



OUR NEWS

FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SUPPORTERS ACROSS ENGLAND & WALES

Dear supporters,

Welcome to our November newsletter. I mentioned the NEIGHBOUR OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2021 had been launched in the last newsletter. Nominations are now closed and with over 600 now in, we are excited to choose between the amazing nominations! Find out more on page 9.

Our annual [NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CRIME AND COMMUNITY SURVEY](#) will be closing on **16th November**. Have your say now on one of the widest surveys of people's views about crime, fear of crime and their communities. Please also forward the survey to all your contacts so that we can gather a wide range of views from both Neighbourhood Watch supporters and the general public.

We are in the middle of our new [SAY NO TO ASB](#) campaign which shares case studies and information to detail what ASB is and what it isn't, the devastating impact of ASB on people, and how to report it. Find out more on page 2.



And finally, we are thrilled to announce the opening of our permanent [NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH COMMUNITY GRANTS](#). These are grants for Neighbourhood Watch groups to support local Neighbourhood Watch projects. Find out more on page 6.

Yours Sincerely

John Hayward-Cripps,
CEO, NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NETWORK

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CRIME AND COMMUNITY SURVEY 2021



We want to know what you think.

[CLICK HERE TO TAKE THE SURVEY](#)



Whether you live in a Neighbourhood Watch area or not, your opinion matters to us.

Tell us what you think so we can better understand crime, fear of crime and the impact on communities.

SURVEY CLOSES
16TH NOV 2021



Neighbourhood Watch Network is a charity registered in England & Wales, CIO no: 1173349

www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CL72YGJ

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Say NO to ASB

We have launched an online campaign to SAY NO to ASB as incidents on the rise and 43% of victims say it's affected their mental health.

Antisocial behaviour (ASB) incidents have increased over the last three years. Police forces, councils and housing associations are reporting significant spikes in ASB cases – and these are not minor incidents. They are complex and serious cases causing real harm to many people.

45% of people say ASB is a problem where they live and 56% of those who had either been a victim of or a witness to ASB, did not report it to anyone.*



To help tackle the rise in ASB and reluctance to report it, we have released a campaign encouraging people to SAY NO TO ASB.

The campaign supports people to recognise what is ASB is and what it isn't, and encourages

them to record it, and report it to the correct authorities, before the situation escalates to outcomes that, in some extreme cases, can be life threatening.

John Hayward-Cripps, CEO of Neighbourhood Watch Network said "Recognising what antisocial behaviour is and what it isn't can be subjective, which is why we have worked closely alongside partner organisations such as Resolve and ASB Help to develop clear guidance on recognising, recording and reporting antisocial behaviour."

Reporting antisocial behaviour early on is important to prevent it from escalating and potentially ruining lives and devastating communities."

To support victims in reporting incidents, we are encouraging people to record incidents in a downloadable 14-day diary.

Visit ourwatch.org.uk/asb to find out more about recognising, recording and reporting ASB.

Learn more about ASB

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH WEBINAR

15TH NOVEMBER,
5PM - 6PM

RECOGNISING, RECORDING & REPORTING ASB

WITH AN
EXPERT SPEAKER
FROM ASB HELP

BOOK NOW

**FREE
EVENT**

**EVERYONE
WELCOME**

1,000 SPACES ONLY

Tackling ASB as a community

Antisocial behaviour (ASB) has a devastating impact on communities.

There are particularly tragic cases you may have heard of, including Fiona Pilkington and Garry Newlove, both in 2007.

In her article “Living a Nightmare” the former Victim’s Commissioner, Baroness Helen Newlove told how a gang targeting her “ordinary street in an ordinary neighbourhood” with vandalism and violence, ultimately murdered her husband Garry, kicking him to death on his own doorstep in 2007.

Fiona Pilkington, a vulnerable single mother, complained to police 33 times about the catalogue of abuse that her family suffered over a 10-year period. This included fires lit outside their home, people urinating on their fence, eggs and stones thrown at it, Fiona’s son Anthony being held at knife point in a garden shed, along with a torrent of bullying and verbal abuse. She eventually decided to end her life and that of her severely disabled 18 year old daughter, Francesca, by setting fire to a car they were both in.

Every case is tragic and vulnerable people continue to be tormented by what is often perceived to be “low-level” or “petty” antisocial behaviour every day. They suffer significant emotional and physical harm, and in some cases, as shown above, sadly they lose their lives.

