

Community Safety

The newsletter from
Hart District Council



Issue 53 September 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

Staying Safe on Nights Out: Be Aware of Drink Spiking

Going out with friends should be fun and safe, but unfortunately incidents of spiking – whether by adding substances to drinks or through needle spiking – have been reported across the UK in recent years. While thankfully these cases remain rare, it's important to be aware of the risks and take simple steps to protect yourself and others.

What is spiking?

Spiking is when drugs or alcohol are added to someone's drink without their knowledge or consent. Substances can be used to make someone vulnerable, with effects ranging from feeling unusually drunk, dizzy, nauseous or confused, to losing consciousness.

What to look out for:

- Feeling suddenly more intoxicated than expected.
- Drowsiness, confusion or memory loss.
- Difficulty standing, walking or speaking.
- Sudden sickness or blurred vision.

Steps to keep safe on a night out:

- Always keep your drink with you and never leave it unattended.
- Stick with friends and look out for one another.
- Avoid accepting drinks from strangers, and watch them being prepared if possible.
- Use drink protectors (such as lids or covers) if available.
- If you feel unwell or suspect you have been spiked, tell a trusted friend, a member of staff or security immediately and seek medical help.
- Call 999 if you or someone else needs urgent medical attention.



Looking out for others:

If you notice someone who appears unusually drowsy, confused or disoriented, stay with them, alert staff, and do not let them leave with someone you do not know.

By staying aware and supporting each other, we can all help make nights out safer and more enjoyable.

Home Security as the Nights Draw In

As the evenings get darker earlier, it's a good time to think about home security. Opportunistic burglars often take advantage of the cover of darkness, but there are simple steps you can take to make your home less appealing to them.

Practical tips to help keep your home safe:

- **Use lights wisely** – set timers or use smart plugs so your home looks occupied, even when you're out.



- **Lock doors and windows** – double-check all entry points, even when you're at home.
- **Secure sheds and garages** – tools and bikes are common targets.
- **Keep valuables out of sight** – don't leave handbags, keys, or electronics visible from windows.
- **Consider outdoor lighting** – motion-sensor lights can deter unwanted visitors.
- **Check your garden** – trim back bushes and hedges near entrances so there are fewer hiding spots.

- **Neighbourhood watch** – let a neighbour know if you're away so they can keep an eye out.

A few small changes can make a big difference in keeping your property safe. Taking steps now means you can enjoy the winter months with extra peace of mind.

Supporting People Who Are Homeless

As the weather turns colder, it is natural to feel concerned for those who may be sleeping rough. While many of us want to help by offering food, drink, or money, this can sometimes make it harder for specialist agencies to reach people and provide the right long-term support.

The most effective way to help is to report any concerns directly to Hart District Council. The council has dedicated teams who can engage with individuals, offer advice, and connect them with accommodation and other essential services. By reporting, you ensure the person gets professional support tailored to their situation.

What you can do:

- Do not give food, drink, or money – this does not address the root causes and may prevent people from accessing professional help.
- Report rough sleeping to Hart District Council so the outreach team can step in quickly.
- Show care and compassion by directing people to services that can make a real difference.

By working together and reporting concerns, we can make sure people who are homeless receive the right help and have a better chance of moving into safe, secure accommodation.

If you are worried about someone locally, please contact us at communitysafety@hart.gov.uk and we can ensure that the right help is given.

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