 – [[7]](https://www.merseyside.police.uk/news/merseyside/news/2023/june/dispersal-zone-introduced-i-n-west-kirkby/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2052500/kirkby-police-incident-live-block> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.merseyside.police.uk/news/merseyside/news/2024/january/investigation-underway-after-police-incident-in-kirkby/> - Merseyside Police are investigating an incident in Kirkby where a woman in her 30s was found unconscious at a house on Roughwood Drive on January 21, 2024. Despite efforts from emergency services, she was pronounced dead at the scene. A 23-year-old man from Kirkby was arrested on suspicion of murder and remains in custody. The death is currently being treated as unexplained. Authorities are conducting witness inquiries and examining local CCTV and Ring doorbell footage to gather information. They are urging anyone with information to contact them urgently.
3. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/article/2024/jul/18/investigation-launched-after-man-shot-dead-in-merseyside> - Rikki Berry, a 36-year-old man, was fatally shot in Kirkby, Merseyside, on July 17, 2024. A 20-year-old man was arrested at the scene on suspicion of murder. Merseyside Police received a report at 6:35 pm from the North West Ambulance Service about the shooting. Berry was taken to the hospital but was pronounced dead shortly after. Detective Chief Inspector Cath Cummings appealed for witnesses and urged residents to check their CCTV, dashcam, or doorbell footage for any relevant information. This incident marks the sixth fatal shooting in Merseyside in less than two years.
4. <https://www.itv.com/news/granada/2023-09-07/grenade-detonated-after-being-found-outside-home> - On September 6, 2023, Merseyside Police responded to a report of a grenade found outside a home in Kirkby, Knowsley. Residents discovered the device around 10:20 am, prompting the establishment of a cordon and the evacuation of nearby residents. The grenade was safely detonated at Millbrook Park, allowing residents to return home by 2 pm. Chief Inspector Simon Owen emphasized the potential danger of such weapons and appealed for information from anyone who saw suspicious activity in the area. He stated that grenades have no place on the streets of Merseyside and urged the public to report any information about their use or storage.
5. <https://www.merseyside.police.uk/news/merseyside/news/2024/may/update-appeal-for-information-following-serious-incident-in-kirkby/> - Merseyside Police are appealing for information following a serious incident in Kirkby on May 28, 2024. At approximately 4:50 pm, a 51-year-old man was found with serious injuries at the junction of East Lancashire Road and Moorgate Road South. He was taken to the hospital but was pronounced dead. The cause of death is under investigation, with a Home Office postmortem scheduled. Authorities are examining various lines of inquiry, including the possibility of a medical episode, a vehicle collision, or an assault. They are urging witnesses and anyone with CCTV or dashcam footage to come forward.
6. <https://www.mynewsdesk.com/uk/merseyside-police/news/police-make-first-arrest-in-connection-with-an-assault-in-kirkby-362993> - Merseyside Police have made an arrest in connection with an assault in Kirkby on March 13, 2019. Officers responded to a report that a 16-year-old boy was assaulted by a group of males at the junction of Pinewood Gardens and Steeple View. The victim sustained a slash wound to the face and other injuries. A 32-year-old woman from Liverpool was arrested on suspicion of Section 18 assault and conspiracy to commit assault. She has been released on conditional bail. Inspector Phil Mullally highlighted the serious harm caused by knives in communities and appealed for information to trace the four men involved, who fled in a black Nissan Juke.
7. <https://www.merseyside.police.uk/news/merseyside/news/2023/june/dispersal-zone-introduced-i-n-west-kirkby/> - In response to increased reports of criminal and anti-social behavior in West Kirby, Merseyside Police introduced a 48-hour Dispersal Zone starting June 17, 2023. The order covers areas including Croft Drive, Caldy Road, and West Kirby Beach. Patrols have been intensified, with officers from the mounted section providing a visible presence. The decision follows incidents such as the stabbing of a teenage boy on Cubbins Green on June 16. Targeted Policing Inspector Richard McKenzie emphasized the need to prevent criminality and ensure residents and businesses are not subjected to such behavior. He urged parents and guardians to be aware of their children's whereabouts to assist in addressing the issue.