Charlotte Hamilton Kay, Specialist Victim Project Manager at ASB Help said “It is important we understand that antisocial behaviour is often a culmination of incidents, a campaign of harassment that can chip away at our resolve, our mental health and ultimately our lives. We cannot continue to consider antisocial behaviour as “low-level”. It is symptomatic of a much bigger problem.”

The community’s role in tackling antisocial behaviour cannot be overstated. Having an awareness of what it looks like in your neighbourhoods, what is being done about it and how you can contribute to finding a resolution are fundamental. Your local authority Community Safety Partnership website should detail all the ways you can report antisocial behaviour, who to report it to and how you can help. They are there to protect you and should value your input in raising any issues you are facing.

Local authorities and the police have specific legislative tools and powers to address antisocial behaviour, but they cannot do it **without the invaluable contribution of victims and communities.** Initiatives like Neighbourhood Watch and parish meetings are key in clarifying the nature of any issues in an area and allowing the sharing of information that will build a picture of the scale of the problem.

Charlotte continued “In 2019 I was working as a Victim Services Caseworker in Derbyshire and took on a client who was experiencing what was deemed “low-level” antisocial behaviour from a supported housing complex across the road.

He and his wife were elderly, and initially even they thought they were wasting authorities’ time when they reported loud music, occasional public drunkenness and foul language. However, in making those reports, local agencies were then able to see a pattern of incidents developing around the address. They cross referenced complaints and what my client perceived as him and his wife perhaps being hyper-sensitive, was corroborated by 12 other neighbours, and helped identify that the housing complex had a serious drug problem, had been vandalised, and the police were in attendance every day.

Finally, a gang with machetes attacked one of the tenants. Fast forward 4 months and the police and local authority took out an emergency closure order on the premises. 236 members of that community attended a meeting after the closure, to share their experiences and support each other through what had been a huge trauma for many of them.

The community’s role in this case was integral to the success of the action taken.”

You are the eyes on the ground, you are the support system for your neighbours, and your input could be the last piece of the puzzle in tackling a serious issue in your area. Who better to understand what a victim is going through than someone who is experiencing it too?

But, perhaps more importantly, your efforts to protect and support your own community could save someone’s life.



Don't suffer in silence

ERA's guide to staying safe as the nights draw in

Whilst it was pleasing to see crime rates expectedly drop during periods of lockdown, research from LSE Centre for Economic Performance (CEP) found that they once again rose in correlation with when restrictions were eased.

As more of us are now venturing away from home more often, and the longer nights are here, now is the time to be proactive about protecting your home.

Through your own actions and through investing in smart security products, you can keep your family and home safe as winter approaches. So what can you do?

Be in control of your front door

It can be a little unnerving when you get an unexpected ring of your doorbell late at night.

It's important to remember that at night you should never open the door to anybody you are not expecting. However, if you don't have a viewer installed, it can be tricky to know who is calling.

A video doorbell, such as the one in the ERA Protect ecosystem, can be a great alternative, allowing homeowners to see exactly who is there without needing to open the door in person. Many doorbells, including ERA's, offer two-way communication and allow you to store or download video recordings for future reference.

Keep valuables out of sight

Whilst this might sound like common sense, many of us often forget to consider just how much can be seen by somebody looking in through a window.

Valuables, such as electronic goods, wallets, jewellery and other expensive purchases should all be kept in closed cupboards or drawers, rather than out in the open.

To give you extra peace of mind and a visible deterrent for prying eyes, a small and discrete camera, such as the ERA Protect Indoor Camera, will allow you to check in on your entry points, rooms and even your pets when you can't be at home. Simply view a live feed from anywhere in the world at any time through the smartphone app for instant reassurance that your home is safe and secure.

Ensure doors and windows are shut and locked

It's important not to get complacent with the more obvious ways to stay safe.

It's easy to forget to check whether a door, window or garage has been properly closed and locked, so a quick once-around the whole house to check any entry points before you go out or to bed can make a huge difference in preventing break-ins and may even enable you to spot any potential weak spots where a burglar could take advantage.

