

# Sanderstead Newsletter

## Ward Priorities

### Burglary

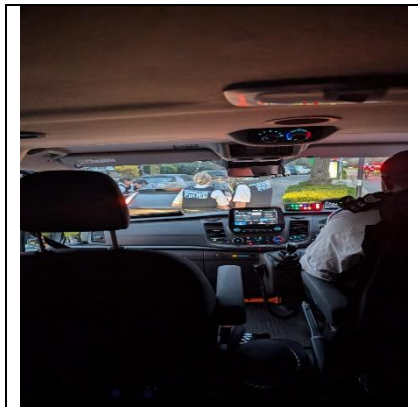
To visit every burglary on the ward. To maintain and reduce residential and non-residential burglaries across the ward.

### Vehicle Crime

To visit victims of vehicle theft. To reduce motor vehicle crime - including theft of and theft from motor vehicles.

### Community Engagements

To engage with members of the community ranging from youths to the elderly.



## **What is a Safer Neighbourhood's Teams (SNT)**

Your Safer Neighbourhood's Team (SNT) is a group of Met police officers dedicated to serving your community.

The team is made up of officers based in your area (or 'ward'), supported by additional officers from the wider area. We work closely with local authorities, community leaders and residents to decide our policing priorities for the area.

This helps us to find useful, long-term solutions to local problems, while maintaining our wider focus on reducing crime across London.

## **May Bulletin...**

This is the news round up of stories that made our monthly newsletter for May on our ward of Sanderstead.

There have been a few reports about school robberies across the borough of Croydon with Sanderstead being one of the wards affected.

Police response was swiftly pushed with OP ZOEDONE end of term robbery patrols which was action aiding to catch those identified as responsible in taking part in these robberies and bringing them to book.

Our push with these patrols has returned quite a few positive results, both in strengthening our young people's trust around safety and keeping a visible/or reassurance presence in and around our wards.

## **Community Lines?!!**

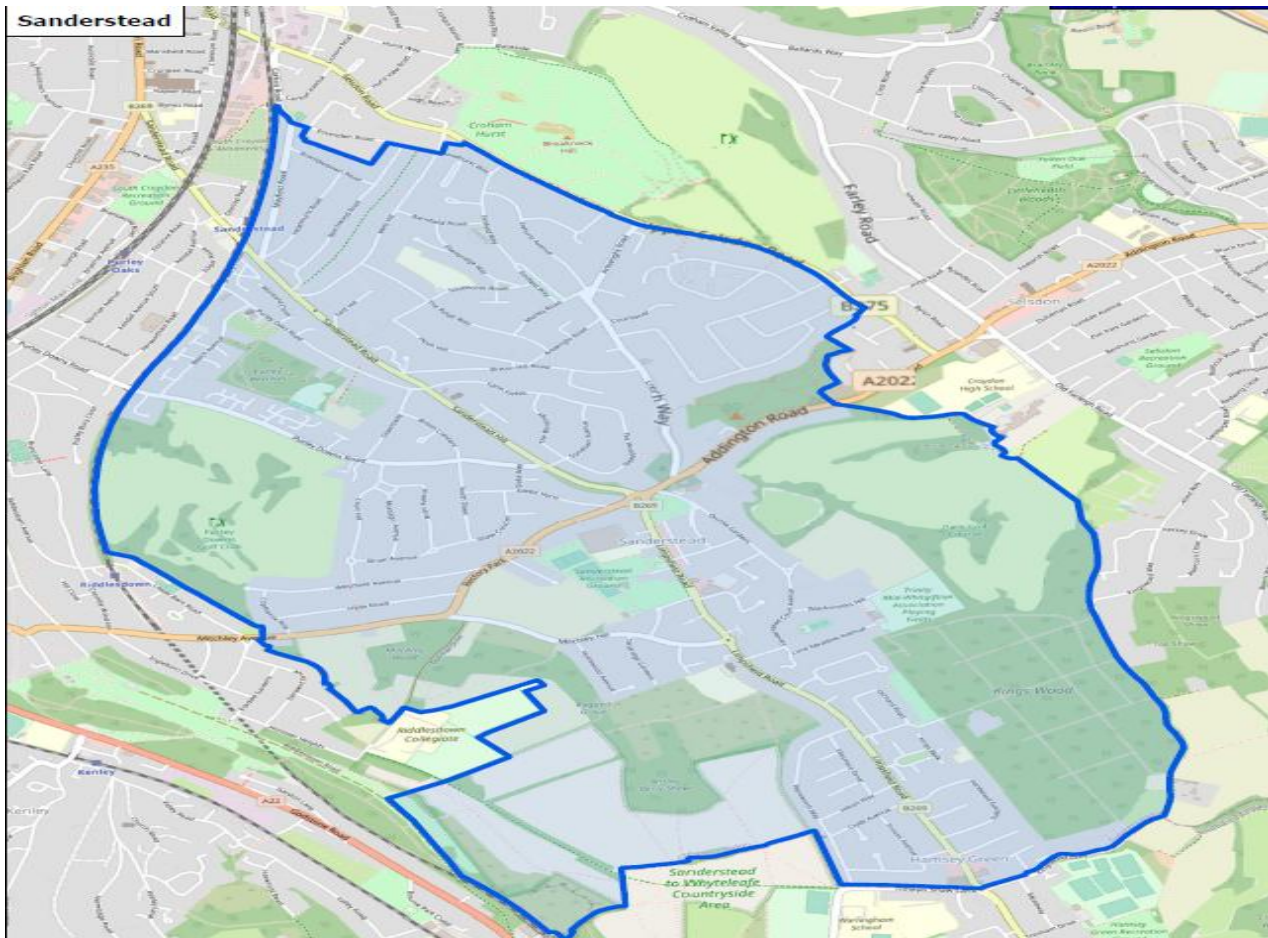
Our efforts behind community involvement and engagement are still taking shape in different forms of practice in and around our ward.

