

Springfield District Neighbourhood Watch



“Mark and Secure that Bicycle”

“Watch Out - there's a bike thief about”

Bicycles are back in fashion due to the Olympics, recession and the high price of fuel. Unfortunately we are not looking after the family bike the way we should. Chelmsford police station has a permanent turn over and a store of tens of recovered lost or stolen pedal cycles. The bikes are unmarked, unclaimed and unreported as lost or stolen. Eventually the recovered bikes are sold at auction or sent for scrap. What a terrible waste of hard earned family cash, police expertise, wasted paperwork and police time.

DON'T BE CARELESS AND NEGLECTFUL WITH YOUR BIKE

Around **300,000** bikes are stolen every year in the England and Wales, of which only 5% are returned to the owner. The cost of a stolen bike can be reclaimed on home insurance if the policy extends to personal belongings outside the home, but remember this may affect future premiums.

WHAT CAN PRECAUTIONS CAN I TAKE TO PROTECT MY BIKE? :-

1. Purchase a substantial chain and or a “D” lock. Don't go cheap.
2. When securing the bike to an anchor point, pass your security chain through a wheel and frame.

STORAGE OF BICYCLES:-

Keep your family bicycles secured to an immovable anchor point with chains or strops in the garage or shed. Don't assume that because they are out of sight that they are safe. Many garden sheds and garages are broken into and many bikes are then stolen. Never leave bikes unsecured outside the house or parked on the front garden. Keep them out of sight.

Wrap Around Cycle Security Labels

Springfield Neighbourhood Watch has recently purchased some wrap around security labels for bicycles. These labels are free and can be fitted to the cycle frame in seconds. Your postcode and house number is written on an adhesive label, which is placed on the bike frame. A further clear adhesive label is then placed over the information label and wrapped around the frame. This last action laminates the information label, making it weather proof. This wrap around label serves as a deterrent to the would-be thief and is very difficult to scrape off. In the event of the bike being lost or stolen and if found the cycle can then be re-untied with its owner. A registration card/document form is also supplied, which the owner fills in with relevant cycle details like the frame number, a detailed description, make model and size. It is then recommended that a photograph of the cycle is taken with a mobile phone camera or digital camera. In the event of the bike going missing you have a detailed record and photograph to show the police. Ask your local coordinator to supply you with a bicycle wraparound label today.

COULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR BIKE? IF IT WAS STOLEN? MANY PEOPLE COULDN'T.

Our local Policing Teams have already visited many primary schools in Springfield fitting labels on the kid's bikes and will continue this on-going initiative throughout the year. Please contact NHW or the police for any further advice on cycle security.

To receive a wraparound security label call your local NHW Co-ordinator