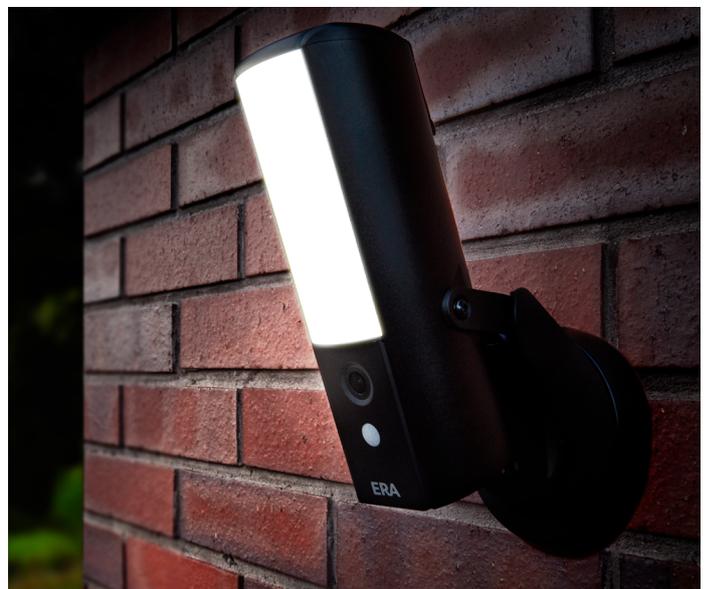
Sensors that form part of alarm systems will flag to you when doors or windows are left open, for example, the ERA Protect Door/Window sensor will notify you when you try to set your alarm if any entry point is still open.

Install lighting

The darker nights provide would-be burglars with the opportunity to stay largely out of sight and undetected.

Whilst you may have security in place, if any video cameras don't use night-vision, this could make it difficult to identify any trespassers.

A camera with a floodlight, such as the [ERA Protect Floodlight Camera](#), will illuminate your outdoor area if triggered by movement, acting as an immediate deterrent as well as capturing a clear recording for you.



ERA

#LookCloser with the Children's Society

The Children's Society's Prevention Programme is a national programme working to prevent, disrupt and improve responses to child exploitation and abuse.

Its network of 11 Prevention Officers across England and Wales work in partnership with national and regional leads across the statutory, private and third sectors.

They drive forward new approaches to tackling the issue and change the narrative to ensure all exploited children are identified as victims and supported. They bring together the public and professionals across sectors and geographical areas, recognising the value and role that everyone can play in safeguarding children.

#LookCloser

The Children's Society's [#LookCloser campaign](#), supported by the National Police Chiefs' Council and British Transport Police, urges anyone who encounters children to look out for possible signs of child exploitation and report any concerns.



It challenges stereotypes of how a young exploitation victim typically behaves. For instance, not all exploited children will seem upset or frightened and we know trauma may lead some to appear angry or aggressive.

Jackie Thomas, Prevention Officer South West, said *“By raising awareness we can help ensure more young victims of exploitation are identified and supported.”*

The campaign encourages people to be vigilant in public spaces where exploitation may occur and be most visible, such as parks, supermarkets, transport, banks and also on online games and social media.

They may be forced to travel on buses, trains, cars and coaches when they are being exploited. Fast food outlets and roadside services may be used for amenities and food stops. Exploitation may happen ‘behind closed doors’ in places like hotels, salons and car washes.

Exploiters also target the homes of young people and vulnerable adults, taking over their properties as a base to sell drugs – a practice known as ‘cuckooing’.

If we learn to spot the possible signs of a young person being exploited, we can help to keep them safe and stop this abuse from happening.”

Signs of child exploitation

- Travelling alone, particularly in school hours, late at night or frequently
- Looking lost or in unfamiliar surroundings
- Anxious, frightened, angry or displaying other behaviours that make you worried about them
- In possession of more than one phone
- Carrying lots of cash
- Potentially under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- Being instructed or controlled by another individual
- Accompanied by individuals who are older than them
- Seen begging in a public space

Report your concerns

If something doesn't feel right, don't wait, report it.

Call the police on 101 or make a report via your local force website. Always call 999 in an emergency.

Only report your concerns when it is safe to do so, even if this is a bit later. Do not attempt to intervene yourself.

Neighbourhood Watch Community Grants Fund is open

We are pleased to announce the opening of our permanent Community Grants Fund for Neighbourhood Watch projects.

During our successful trial that ran from November 2020 to March 2021 we issued 28 grants to a total of almost £7k, ranging from creating new coordinator packs to young people planting window boxes for the vulnerable; community safety training to proactive litter picks.

We have made some tweaks and relaunched the fund, consisting of two funding rounds per year - Autumn and Spring.

The Trustees have set aside £10,000 funding for the year to help Coordinators and Associations kickstart, improve or expand their community work.

Around 60% of funds will be for one-off development projects and around 40% of funds for core costs/setting up/rejuvenating Neighbourhood Watch in communities.

The current Autumn round is now open, with a deadline of 17th December 2021. If you have a project or Neighbourhood Watch group that you think you'd like to apply for, please visit ourwatch.org.uk/communitygrants and ensure you read the full eligibility criteria, guidelines and funding priorities first.