MET engage being one of these, which we still kindly urge residents to sign up to in trying to enhance our reach and interactive service with our residents in real time. The platform is a two-way reporting system where residents are alerted to on-goings on the ward policing wise and offers you the chance to make us aware of any concerns, queries or comments that are police related.

CUPPA with a COPPA is the other bit from our engagement bag that's also a face-to-face drop-in surgery that's held every month for a catch up with local residents about policing related matters.



Greater Manchester stands together against hate crime. LetsEndHateCrime.com



### Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch is about people getting together with their neighbours to take action to reduce crime.

They're community initiatives owned and run by their members which are supported by the police but not owned by them, although we sometimes run them.

They work by developing a close relationship between community members and the local police.

Neighbourhood Watch schemes can:

- cut crime and the opportunities for crime
- help and reassure those who live in the area
- Encourage neighbourliness and closer communities
- Go to [www.cbnwa.com](http://www.cbnwa.com) to find out what groups are active in your area and to register to join.

We organize contact points sessions, which are face to face sessions that members of the public can attend and discuss any concerns you may have with local officers

Please see dates, times and locations.

Please let us know if you plan on attending.

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2026- 18:30hrs-20:00hrs All Saints Church Hall Sanderstead Ward Panel**

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2026- 15:00hrs -16:00hrs CUPPA with a COPPA Maple Restaurant Limpsfield Road**

**Residential Burglary 01<sup>st</sup> May – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2026.**

<b>Crime Type</b>	<b>Date/Time Patterns</b>	<b>Road</b>	<b>Circumstances</b>
<b>Residential Burglary</b>	07/05/2026 at 02:20hrs	<b>Arundel Avenue</b>	Two Suspects gained entry to the property by smashing a ground floor rear door and a first-floor right hand window setting off the home alarm system. Police were notified and attended the address in time to catch up with one of the suspects(s) who has now been arrested on in connection with the burglary.
<b>Residential Burglary</b>	11/05/2026 at 14:00hrs	<b>Addington Road</b>	Informant alleges someone has stolen clothing items from her wardrobe in a shared accommodation

