

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH IN ACTION

NEWSLETTER OF
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CROYDON

Croydon Eye



Crime Prevention Day & AGM October 2022

The end of 2022 has been rather busy, but we are pleased to update you on what has been going on.

On Saturday 8th October we were joined by Croydon Neighbourhood Watch coordinators and guests from across the borough for a full programme of informative speakers at the fabulous Royal Russell School.

Opened by The Mayor of Croydon, Jason Perry, along with our very own Chairman Paul Voden, the day commenced with the Mayor's vision for Croydon and a very interesting view on what has been going on throughout the borough to improve our surroundings and local services. Jason Perry took part in a Q&A session with attendees and he has vowed to look into pressing issues on behalf of Croydon coordinators.

The Mayor was followed by Chief Superintendent Dave Stringer (South Area BCU Commander) who considered his priority to be Safer Neighbourhood Teams getting to know their local area. He urged coordinators to feed into the Ward Panel meetings and to write to their local Councillors and Safer Neighbourhood officers to make sure they are involved in setting and implementing local policies. The Chief Superintendent also welcomed a Q&A session which saw difficult questions being asked and coordinators were left with assurances that these issues would be followed up.

After the break we had St Christophers Project Manager Malcolm Gill and bereavement expert Jarmila Whiteley, explain the importance of their 'compassionate chats' and the need for us to not be afraid to have conversations about bereavement.



Our panel Q&A followed with South Croydon Safer Neighbourhoods Team Inspector Cathy Thomas and North Wards (SNT) Inspector James Weston; answering questions from the floor regarding a wide range of issues from knife crime to abandoned cars.

Neighbourhood Watch Network's Head of Membership, Cheryl Spruce, updated us about what is happening on a national level and how that can filter down to us here in Croydon.

The final speaker of the day, PC John Selby from the Cyber Crime Unit, received much praise for his highly informative presentation on cyber crime and how to prevent it. There were lots of important links that were shared and a promise to host another hands on workshop for any coordinators who were unable to attend or simply want more expert advice!

We finished a fabulous day with our AGM where Brian Udell (previous CBNWA Chair) was presented with a plaque for 15 years of service and before we knew it, it was all over for another year!

Watch out for next years date because if you didn't come you missed out on some fabulous speakers and we would love to see you next year!



Croydon Trading Standards - Community Alert

The Chartered Trading Standards Institute has issued a stark warning in regards to the number of scams appearing in relation to the cost of living crisis and wants to warn consumers about unwittingly engaging with scammers.

CTSI Lead Officer for Scams and Doorstep Crime, Katherine Hart, said:

"There has been a huge surge in energy-efficiency scams offering rebates and offers to apply for grants. With the rise of costs in fuel bills and the cost-of-living concerns during the upcoming winter months, I urge the public to be on its guard because these types of emails and texts are attempts to scam.

"I also expect that scammers will target households in the coming weeks regarding the £150 Disability Cost of Living payment. Households don't need to apply for the rebate as suppliers are automatically applying it to bills for six months from October. If consumers receive emails or texts out of the blue, then report texts to 7726, emails to report@phishing.gov.uk and delete the message.

How to protect yourself

Energy Bill Discount : £400 off energy bills for households in Great Britain from October 2022. You do not need to apply for the scheme and you will not be asked for your bank details.

Disability Cost of Living Payment: £150 rebate. You do not need to apply for the scheme and you will not be asked for your bank details.



Update on Neighbourhood Policing in Croydon

In October Thornton Heath's Safer Neighbourhood Team executed a drugs warrant in the North of the borough as a result of intelligence. A cannabis factory was uncovered with approximately 100 plants.



The electricity company have made the building safe and police arrested one male. Investigations continue.



Drugs were also recovered by police at an address in Sanderstead in the south of the borough as result of stop and search conducted in the street.

On conducting the search, officers found a small amount of cannabis, a phone believed to be used in drug dealing and a large quantity of cash.

The individual stopped was unable to provide a convincing explanation for having the cash and was subsequently arrested for possession of criminal property.

It was suspected that the individual would have more drugs at his home address. A subsequent search of the address did indeed recover more drugs.



Safer Neighbourhood Teams the width and breadth of the borough have been tackling anti-social behaviour and those issues negatively affecting our quality of life

Officers have been out on the beat conducting high visibility patrols to deter criminals and reassure the neighbourhood. Many of these patrols are targeting specific problems e.g. issues around groups of school children in the Purley area. Officers have also been conducting local surgeries and attending public events to get to know the communities they serve and the concerns they have.

