



Essex Policing in Action July 2013

Essex Police issued **281 fixed penalty notices** to drivers for using a mobile phone while driving. Police solved **136 dwelling burglaries** and 26 other burglaries. **201 cases of criminal damage** were solved. Essex Police solved **25 cases of theft of motor vehicles**.

Reporting Fraud

Fraud is a crime so, if you think you've experienced it, we would encourage you to report it. Many* fraud offences must now be reported direct to **Action Fraud**, the UK's national fraud-reporting centre run by the National Fraud Authority. You can either report online (www.actionfraud.police.uk), available 24 hours a day, or you can speak to an advisor by calling the reporting line on: **0300 123 2040**.

*But there are fraud and forgery offences that must still be reported to the police, such as possession of false documents with intent, fraud/forgery associated with vehicle or driver records, or forgery or fraudulent use of drug prescriptions; there are others – visit our website for more information (www.chelmsfordneighbourhoodwatch.org.uk).

ALWAYS REPORT FRAUD AND INTERNET CRIME

You should always contact the police by dialing 999 as soon as practicable – and when it is safe to do so – if you suspect someone who has just visited you has committed a fraud. Also, dial 999 to inform the police if you know that goods connected with a fraud are soon to be delivered to an address in Essex or you know the person you believe to be responsible for the fraud. Whether reporting fraud to Action Fraud or to the police, keep a record of the communication you have had with the organisation concerned, as it could prove to be important evidence.

Finally – be aware of the dangers and risks of internet fraud: there's a lot of it about. Visit our website site for further advice.



CHELMSFORD CITY

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER



WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ESSEX POLICE

www.chelmsfordneighbourhoodwatch.org.uk

Autumn Edition 2013

PLEASE PASS THIS NEWSLETTER ON BEFORE RECYCLING

Part Night Street Lighting

Essex County Council has now switched off most street lighting around Chelmsford from 12 midnight to 5am. This switch-off is intended to save on the Council's electricity bills – but there has been quite a furore over the decision as witnessed in the Essex Chronicle over the past few weeks. **Many people have expressed concerns over personal safety and fear of crime.** The County Council has said that it will be monitoring the situation. If you experience any real problems in your area with part-time street lighting, contact your local County Councillor. You can also let us know by sending us an email:

info@chelmsfordneighbourhoodwatch.org.uk.

Keep your home secure in the darker evenings

Winter officially began on Sunday 27 October when the clocks went back an hour, so now it is timely to check that your house is not vulnerable to opportunist thieves. If you are out of your house a lot, and usually leave and return from work in the dark, then please take on board the advice. If no lights are on in your home, curtains are not drawn, and no cars on the drive, it's an obvious sign to an opportunist burglar that no-one is in. Many (but not all!) opportunist burglaries occur in the late afternoons when it is getting dark and before most people get back in. There are several simple things that you can do to help reduce the risks of crime, such as making it appear that someone is at home even if you're all out, ensuring that you have secure approved locks on doors and windows, and maintaining external automatic lighting. See our website for more detailed advice:

www.chelmsfordneighbourhoodwatch.org.uk

See also Essex Police on www.essex.police.uk/be_safe/burglary.aspx

Essex Police New Online Messaging System

Currently there is a variety of different police message information schemes being operated across Essex. These send out crime information from local policing teams to Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Coordinators via the internet, they are then cascaded by email to individual members. Essex Police in response to Essex County NHW are now planning a county-wide common approach and single system.

The Police have been allocated monies from the Police and Crime Commissioner to put in place this messaging system, and the proposals are currently out to tender; it is anticipated that the system will be operating by February. Essex County NHW are involved in advising the Police.

The scheme is likely to be launched in February 2014, and further information will be circulated before then. The Chief Constable is fully supportive of this initiative and in order to be fully successful the scheme will need the full support of district and local Neighborhood Watches, to build up a database of potential members.

Watch out for further information in this newsletter and on our website.

Galleywood NHW Hosts Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner

About 75 local members were at a special meeting of Galleywood NHW in October, which was attended by a Deputy Police Commissioner.

Concerns about street lighting, police presence, and crime levels were discussed and concerns addressed. Chief Inspector Ditchburn has agreed to attend a public meeting early next year. Contact has also been made with Chief Inspector Scrivener (Neighbourhood Policing Command).

Members appreciated the input of Brenda Cross at the meeting and her work for Neighbourhood Watch. Since the meeting more up to date information on crime has been received.

Congratulations to Galleywood – and let's see more engagement like this in other localities across Chelmsford. If you're planning an event please let us know – email info@chelmsfordneighbourhoodwatch.org.uk

Rogue Traders & Bogus Callers

Some households in Chelmsford have experienced several incidents when people have been approached by men offering to clean out their gutters and offering to do gardening chores. The offer to carry out various jobs seemed genuine and at a cheap price, unfortunately the shoddy standard of work and the final high cost has caused great distress to the victims. These callers are persuasive and seemed trustworthy, but they apparently are not. If callers persist and will not leave, call the police on 999.

DO NOT EMPLOY DOORSTEP COLD CALLERS

New Fixed Penalty Notices for Driving Offences:

Existing fixed penalty levels for most motoring offences – including using a mobile phone at the wheel or not wearing a seatbelt – are now £100, bringing them into line with penalties for similar non-motoring fixed penalties. This avoids having to take some people to court.

Many other forms of low level careless driving now carry a £100 fixed penalty notice, such as: tailgating, inappropriate speed, lane discipline, queue-jumping, wheel-spins, hand brake turns, and many other minor traffic violations. The more serious careless driving offences will incur an endorseable Fixed Penalty Notice of £100. Court action could still be an option.

Check out items on our website:

www.chelmsfordneighbourhoodwatch.org.uk

Several matters in this newsletter refer readers to our website. This newsletter has limited space and can only raise issues in summary. We will put more detailed information on our website as soon as possible. If you have any queries or comments re the website – or indeed this newsletter – please contact us via info@chelmsfordneighbourhoodwatch.org.uk.

If you're interested in joining a Neighbourhood Watch in the Chelmsford area, contact our Membership Secretary:- email mikevine43@btinternet.com or phone 01245 473715