Once you feel your idea fits the bill and is eligible, you can download the application form and budget template from that page to complete your application, and send it over to us at fundraising@ourwatch.org.uk before the deadline.



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Keep Covid-19 at bay this winter



FRESH AIR



FACE COVERINGS



HANDWASHING

As we head into winter, we all need to remain as vigilant as possible and do what we can to control the spread of the virus and protect ourselves and those around us.

There are a few simple actions that can help keep ourselves and others safe this winter:

1. Let **fresh air** into your home
2. Get your Covid-19 **booster vaccine**, if you are eligible
3. Take **regular tests** if you have symptoms
4. Wear a **face covering** in enclosed spaces

Fresh air

Covid-19 can be spread in a number of ways, but the primary route of transmission is through particles of the virus in the air. Airborne transmission happens when someone with COVID-19 coughs, sneezes, speaks, sings or even breathes.

In winter we spend more time together indoors and the danger of breathing in infectious coronavirus particles increases significantly. Inside, coronavirus particles hang around in the air like smoke - sometimes for several hours. In air-less or poorly ventilated spaces these infected particles become more concentrated, significantly increasing the risk of others breathing in these infected particles and catching Covid-19.

Fresh air disperses Covid-19 particles. Good ventilation **can reduce the risk of passing on COVID-19 indoors by up to 70%**. Even opening windows for just 10 mins every hour can significantly help reduce the risk of the virus.

Let fresh air into rooms when people visit - during and after their visit for a short period of time. This helps to dilute the virus particles.

Open the windows when sharing a car with someone you do not normally live with as fresh air will stop coronavirus particles from lingering in the air.

Opening your windows a little or for just a few minutes at a time throughout the day can make a big difference.

Booster vaccination

Vaccines are the best way to protect people from serious COVID-19 and have saved around 130,000 lives in England alone.

The booster vaccines are being offered in the same order of priority as the original vaccine programme - older adult care home residents, health and social care workers, people aged over 50, those aged 16 to 49 years with underlying health conditions that put them at higher risk of severe COVID-19, adult carers, and adult household contacts of immunosuppressed individuals will be prioritised.

Vaccinated people are far less likely to get COVID-19 with symptoms and even more unlikely to get serious COVID-19, to be admitted to hospital, or to die from it.

COVID-19 booster vaccinations are available at vaccination centres, GPs or community pharmacists. Those eligible will receive their booster from 6 months after their second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine and they will be contacted by the NHS when it is their turn.

Testing

Vaccines remain our best defence against Covid-19 by significantly reducing the risk of serious illness from the virus. But you can still catch Covid-19 if you've been vaccinated and pass it onto others.

Keeping Covid-19 at bay this winter continued

So, remember, if you have symptoms, even mild ones, you should take a PCR test immediately to confirm if you have the virus. Also, don't forget to keep using rapid lateral flow tests regularly. **Around 1 in 3 people with Covid-19 have no symptoms and can spread it without knowing.**

Taking a rapid lateral flow test regularly will help give you peace of mind that you're not spreading the virus. You may wish to consider testing if you feel there will be a period of higher risk that day, either to yourself or others.

Some examples include:

- Testing before mixing in crowded indoor spaces, for example a nightclub.
- Testing before visiting vulnerable people.

Rapid lateral flow tests are free, easy to do, and results come back within 30 minutes.

Face Coverings

Those with COVID-19 release contagious droplets when they exhale. Don't breathe the disease onto others. **Wear a face covering over your mouth and nose in enclosed spaces.**

Current and emerging fraud trends

During August the following frauds were reported to Action Fraud

- Websites purporting to offer **driving licence renewals**, car auction purchases, garden furniture, gaming consoles, white goods and designer clothes from various websites which were never received.
- **Cryptocurrency investment schemes** in various platforms where victims haven't seen any returns on their investments.
- Victims booking **golf holidays** through a website and then finding out the booking hadn't been made, even though money had been taken.
- **Fake emails purporting to be from Asda**
The emails state that the recipient can win a £100 promo reward gift card' by completing a marketing survey. The links provided in the emails lead to phishing websites that are designed to steal personal information.
- **Banking branded phishing messages** The recipients of these messages are informed that they have successfully amended their number or are advised that a large direct debit payment has been created and to click on a link within the e-mail if they did not make this change.
- A company offering **PCR tests** to travellers returning from holidays. The tests were ordered and paid for but were never received.

Emerging Issues & Threats

- **Covid-related scams**
Any potential increases in Covid and possible introductions of new restrictions could lead to the reintroduction of many of the methods used by fraudsters and cyber criminals during the previous lockdowns and restrictions.

