

Community Safety

The newsletter from
Hart District Council



Issue 57 January 2026

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

Catching Up with the Blackwater Women's Institute

Our Community Safety Officers Caroline and Mark enjoyed a brilliant session this week with the Blackwater Women's Institute, who invited us along for a chat about a range of important safety topics.

We covered personal safety when out and about, cold callers, and the growing issue of online scams. The group were also keen to discuss protecting property and securing vehicles, with lots of practical tips shared throughout.

A really valuable part of the conversation focused on information sharing across generations, how our decisions can influence younger family members, and why talking openly about online safety is more important than ever.

We also spoke about community inclusion, the values we champion across Hart, our new rural crime policy, and the challenges around digital exclusion for older residents.

It was a warm, thoughtful and engaging visit, thank you to everyone who joined in!

Want Us to Visit Your Group?

If you're part of a social group and would like us to come along for a talk on any safety related topic, please get in touch. We'd be happy to join you.

New National 'Report Fraud' Service Launched

Police have launched Report Fraud in December 2025, a new national service that replaces the previous Action Fraud.

The service creates a single, easy way for people and businesses to report cyber-crime and fraud. The system replaces older reporting routes and aims to make the process quicker, clearer and more supportive for victims.



Cyber-crime and fraud now account for around half of all crime in the UK, costing billions each year. There were nearly 12,000 reports between October 2024 and October 2025 of fraud and cybercrime recorded in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight which amounted to more than £150 million in financial losses.

The new service improves how intelligence is gathered and shared across police forces, helping identify serious cases more quickly and strengthening the national response.

For our community in Hart, this means simpler reporting, better victim support, and stronger protection for residents, especially those more vulnerable to scams, including older people or anyone less confident online. Every report helps build intelligence to prevent others becoming victims.

You can now report online at www.reportfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

Got an E-Scooter for Christmas? Here's What the Law Says

E-scooters are becoming a popular gift, but the rules around using them often catch people out. In the UK, privately owned e-scooters are not allowed on public roads, pavements, cycle lanes or parks. They're classed as motor vehicles, and because they don't meet requirements like insurance, tax and type approval, they can only be ridden on private land with permission. Riding in public can result in fines, penalty points, and the scooter being seized.



The only e-scooters legally permitted on public roads are those from official rental trial schemes in selected areas. To use one, you need at least a provisional driving licence, and you must follow the scheme's safety rules and local restrictions. They still cannot be used on pavements.

While the government continues to explore future legislation, current laws remain unchanged: if it's privately owned, keep it on private land.

So, if you or a family member, friend or neighbour unwrapped an e-scooter this Christmas, enjoy it safely, and make sure you're riding it in the right place.

Off-Road Bikes: Damage to Our Parks

Following a rise in incidents across the district, off-road bikes are causing serious harm to our local parks. When ridden illegally, they can tear up grass, damage footpaths, erode landscapes and disturb wildlife, creating unsafe conditions for families and other park users.

Police across the UK link off-road bikes to persistent antisocial behaviour, including noise disturbance and dangerous riding. Forces have been seizing illegal bikes, increasing patrols, and using drones and forensic marking to identify offenders.

It remains illegal to ride an off-road bike on public land without permission, and bikes can be seized. New proposals even allow police to crush antisocial vehicles within 48 hours to deter repeat offences.



If you see any incidents involving off-road bikes, please report them to the police or Community Safety Team so action can be taken.

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communitysafety@hart.gov.uk