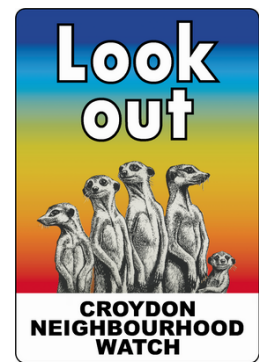
Officers in Purley have recently tackled beggars and street drinkers on the high street. They have handed out anti-social behaviour warnings to a number of individuals and a Community Protection Order to a local street drinker. Local businesses have responded positively to these actions.



South Norwood Safer Neighbourhood Team were made aware by numerous people of abandoned vehicles blocking a number of garages. Officers responded by seizing these cars and placing them in a pound.

The same team also recognised that there was an increase in cars being driven in the area without insurance and in a dangerous and inconsiderate manner.

Subsequent operations lead to multiple fines being given for; driving with no insurance, no valid MOT and driving whilst on a phone.



Burglary Advice

Below are some useful tips to secure your home:

- Please ensure that gates or access to the rear of your house are locked and secure.
- Don't forget to lock your shed; your tools can be used to break in.
- Trim overgrown plants - don't give burglars a hiding place.
- Fit security lighting, either dusk to dawn energy efficient lighting that will come on automatically as dusk sets in, or a passive infra-red (PIR) light that will draw attention to movement.
- Use an automatic time switch on an indoor light, either in a room that cannot be peered into from the road, or upstairs. Regularly change the timing on the switch.
- Put a time switch on a radio that has been tuned to a chat station, this will give the impression that the house is occupied. Again regularly change the timing on the switch.
- Property mark your valuables. Some articles are unsuitable for marking so photograph them with a ruler in view to show scale.
- Secure windows, paying particular attention to those on the ground floor and above flat roof areas. Always use locks and bolts and keep all your keys, including car keys, out of sight and out of reach.
- Intruder alarms are an effective deterrent against burglars. Before choosing a system ensure it is the one most suitable for your needs.



Crime Prevention Advice

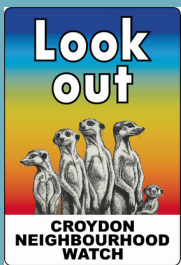
Unfortunately thefts of motor vehicles are an ongoing problem across the borough. Of particular note are what are called "keyless car thefts". Sanderstead Safer Neighbourhoods team have given us some crime prevention advice in regards keyless car thefts :-

What is keyless car theft? This issue concerns vehicles which are not started by a traditional key being placed into the ignition. These vehicles are started when the driver presses a button in the car in conjunction with the car key being close to the vehicle and emitting a signal enabling the engine to start up.

Suspects use a relay amplifier and a relay transmitter to commit the theft. Working in pairs they identify a house with a relevant car parked nearby. One person stands by the car with a transmitter while a second waves an amplifier around the perimeter of the house. If the car key is close enough the amplifier will detect its signal, amplify it, and send it to the accomplice's transmitter. This transmitter then effectively becomes the key, and tricks the car into thinking the real key is nearby. In total, this can take as little as 60 seconds and can be completed in near silence.



Protecting your car: An effective way of doing this is to block or minimise the signal that your key emits. This can be achieved by keeping your keys (including spare keys) away from doors and windows (particularly those that can be accessed easily from the street). Consider purchasing a Faraday pouch to keep the keys in (including spare keys). These pouches contain signal-blocking materials that stop your key transmitting its code, preventing thieves from being able to detect and amplify the signal. You should also check your car's manual or speak to your dealer to find out if your key can be switched off. It may also be worth considering purchasing a tracking device to place on your vehicle (make sure you keep the device out of sight.) This will help the police track and then recover your vehicle should the worst happen and it is stolen. You could also consider using a steering wheel lock, a driveway parking post, or even a wheel clamp to deter thieves. Finally, always manually check your vehicle is locked.



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Councillor Badsha Quadir

One of our long standing supporters of NHW sadly passed away in September. Badsha did so much to support Croydon NHW, including hosting fundraising events at the Royal Tandoori restaurant in Selsdon. His presence and encouragement will be sorely missed.

Your Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator's details:

For further crime prevention advice for your vehicle please type in the link below to your internet browser:

www.met.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/keeping-vehicles-safe/preventing-car-vehicle-theft/



www.cbnwa.com nhw@cbnwa.com

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