Any further vaccine rollouts may be exploited by scammers contacting those eligible to gain personal and financial information from them. Over recent months, a significant increase has been seen in scams relating to the NHS COVID Pass to steal money, financial details, and personal information.

You can download the MPS Little Leaflet of Covid scams [here](#)

- **Health and social care reforms**
The Government will be setting the limit to what elderly people will have to pay for their care, regardless of assets or income. As a result, pensioners could have more assets and available funds because of this change, and it is possible that this could make them at increased risk of being targeted with various frauds and scams in the future.
- **Online shopping and auction fraud**
It is predicted that this fraud type will start to increase in the run up to Christmas and afterwards.

Over 15 million people connected this summer

This year, we joined up with a team of charities and good causes to celebrate a whole Month of Community. Together we encouraged people right across the UK to enjoy a summer of friendship and fun, and celebrate everything that makes our communities great. **A whopping 15.2 million people joined in!**

The events became a moment to support our communities, thank our neighbours and reconnect after lockdown, with 78% of attendees saying the Month of Community was exactly what was needed after more than a year of coronavirus. And we have some more great news from our independent research.

THE MONTH OF COMMUNITY CREATED NEW FRIENDSHIPS

The Month of Community created a sense of togetherness with **75% of attendees saying that it's made them feel less lonely.** And those feelings last, with 77% saying they would like to stay in touch with some of the new people they've met.

THE MONTH OF COMMUNITY BROUGHT NEIGHBOURHOODS TOGETHER

Not only that, the Month of Community increased neighbourly feelings, with **76% of attendees saying that the event had created a stronger sense of community spirit** and had a positive impact on the community.

THE MONTH OF COMMUNITY ENCOURAGED PEOPLE TO GET INVOLVED

The Month of Community encourages people to take action, with **76% of attendees saying that the events have encouraged them to get more involved in voluntary work, and more involved with their community too (78%).**

So.... we're going to do it all again! The Month of Community 2022 promises to be even bigger and better so watch this space. Find out more [here](#).



Neighbour of the Year Awards 2021 nominations are in

Thank you to everyone who submitted a nomination for the Neighbour of the Year Awards 2021.

We have received an incredible total of 646 nominations across the three categories of NEIGHBOUR OF THE YEAR, COMMUNITY OF THE YEAR and YOUNG NEIGHBOUR OF THE YEAR.

Neighbourhood Watch Network and Co-op will shortly be judging the entries, along with our guest judges Hannah Ingram-Moore,

daughter of Sir Tom Moore and Co-founder of The Captain Tom Foundation, and our young person representative, Mair Williams.

Winners will be contacted and announced in December.



Neighbour of the Year Awards 2021

AirBnB Hosts meet Neighbourhood Watch



We were delighted to take part in the inaugural Meet The Experts virtual event as part of our role on AirBnB's Trust and Safety Council on 5th October.

The event provided the opportunity for us to introduce Neighbourhood Watch to the AirBnB Host community, alongside our fellow founding members.

We also shared some quick home safety tips for being a neighbourly Host, thinking about considerate parking, noise levels and proactively addressing neighbour concerns relating to guests.

It was also a great opportunity to hear from the other Council members. The event was attended by over 300 AirbnB Hosts and we received lots of positive feedback.

We look forward to the next event in a few months and producing resources and tools that Hosts can use to ensure they are maximising the harmony and safety of their homes, guests and the local neighbourhood.



Connect on the Knowledge Hub

Our new Knowledge Hub is an online platform available to active Neighbourhood Watch volunteers. It offers induction and training materials, toolkits and other resources to help our volunteers in their role.

Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators in 33 different areas have now been invited to apply for access to the Knowledge Hub, with more being invited in November. We now have over 300 people using the Hub.

If you are an approved Coordinator and you'd like to check whether the Hub is available in your area yet, head over to ourwatch.org.uk/knowledge-hub where you'll see a list of the areas which have been invited so far. If your area is on the list you should have received a message via the Alert system inviting you to apply for access. Please check your junk mail if you haven't seen it yet!

You can also sign up directly using the link on the same page, but please note that if your area is not yet on the list you'll get an email asking you to be patient for a little longer until we get to you.

We've had some delays in sending out user logins over the last few weeks, so please accept our apologies if this has affected you.

We're changing our admin processes which should speed things up. If you've applied for Hub access and haven't received your login details, please be patient, we will get them to you as soon as we can.

Please contact volunteer@ourwatch.org.uk if you have any questions about the Hub rollout.



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