



Sanderstead Safer Neighbourhood Team
New Addington Police Station
Addington Village Road
Croydon
CR0 5AQ

Tel - 0208 721 2470 or 101
Email - sanderstead.snt@met.police.uk

Thursday 29th June 2017

Dear Resident,

I am writing to you to alert you to a number of break-ins from garages during the late evening of **Tuesday 27th June** into the early hours of **Wednesday 28th June 2017** in **Theresa's Walk**, off St Mary's Road in Sanderstead.

The suspect has managed to break in to at least seven garages in the area. Although it is not clear at this time if anything has been stolen, it appears the suspect has been looking for specific items, such as power tools. Burglars will usually try a shed or garage first before they burgle a house or business because they can find the tools they need to get into the building.

Can I ask that you please take the following precautions with your garage or shed in order to help us to reduce the chance of these incidents occurring in the future:

- First off, check that your insurance covers the contents of your shed or outbuildings from theft.
- It's worth having a good padlock on the door with no exposed screws.
- Pay attention to hinges, as these are sometimes easily removable.
- If you have windows then these could be vulnerable unless they're secured with wire mesh or grills.
- Consider a battery-operated shed/garage alarm. They look low key but they respond to movement or door contact with an extremely loud siren.
- Lock everything away securely. Tools can be locked inside a locker or box or secured with a chain.
- Secure your bike to the ground or a lockable stand within a locked shed or garage. Consider ground anchors and other locks designed to fix to floors and walls.
- Consider draping an old sheet or blanket over the top of mowers or bikes to keep them covered from view.
- Consider purchasing a garage door stop.
- Although it might sound like stating the obvious, never leave your garage or shed door unlocked if you're not around.

If you believe that your garage, shed or outbuilding has been broken into or attempted to have been broken into, please report this to police immediately either by phoning 101 or making a report online at <https://beta.met.police.uk/report/how-to-report-a-crime/>

If you have any information that can assist us with our investigation, please contact the Sanderstead Safer Neighbourhood Team on **0208 721 2470** or email sanderstead.snt@met.police.uk. If you would prefer to remain anonymous, please call Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111**.

Yours sincerely,

PC Stephen Wilson, PC Robert Brett and PCSO Sam Brooks
Sanderstead Safer Neighbourhood Team

