

...has been carefully planned to minimise disruption for

A272.

"Access to local villages next to the

A23 will be made safer for the homes and businesses where drivers currently have to turn directly onto the

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# Youngsters devastated as work goes up in smoke

by NEIL VOWLES

CHILDREN have been left devastated after Christmas presents they spent months making for their parents went up in smoke in a suspected arson attack.

Moulsecomb Forest Garden and Woodland Project manager Warren Carter described the blaze that gutted a work shed in a Brighton allotment as a "kick in the teeth" to the group.

Dozens of youngsters had spent hours making benches for their parents for Christmas but their work was reduced to ashes by a fire just after midnight on Friday. Police are now investigating.

The shed belonged to the Moulsecomb project which has created a flourishing wild garden since its formation in 1994. Its aim is to help young people develop conservation and craft skills.

Mr Carter said the shed cost more than £20,000 and took more than two years to build.

The project would be losing vital income while it is being rebuilt, he said.

Cooking equipment stored inside the shed was also destroyed by the blaze which took Preston Circus firefighters two hours to put out.

The alarm was raised after neighbours saw the fire from their houses.

Mr Carter added: "This is a warm and dry place we can use in the winter so it's really our classroom.

"The service we provide is for the hardest to reach kids so this incident is a kick in the teeth for me and it's a



ANGRY: Karl Williams

# Arson attack at woodland project

kick in the teeth for the kids as well.

"We will continue but this makes it more difficult."

Fourteen-year-old Karl Williams, a pupil at Bowden House School in Seaford,

said: "When I saw the shed turned to a heap of ashes, I just thought, 'Who would do such a thing?'"

"I've worked on the allotment for the last two-and-a-half years and I've never

known anything as horrendous as this."

Anyone with information about the arson attack is asked to call Sussex Police on 101 quoting serial 395 of 4/11.

Were you affected by the blaze? Let us know at

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some names were suggested after the appeal on BBC's Crimewatch on Thursday night.

Officers are still trying to find a man who sexually assaulted a 26-year-old woman in Park Street, Brighton, on June 22.

A Sussex Police spokeswoman said all of the "encouraging" information will be "analysed and followed up."

Anyone with information should contact Sussex Police on 101 quoting Operation Plymouth or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

## Two car break-ins

TWO men loaded up their van at a cash and carry - with belongings they stole from parked cars.

The criminals broke into a car and a van at the Booker store in Moulsecomb Way, Brighton, at about 2pm on Thursday.

The men were driving a silver or grey Vauxhall Astra van.

One is believed to have used a crowbar to get into a van, then stole a laptop from a car.

Police have not yet obtained a description of the men but they are understood to be examining CCTV from the car park.

Anyone with information is asked to call Sussex Police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

## Car Hoods & Repairs