**Theft of a Motor Vehicle 01<sup>st</sup> May – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2026.**

<b>Crime Type</b>	<b>Date/Time Patterns</b>	<b>Road</b>	<b>Circumstances</b>
<b>Theft of a Motor Vehicle</b>	01/05/2026 at 15:20Hrs	<b>Lime Meadow Avenue</b>	Black Lexus vehicle was stolen from the victim's drive.
<b>Theft of a Motor Vehicle</b>	02/05/2026 at 09:00Hrs	<b>Blacksmiths Hill</b>	Informant reporting their vehicle stolen overnight by unknown suspects
<b>Theft of a Motor Vehicle</b>	05/05/2026 at 13:17Hrs	<b>Onslow Gardens</b>	Informant is a delivery driver who has reported his vehicle stolen after making a stop to make a delivery
<b>Theft of a Motor Vehicle</b>	06/05/2026 at 04:21Hrs	<b>Lime Meadow Avenue</b>	Victim's CCTV captured unknown suspects driving off in the victim's vehicle.
<b>Theft of a Motor Vehicle</b>	11/05/2026 at 19:20Hrs	<b>Purely Oaks Road</b>	Informant's daughter's Lexus vehicle was stolen near an address in purely oaks road.
<b>Theft of a Motor vehicle</b>	28/05/2026 at 11:51Hrs	<b>Purley Oaks Road</b>	Victim reported her car stolen by unknown suspects.

**Theft from a Motor Vehicle 01<sup>st</sup> May – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2026.**

<b>Crime Type</b>	<b>Date/Time Patterns</b>	<b>Road</b>	<b>Circumstances</b>
<b>Theft from a Motor Vehicle</b>	05/05/2026 at 17:35Hrs	<b>Purely Oaks Road</b>	Informant was standing at the front of their van when someone let themselves in from the back and stole tools from the van.
<b>Theft from a Motor Vehicle</b>	06/05/2026 at 13:20Hrs	<b>Purley Oaks Road</b>	Victim reported his Lexus vehicle being damaged because of suspects trying to pry open the front side bumper. Vehicle has been left immobilized
<b>Theft from a Motor Vehicle</b>	07/05/2026 at 06:00Hrs	<b>Mayfield Road</b>	Victim called to report his rear plate stolen from his vehicle.
<b>Theft from a Motor Vehicle</b>	11/05/2026 at 09:15Hrs	<b>Farm Fields</b>	Victim alleged the theft of fuel from their vehicle after a hole was drilled in the tank area and drained of its contents.
<b>Theft from a Motor vehicle</b>	15/05/2026 at 07:37Hrs	<b>Tithepit Shaw Lane</b>	Informant reported two suspects stealing fuel from a truck registered at Link2london. Officers attending the scene caught up with one of the suspects who has now been arrested having matched the description of those described on scene at the time of the incident
<b>Theft from a Motor vehicle</b>	15/05/2026 at 06:00Hrs	<b>The Woodfields</b>	Victim reported that he had his van drilled into with the suspects gaining access to this via the side of the van to steal his tools.
<b>Theft from a Motor Vehicle</b>	20/06/2026 at 13:58Hrs	<b>Limpsfield Road Waitrose</b>	Victim loading her shopping into a vehicle was approached by an alleged suspect looking for help with a puncture, Victim has then been distracted away from her handbag which contained a wallet that was stolen and used.
<b>Theft from a Motor Vehicle</b>	21/06/2026 at	<b>Mayfield Road</b>	Informant reported an alleged targeted attack on his vehicle with a bar. Car was pried open, but nothing was taken.

**As informed by our stats figures above, there's been a few notable stories of catching up with a few suspects within the different priorities set in our ward agenda.** Despite these efforts, we are still wholeheartedly committed to bringing more of those outstanding suspects to book and eventually lowering the numbers observed by these stats figures above.

As such and in keeping ourselves to task of fighting against crime and positively looking ahead, we will leave and continue sharing our material around preventative tips that specifically touch on theft of and from motor vehicles.

### 1. Lock your vehicle

Locking your vehicle, even when filling up or parked on your drive, greatly reduces the possibility of it being targeted by an opportunist thief. Even if you have locked your vehicle, check you haven't left any windows or the sunroof open.

It is illegal to leave your vehicle running unattended while you de-ice it or warm it up in cold weather. If someone takes it while it's left like this, your insurer won't pay out because you won't be covered.

If your vehicle has wing mirrors that fold in automatically when locked, make sure you lock it properly. Criminal gangs are looking for vehicles like these where the wing mirrors are still out because it is clear to them that the vehicle has been left unlocked.

