



FLEET & DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

fleetnhw.co.uk

NEWSLETTER
Volume 28 Number 2
Spring 2022

A quick guide to reporting crime

Police emergency - call 999 if:

There is danger to life
A crime is happening now or has just happened
You have immediate concerns for safety
There is a dangerous incident on the road/motorway
You see something suspicious that needs attention

Not an emergency – call 101

Crimes that are not in progress
Non urgent information
Criminal damage/theft/theft from vehicle (can be reported at <https://www.hampshire.police.uk>)
General information & advice <https://www.hampshire.police.uk>

Calls to 101 are now free

Crimestoppers

If you don't want to talk to police you can call 0800 555 111 anonymously. This is NOT an emergency service. <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>

Reporting Fraud and Scams

Call Police on 101 quoting:
'Operation Signature'
Keep up to date at Action Fraud <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>
Tel - 0300 123 2040
Citizens Advice Consumer Service
Tel - 0808 223 1133
www.citizensadvice.org.uk
Postal and competition scams
www.thinkjessica.com

Doorstep Callers/Rogue Traders

Never employ passing tradesmen
Know your rights e.g. 14 day cooling off period
Contact Citizens Advice Consumer Service www.citizensadvice.org.uk
Tel - 0808 223 1133
Tell Trading Standards if you have been called on by doorstep callers with as much information as you can
If you feel intimidated or threatened call 999

****Let's improve the circulation of the E-newsletters****

Please send a copy by email to your local friends, colleagues and neighbours

Chairman's Report

With Covid restrictions now behind us, let us hope we can return to a more normal lifestyle. However, please do take care because the virus has not gone away. At the Hart residents' meeting in March, the doctor's presentation reminded us that Hart has a high level of infections and we need to observe reasonable precautions like masks in shops, transport, and in other enclosed spaces.

During lockdown and other restrictions it has been impossible to maintain our quarterly printed newsletter. We have lost a number of senior coordinators and coordinators through retirement or a reluctance to walk the streets to deliver the newsletters. However, we don't want to lose sight of existing or potential members, and to assist with this our editor has been sending a copy of the NHW newsletter by email to those able to receive one. If you use email and feel you are missing out by not receiving our quarterly NHW newsletter, please notify our editor, secretary or me with your email address and you will be added to the circulation list. We must make a determined effort to keep and increase our local membership. In these difficult times we must not lose sight of our purpose of helping to keep the criminals at bay.

Make sure that you are fully vaccinated and stay well.

David Bunclark - Chairman

FLEET & DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH 2022 Annual General Meeting

Planned for Thursday 22 September 2022

**Details to be announced in the
Summer edition of the newsletter**

E-newsletters - please sign up now

Because of the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic and to safeguard our members, we have decided that, as with all recent editions, this Spring newsletter will only be distributed by email.

How do I receive E-newsletters?

It is easy: you can sign up as a subscriber free of charge on the NHW website (fleetnhw.co.uk) or send your email address to me, my contact details are on page 4.

You will then receive regular quarterly emails with the NHW E-newsletter attached.

Editor - Alan MacGregor

Report for period 26 January - 3 April 2022

The aim of this report is to allow members of the local community represented by members of the NHW to be aware of what crime has occurred recently. Thereby allowing the local community to be on the lookout and to ensure their property is secure and the chances of being a victim of crime reduced.

In terms of crime per thousand of the population, Hart remains the safest district in the Hampshire and IOW Constabulary and one of the safest in the UK. With the communities support we will continue to reduce crime and the fear of crime.

Changes

Police Sgt Helen Wentworth is now well settled within the team and we are now a team of 13 strong looking after the Hart South area. The team now consists of seven PCs, two PCSOs (with one more joining with us in the summer) as well as our three Special Constables and the Sergeant.

Burglaries

There have been 16 burglaries, seven were businesses and nine residential. Of the business burglaries, three were of outbuildings and four are still under investigation. One of these was at a business address on Ancells Farm where police were alerted by a member of the public to a window being smashed and a light on in the building. On police attendance a search was conducted which led to a male being found on site and arrested on suspicion of burglary, the investigation still ongoing. Regarding the nine residential burglaries, an increase of one since the last report, all but three are still under investigation. Three of these were of bikes were taken from bike sheds and garages. One where a house was broken into while the resident was on holiday. Three where jewellery and cash were taken and another two where cash and other items were taken from people known to the residents.

