

Community Safety

The newsletter from
Hart District Council



Issue 54 October 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

Halloween Safety & Respect Reminder

Halloween is a time for spooky fun, but it's also important to make sure everyone feels safe and respected in our communities. Whether you're out trick-or-treating or staying in, here are some key reminders to help keep the evening enjoyable for all:



Be Respectful: Not everyone celebrates Halloween and some residents - especially older or vulnerable individuals - may find unexpected visitors distressing. Please respect homes displaying "No Trick or Treat" signs and avoid knocking where it's clear visitors aren't welcome.

Avoid Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB): Halloween can sometimes see a rise in ASB, including vandalism, noise, and intimidating behaviour. Let's work together to keep our neighbourhoods safe and welcoming. If you witness or experience ASB, please report it to: **Police (non-emergency) by calling 101, Crimestoppers (to remain anonymous) by calling 0800 555 111 or Hart Community Safety via communitysafety@hart.gov.uk**

Tips for Parents & Guardians

- **Plan your route:** *Stick to well-lit areas and familiar streets*
- **Supervise young children:** *Always accompany them or ensure they're with a trusted adult*
- **Check costumes:** *Make sure they're visible in the dark and safe to walk in*
- **Inspect treats:** *Only accept sealed, packaged items and check them before eating*
- **Set boundaries:** *Talk to children about being polite, respectful, and not knocking on doors with "No Trick or Treat" signs*

Drivers, please be extra cautious of pedestrians in costume. And for those celebrating at home, consider keeping pets indoors and secure, as fireworks and door knocks can be distressing.

**Let's make this Halloween a safe, respectful, and fun evening for everyone.
Thank you for helping us support a caring community!**

Darker Evenings – Stay Safe This Autumn

With the clocks going back and evenings drawing in earlier, it's a good time to think about how we can all stay safe and secure during the darker months.

Personal Safety:

- Stick to well-lit routes and avoid shortcuts through isolated areas.
- Keep your phone charged and let someone know your plans if you're heading out alone.
- Be aware of your surroundings—avoid distractions like headphones when walking at night.

Vehicle Safety:

- Check your lights are working properly and clean your windscreen regularly.
- Don't leave valuables visible inside your car—remove bags, tech, and loose change.

- Park in well-lit areas or secure car parks wherever possible.

Home Security:

- Use timers on lights to give the impression someone's home.
- Keep doors and windows locked, even when you're in.
- Store bins and tools securely to prevent them being used to gain access.

Let's all do our part to keep ourselves and our communities safe as the nights get longer.

Stay Safe, Stay Informed - Community Safety Team Returns to Hart Schools

Hart District Council's Community Safety Team is excited to announce the return of the Stay Safe programme for the new academic year, in partnership with local secondary schools across Hart.

Last year, the initiative reached over **1,479 students**, delivering powerful sessions on key topics such as **anti-social behaviour, knife crime, healthy relationships**, and a **standout interactive drama** performance by Challenge Academy. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with students praising the sessions for being **informative, engaging, and empowering**.



Students shared how the discussions around domestic abuse, mental health, and personal safety helped them feel more confident and aware of the support available. Hearing directly from experts made a lasting impact, sparking meaningful conversations and reflection.

But it wasn't just the students who benefited — parent sessions held alongside the programme were a resounding success. With strong attendance and active participation, parents gained valuable insights into recognising signs of Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and drug use and learned practical ways to support their children. The interactive format encouraged open dialogue, making these sessions a vital extension of the student experience.

This year, we're building on that success and looking forward to reaching even more young people and families.

Want to learn more or get involved?

Contact your child's secondary school or reach out to the Community Safety Team at:

communitysafety@hart.gov.uk

Bonfire Night – Stay Safe, Stay Legal, Be Respectful

Once the thrill of Halloween ends, we quickly move into Bonfire Night and we want to remind everyone to enjoy the celebrations safely and responsibly. Fireworks and bonfires can be great fun, but they also come with risks and responsibilities.

Firework Safety Tips:

- Only buy fireworks from licensed sellers and check they're CE marked
- Follow instructions carefully and store fireworks safely prior to use
- Light fireworks at arm's length using a taper - never go back once lit
- Keep pets indoors and ensure children are supervised at all times
- Never throw fireworks or use them irresponsibly - it's both very dangerous and illegal

Bonfire Safety:

- Keep bonfires small, manageable, and well away from buildings, trees, and fences
- Never use petrol or other accelerants to light a fire
- Don't burn household waste or anything that could release toxic fumes
- Always have water or a hose nearby in case of emergency

Know the Law:

- It's illegal to set off fireworks between 11pm and 7am (midnight on Bonfire Night)
- Fireworks must not be sold to anyone under 18
- Anti-social use of fireworks can result in fines or prosecution



Let's work together to keep our communities safe, respectful, and enjoyable this Bonfire 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