### 2. Keep the keys safe

Vehicles today are by and large more difficult to steal than ever, unless the thief can access your key or fob to clone them. Keep your keys safe, out of view when at home, and away from your front door. It's not uncommon for car keys to be stolen from inside your home by thieves fishing for them with a stick and hook through the letterbox.

If you're selling your car and you meet up with a potential buyer, do not allow the keys out of your sight. Your keys may be cloned by thieves and used later to steal your vehicle.

#### Keyless entry

Cars with keyless entry unlock automatically when the key comes within a short distance of the car. This can be from inside a pocket or bag. If you have to push a button on your car key to open your car, you don't have keyless entry. Keyless car theft or 'relay theft' is when a device is used to fool the car into thinking the key is close by. This unlocks the car and starts the ignition.

Thieves only need to be within a few metres of your car key to capture the signal, even if it's inside your home. This means that even if your car and home are secure, thieves can still unlock, start and steal your car.

#### How to protect your keyless entry car

- When at home keep your car key (and the spare) well away from the car.
- Put the keys in a screened or signal-blocking pouch, such as a Faraday Bag and check if the bag or pouch is still working every few months.
- Reprogramme your keys if you buy a second-hand car.
- Turn off wireless signals on your fob when it's not being used.

Additional physical security such as locks and immobilisers are still highly recommended. [Section six](#) on this page has more information about this.

### 3. Be aware of carjackers

The fact that you're in the car isn't always a deterrent to someone trying to steal it.

In traffic, drive with the doors locked and when queuing leave enough space in front of your vehicle to enable you to get out of a tight spot. If your vehicle is bumped from behind, wait to pull over – somewhere safe and preferably where there are people. After all, you don't know the person who has collided with you; they could well be hijackers. If you're at all suspicious, consider calling the police.

If someone threatens you, it's better to hand over the keys to the vehicle than become a victim of assault. Then call [999](#) as soon as possible and ask for the police.

If your car is stolen, some modern vehicle alarm and tracker systems have the facility to isolate or shut down fuel systems, bringing the vehicle to a halt and leaving the thief high and dry.

#### 4. Park responsibly

It's always advisable to avoid parking in dark and secluded areas. It's worth an extra five or ten-minute walk if it means your vehicle is left in a well-lit and busier street.

And if possible, always try to park in illuminated and staffed car parks or those with a park Mark safer parking award. To find one, simply check out [Park Mark](#).

#### 5. Watch for illegal tow trucks

Thieves often attempt to lift vehicles from the street, literally. So, if you see a towaway crew acting suspiciously – especially if their vehicle isn't branded or if they're not in uniform – then please report it immediately.

As with every report of suspicious behaviour made in good faith, we'll never blame anyone for calling us if it proves unfounded.

Car parks with height-restricted entrances help prevent illegal tow trucks and removal vehicles. And fitting a [Thatcham rated](#) category 1 or 2 alarm system with tracking, immobilisation, anti-grab and movement sensors can help protect and trace your vehicle.

#### 6. Fit good in-car security locks

Additional physical security can help to prevent your vehicle being driven away even if a thief gains entry. There are a range of security rated products tested by [Sold Secure](#) that can help, such as steering wheel locks, pedal boxes and gear stick locks.

Some of these products, tested to Sold Secure Diamond, can even resist a small hand-held angle grinder.