Thefts

There were 105 thefts during the reporting period which is a significant increase since the last report. Nineteen of these were individuals making off without paying for fuel, the majority of which were from the Tesco Express petrol station on Reading Road South. Fifteen were of shoplifting offences from various shops in Fleet. There were three thefts of bicycles, one from the Fleet Town centre, one from the Hart Leisure Centre and the other from Morrisons. There were 21 reports of thefts from vehicles where individuals had gone around checking car doors and taking items from cars that had not been locked (Note: Thankfully the majority of these attempted thefts resulted in nothing being taken; however, individuals were encouraged by the police to report all of the incidents so that we could build up a picture of what was happening in the area). There were 10 thefts of vehicles, four of which were high value BMW/Mercedes with keyless entry that were taken off drives in the early hours – investigations are still ongoing. The other 37 incidents were thefts from a person, which is a substantial increase from the last report, and I cannot go into detail for each one. Many of these were parcels reported as stolen from doorsteps plus metal being taken from a skip. However, there were also incidents where bank cards of individuals were stolen and money taken out of their bank accounts. There was also a purse stolen from a handbag. In addition, there was a dog theft, where the dog was subsequently found after a Facebook appeal by the victim – this investigation is still ongoing.

Road Related Incidents

There were 78 road related incidents during the period. Of these 26 were damage only, five with minor injury and one resulted in a serious injury. The remainder were of various reports including speeding, no insurance, driving while using a mobile phone, parking issues, etc. as well as two reports of dangerous driving.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in the Community including Suspicious Incidents

There were 130 reports of ASB or suspicious incidents, and although this seems a high number it assists with building a picture of what is going on in the area and it is vital in the way that we gather our intelligence. There has been an increase in ASB in local residential areas, notably we have had incidents where youngsters have been throwing flour on peoples' doors and cars in the Elvetham Heath area. There have also been incidents of

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We currently have advertising space available in this E-newsletter which is published and distributed to households in the local area four times a year.

If you are interested in advertising with us either in the Fleet & District NHW E-newsletter, on the NHW website or both, please contact our editor whose details are shown on page 4.

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youths kicking and knocking on doors in the Edenbrook Area. We are still in the process of trying to identify these youths involved in order for them to be dealt with appropriately.

Please do continue to report via 101 or the website: <https://www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/>

Here is some crime prevention advice that we pass on to members of the public:

Doors and Windows

- ◆ Fit strong locks to external doors and windows, and make sure that they are locked.
- ◆ Remove the keys and keep them out of sight and in a safe place.
- ◆ Fit five-lever mortise deadlocks (British Standard BS3621) to all external doors.
- ◆ If you are replacing or fitting new doors and windows, get ones that are certified to British Standard BS7950 (windows) and PAS 24-1 (doors).
- ◆ Make sure the doors and frames are strong and in good condition. The doors should be at least 44mm thick.
- ◆ Consider using laminated glass (for windows) as this is much harder to break.
- ◆ Consider fitting a letterbox cage or other restrictor to prevent thieves from reaching through to open the door.
- ◆ Fit a door chain or bar and door viewer (spy-hole). Use them every time someone calls. Do not leave door chain or bar on all the time in case you need to get out in an emergency.
- ◆ Never leave a spare key in a convenient hiding place such as under the doormat, in a flowerpot or behind a loose brick - thieves know to look there first.

