

Community Safety

The newsletter from
Hart District Council



Issue 30 - October 2023

This Newsletter aims to provide information around safeguarding and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), raise awareness of current issues across the district and promote the good work of our partner agencies and celebrate the successes we have had.

We can be contacted online: [Report antisocial behaviour | Hart District Council](#)
by phone: Rachael **07816 109687** / Mark **07583 002018**
or by e-mail: communitysafety@hart.gov.uk

Preventing Theft from Vehicles

Whilst incidents of theft from vehicles in Hart remains relatively low, the school runs are now back in full swing and the evenings are starting draw in, which means that now is the time to be reminded of some simple steps everyone can take to keep personal belongings safe.

For local context, a series of car crime in neighbouring borough, Rushmoor, led to a proactive police operation resulting in the arrest of a suspect and an opportunity to investigate a spate of thefts in Aldershot for which the suspect is now on bail. In one of the offences, a £700 iPhone was stolen.

Word of such lucrative opportunities gets around and could lead to a spike in such crimes. Here then are some simple steps to keep your property safe and avoid being a victim of crime:

Be extra vigilant on the school run. Thieves will target school locations knowing that busy parents and carers often leave valuables in vehicles whilst away for a short time. Crime prevention advice is to take valuable items with you or conceal them and be sure to lock your vehicle – remembering that on modern vehicles, wing mirrors not retracted can be an indication of an unlocked vehicle.

Overnight parked vehicles are vulnerable. It is important to secure your vehicle and remove all items of value. Thieves will roam areas trying door handles for insecure vehicles. Park in street-lit areas or if off-road, fit a motion activated security light.

Trade vehicles are often targeted. There are ongoing reports of theft from vans parked in pub or travel accommodation car parks, targeting tools. Tradespersons are reminded of this risk and to secure vehicles or park against fixed structures to deter access. Proactive police operations continue in an effort to apprehend offenders.

If you are a victim of theft from your vehicle, you need to report it to Police. Police record all reported crime and where patterns emerge, they can establish which areas are affected including times and dates leading to proactive action, as the above Aldershot case demonstrates.

Keep a record. All electronic goods will have the make, model and serial number affixed, the latter being unique to the item. These can be passed to the police when a crime report is made. Following the arrest of suspects, searches are conducted of the vehicles and homes used or visited by them. When suspected

stolen property is found, the police can match it to a crime providing evidence of theft or handling, which in turn can enable the return of stolen property to the rightful owner.



Report all crime, including suspicious activity to Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary (HIOW) by reporting it [online](#) or calling **101** – or calling **999** if the crime is in progress.

For any [further advice](#), see the HIOW website.

Community Safety in Action

Issue

Reports are received of suspicious activity on a residential road with frequent and numerous cars and people visiting a property and staying for short periods of time, disturbing other residents and raising concerns of possible drug related activity.

Response

Community Safety team provide advice to residents raising reports not to put themselves in any danger but to try and gather as much information as possible and share with police through their [online reporting tool](#) which can accept reports of suspicious activity - 'something you've seen or heard' - as well as crimes and ASB.

Action

Community Safety team raise concerns with both Priority Crime and Neighbourhood Policing Teams for awareness and the possibility of increased patrolling in the area as well as for an increased intelligence picture, where there is already some knowledge of drug activity and other action is planned or in progress.

Outcomes

Disruption of drug networks and a greater chance of catching those involved in drug related activity with the additional support of community eyes and ears providing support.

Neighbourhood Watch in New Partnership

Neighbourhood Watch are excited to team up with SimpliSafe as their first ever charity partner, bringing many benefits for their members, including exclusive discounts on their smart home security products, and expert advice on burglary prevention and home security.

SimpliSafe protects over 4 million people across the US and UK, delivering advanced, yet affordable security solutions including sensors for every window, room and door, indoor and outdoor HD security cameras and hazard detectors to guard against fires, floods and burst pipes. They are all powered by 24/7 professional monitoring with no long-term contracts. Their options are suitable for both homeowners and renters alike and additional components can be added to the system at any time, and can also be taken with you if you decide to move.

For information on Neighbourhood Watch, schemes near you and how to join, visit www.ourwatch.org.uk

Massive Well Done and Thanks to Fleet Phoenix

Seventeen amazing young people took centre stage on Friday 20th October 2023 when they triumphed in the first ever Hart Youth Achievement Awards, organised by the charity Fleet Phoenix. The event was attended by more than 100 people, including the young people and their families, the award sponsors, Town & Parish, District and County Councillors, the committee team and the charity's trustees, and staff.

A truly positive and inspirational night.

If you have received this monthly **Hart Community Safety Newsletter** forwarded to you and you would like to subscribe and receive it directly, please drop us a line with your request at:
communitysafety@hart.gov.uk