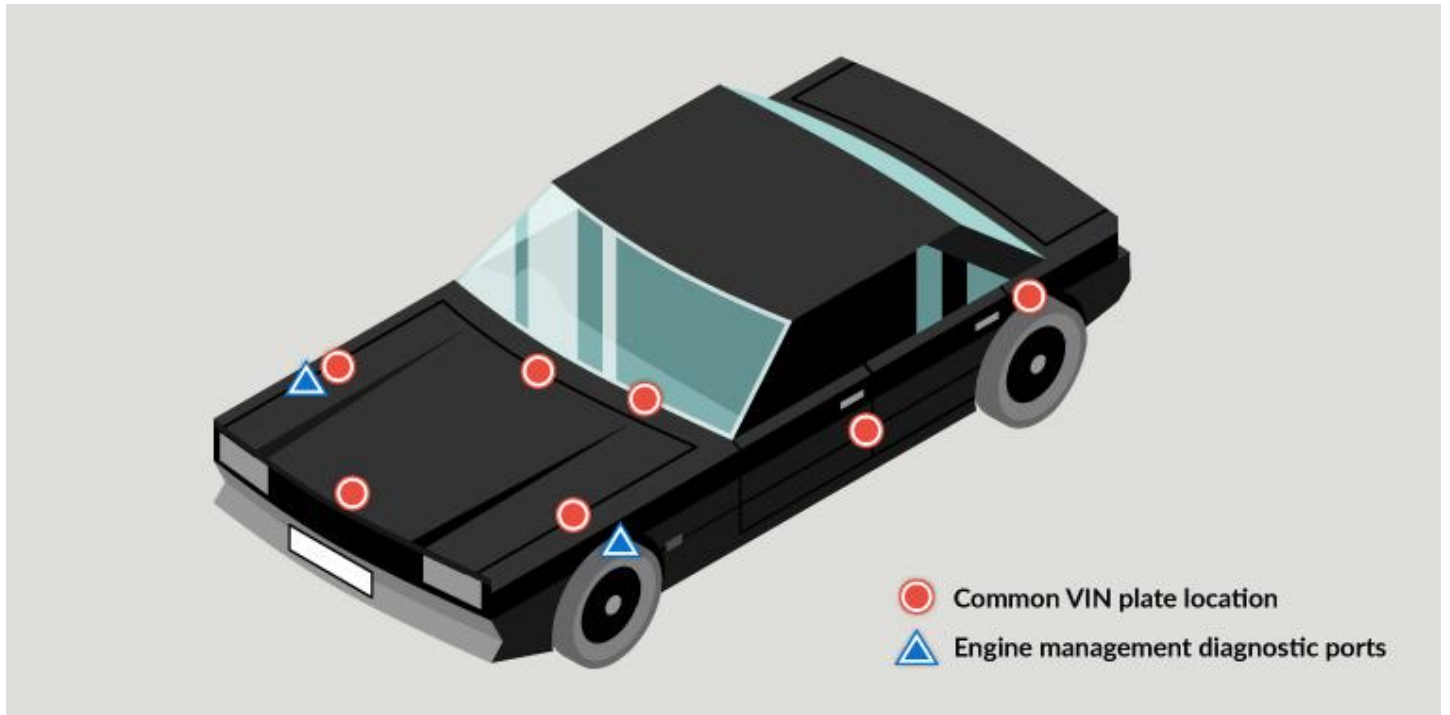
It's also worth speaking to your vehicle dealership about installing an aftermarket immobiliser approved by the manufacturer.

Immobilisers prevent a vehicle from starting unless the correct fob, key or activation process is used. They can be personalised so that you're the only one who knows how to unset it via a number of dashboard controls.

#### 7. Double-check electronic locking

Electronic devices can be used to jam the electronic signal from your key fob to lock your vehicle. Always manually check your vehicle has locked before walking away.

If unsure, lock it manually, then scan the immediate area for anyone hanging around. If a potential thief who's watching feels they've been spotted, they'll probably move off.



#### 8. Before owning, check for cloning

Changing the identity of a vehicle, known as vehicle cloning, can be as simple as adding stolen number plates. When buying a vehicle, always check the DVLA V5 document and make sure the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) on the vehicle is the same as on the document.

Make sure you check more than one of the VINs as well as the engine numbers on the vehicle (see diagram).

[Check a used vehicle you're buying.](#)

#### 9. Secure your port

Many modern vehicles are fitted with engine management diagnostic ports, which can unlock and start your vehicle. If your vehicle has this type of port, consider fitting a lockable cover.

A determined burglar can be difficult to discourage. Good-quality doors, windows and locks are excellent deterrents, but there's even more you can do to slow down burglars in their tracks.

## **Our Extra Bits...**

### **MET Engage, so why sign up?**

The platform will allow you get timely alerts on crimes, scams and fraud in your area, safety tips and prevention advice, local officer updates on community events/or detail and lastly, you will have a platform to help you voice your concerns to help shape local policing priorities.

Met Engage supplements, but does not replace, official reporting channels i.e. contacts such as (999,101 and the police online submission form). Your data will also be kept secure and used for sending relevant trusted information.

<https://www.metengage.co.uk/>