The Home

- ◆ Close windows and doors completely when you go out. Lock them.
- ◆ If you have UVPC Doors, ensure that you lock the door with the key. Do not simply pull the inside door handle up!
- ◆ Make sure you set up timer switches and dusk to dawn lighting for after dark.
- ◆ Place glass minders on doors and windows that are vulnerable.
- ◆ Take keys to bed with you.
- ◆ Have a free Fire Safety Check by your local Fire Service.
- ◆ Consider having a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in your immediate area.
- ◆ Store information holding your ID upstairs out of the way. Bills, credit cards, chequebooks, anything with your address and name on including envelopes, passport and driving licence.
- ◆ Shred paperwork with any details relating to you that are to be thrown away.
- ◆ Mark property with your postcode and house number/name, electrical items, tools, and ornaments of no antique value (seek advice from a reputable dealer as to the best way to property mark antiques – smart water, micro dotting etc. are best).
- ◆ Note all serial numbers of electrical or gadget equipment and register them on www.immobilise.com.
- ◆ Photograph the rooms in your house showing items.
- ◆ Photograph your jewellery and items around the house. Store your pictures or discs and give copies to a trusted family member or friend. Store in the attic or a safe place (e.g. place behind furniture against a wall upstairs).
- ◆ Keep a telephone upstairs or in your bedroom.
- ◆ If you hear noises in your house, call out pretending that you have someone else with you. Then Dial 999 as soon as you can.

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*I am open for business and
fully compliant with Covid-19 regulations*
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The Outside

- ◆ Lock garden gates in the centre of the gate. Hasp or chain and a closed shackle lock.
- ◆ Put trellis along the top of fences and gates giving access to the rear.
- ◆ Dusk to dawn lighting where lighting required.
- ◆ Plant thorny/prickly vegetation under windows, at the base of drainpipes and around perimeters of your home – they are a natural deterrent.
- ◆ Window boxes.
- ◆ Secure sheds with a shed alarm and/or a personal attack alarm attached to the inside of the door hooked across to the shed wall.
- ◆ To prevent external hinges from being removed, use strap hinges secured by coach bolts.
- ◆ Put a closed shackle lock on your shed.
- ◆ Secure tools inside with a strong chain and lock.
- ◆ On the inside of your garage, you could also put a shed alarm or attach personal attack alarms that pulls the pin when the door is opened.
- ◆ Lock garages.
- ◆ Secure tools to the wall.
- ◆ Bolt ladders securely to the wall or garage roof where design allows.
- ◆ Park your car in the garage if you have one and use a faraday bag/pouch for keyless entry car keys (including spare keys).
- ◆ Crime Prevention Advice is given free without the intention of creating a contract. Neither does the Home Office nor Hampshire Constabulary take any other responsibility for the advice given.

HART remains and still is a safe place to live and work, however to remain proactive and informing you of some basic advice I hope that, with your help, we can reduce crime in your area even further.

If, you would like to discuss ANY matters pertaining to the above, or if you have any questions, then please feel free to contact the Fleet Beat 'NPT' using the details provided below.

Fleet Neighbourhood Police Team Representative (NPT)
PCSO 18143 Sam Page – Email: sam.page@hampshire.police.uk

Sgt Nikki Hopkins and PCSO Sam Page

The Fleet & District Neighbourhood Watch does not accept liability for any of the statements, actions or default on the part of any of the articles or advertisers in this or other editions of the Newsletter

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Fleet & District Neighbourhood Watch website: www.fleetnhw.co.uk

Police (Fleet) website: <https://www.police.uk/pu/your-area/hampshire-constabulary/fleet/>

Police Twitter: @FleetPolice **Police Facebook:** @HartSouthPolice

Please send inputs to the Editor. Deadline for the next edition: **30 June 2022**

A recommended read:

“OUR NEWS Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter – April Edition”

<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/2022-04/April%202022%20OUR%20NEWS.pdf>

As we draw nearer to Neighbourhood Watch Week (30th May - 5th June), the Month of Community, and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee also in June, this edition of the NHW newsletter focuses on ways we can improve our community health and wellbeing.

A recommended website:

<https://bluelamptrust.org.uk/bobby-scheme-landingpage/> - or by calling: 0300 777 0157.

The Blue Lamp Trust runs a scheme, which it has done throughout and beyond the COVID pandemic, called the Bobby Scheme. It provides free home security visits, long-life smoke alarms and advice to vulnerable residents in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, particularly the elderly (over 65) and victims of burglary and domestic abuse.