

# Community Safety

The newsletter from  
Hart District Council



Issue 48 April 2025

**This Newsletter aims to provide information around safeguarding and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), raise awareness of current issues across the district, 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: **01252 774476** or by e-mail: [communitysafety@hart.gov.uk](mailto:communitysafety@hart.gov.uk)

## Fire Safety and Wildfire Prevention – Key Tips for Safety

Now that we're starting to see some warmer weather here in the UK, many are eager to get outside and enjoy it. Whether it's a BBQ in the garden, a weekend camping trip, or a hike through the countryside, it's important to keep fire safety in mind as wildfires can be a real risk - especially during dry spells - and it only takes a small spark to cause a huge problem, so here are some tips to avoid them:

**Dispose of BBQs Responsibly:** We all love a good BBQ, but disposable ones can be a hidden danger. Make sure your BBQ is fully out before you toss it away—hot coals can smoulder for hours, and if discarded on dry grass, they can start a fire. Try to let it cool completely, or if you're unsure, douse it with water to be safe.

**Campfires and Open Flames:** If you're planning to light a campfire, check if there are any local restrictions first. During hot weather, certain areas may ban open flames to prevent wildfires. Always keep fires small, never leave them unattended, and be sure to extinguish them fully with water before heading off.

**Choose Safe Locations:** When you're out enjoying the outdoors, try to avoid lighting BBQs or campfires in dry, grassy, or wooded areas. These spots can easily catch fire, especially after a spell of dry weather.

Stick to designated areas where it's safer to have a fire and always keep an eye on local fire warnings.

**Keep an Eye Out:** If you see someone acting irresponsibly with fire - whether it's starting an uncontrolled flame or leaving their BBQ unattended - don't hesitate to report it to the authorities. A small bit of vigilance can help prevent a much bigger disaster.



Let's make the most of the sunshine while staying safe! A little caution goes a long way in keeping our beautiful countryside protected and ensuring we all get to enjoy the outdoors without any unintended hazards.

## Tackling Vehicle Antisocial Behaviour in Our Communities

You may have noticed an increase in noisy or dangerous driving in your neighbourhood—revving engines late at night, vehicles gathering in car parks, or reckless speeding through residential streets. This is known as vehicle antisocial behaviour (ASB), and it's a growing concern in many communities across the UK, including here in our own district.

Vehicle ASB isn't just a nuisance—it can seriously impact people's sense of safety and wellbeing. It can disturb sleep, make it difficult for families to enjoy local spaces, and even put lives at risk. We work closely with local police, housing teams, and residents to address this issue. This includes using powers such as Section 59 notices, vehicle seizures, and targeted patrols in hotspot areas. But we also need your help to make a real difference.

If you witness vehicle ASB in your area - whether it's dangerous driving, loud meet-ups, or persistent noise - you can report it in the following ways:

- ☎ Call 101 for non-emergency police reports      🌐 Report online at [Hampshire Police | Report a Crime](#)  
✉ Contact our Community Safety Team directly at [communitysafety@hart.gov.uk](mailto:communitysafety@hart.gov.uk)

***Always call 999 in an emergency or if a crime is in progress***

Every report helps us build a clearer picture of where and when vehicle ASB is happening so we can gather evidence to take targeted action where possible. Let's work together to keep our streets safe and our communities peaceful.

### **Charging E-Scooters & E-Bikes: A Wake-Up Call for Hampshire Residents**

As electric scooters and bikes become more popular across Hampshire, so do the risks associated with charging them overnight. Recent incidents have highlighted the dangers of leaving these devices plugged in unattended - especially when using non-original or faulty chargers.

In Bordon, an e-scooter's battery exploded while charging, resulting in a house fire that required emergency services to evacuate the occupants. Similarly, in Southampton, a charging e-scooter ignited in the early hours, filling a child's room with toxic smoke. Thanks to a working smoke alarm, the family was alerted in time to evacuate safely. These incidents are part of a broader trend. In 2023, the UK reported 199 fires involving e-bikes and e-scooters, with 161 of those involving e-bikes. Many of these fires were linked to substandard batteries and chargers.

#### **Safety Tips for Charging Your E-Scooter or E-Bike:**

- Use the original charger that came with your device
- Avoid charging overnight or when you're not at home
- Charge on a hard, flat surface in a well-ventilated area
- Keep devices away from flammable materials and never block escape routes
- Never leave charging unattended, especially in bedrooms or hallways



#### **Know the Law Before You Ride**

While electric bikes that meet specific criteria are legal to ride on roads and cycle paths, privately owned e-scooters cannot be used legally on public roads, pavements, or cycle lanes - only on private land with permission. Trial rental e-scooters may be used in designated areas, but all other usage remains illegal and could result in fines or points on your driving license.

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service offers free home safety checks and smoke alarm installations for those in need. For more details, visit [www.hantsfire.gov.uk](http://www.hantsfire.gov.uk)

### **Safeguarding is everyone's business – What to do if you're concerned**

Abuse can happen anywhere and to anyone – family, friends, strangers. So, what is abuse? Let's break it down:

- Physical abuse, such as hitting, pushing, locking someone in a room.
- Sexual abuse, such as inappropriate touching, or being forced into any sexual act against
- Psychological or Emotional abuse, such as bullying, taunting, ignoring or humiliating someone
- Financial or material abuse, such as misusing, withholding or taking someone's money
- Modern Slavery, including Human Trafficking, Forced Labour, Domestic Servitude or Sexual Exploitation
- Neglect or acts of omission, such as not providing necessary food, care or medicine.
- Self-Neglect, or lack of self-care to an extent that it threatens personal health and safety.

#### **If you are concerned about a safeguarding issue here is what to do and who to tell:**

If someone is in **immediate danger**, or a crime is happening **NOW: CALL 999**

If your concern relates to an **ADULT**: call 0300 555 1386 or report your concerns [here](#).

If your concern relates to a **CHILD**: call 0300 555 1384 or report your concerns [here](#).

If you are unsure or if you would like advice, you can contact us at [communitysafety@hart.gov.uk](mailto:communitysafety@hart.gov.uk)

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**[communitysafety@hart.gov.uk](mailto:communitysafety@hart.gov.uk)**