

LOCAL WATCH-WORD



The Newsletter of the Eastleigh Neighbourhood Watch Association keeping you up to date with crime and safety issues in your area

Mar 2024

YOUR OWN DEDICATED NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICERS (LOCAL BOBBIES) ARE HERE

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Police and Crime Commissioner, Donna Jones, has said police relations with the public have been lost in recent years. So, a scheme, similar to Cumbria and Greater Manchester, has been rolled out across Hampshire.

Part of the new initiative to restore the link between communities and the police, is the allocation of 'Local Bobbies'. The Hampshire force has identified and allocated 99 officers. Each one has been assigned to a 'neighbourhood'.

This new scheme will ensure people know who to contact about safety and crime concerns. It will also provide ample opportunities for the community to share information and intelligence easily, ultimately, helping them to police more effectively.

Your Local Bobby is a neighbourhood policing officer dedicated to your area.

They will identify threat, harm and risk to tackle local issues and protect the community. They will investigate local crimes, and collect intelligence, working closely with partner agencies to identify the best problem-solving approach.

You will be able to identify who your own neighbourhood's local bobby is by going to <https://www.hampshirealert.co.uk/> and scrolling down to 'Look up your Local Bobby'



Quarterly Tip

Look at your home security through the eyes of a burglar



and entering your postcode in the box. The name and personal contact number of your

Bobby will then be displayed, along with a link to enable emailing as well.

While your Local Bobby is your local community contact, should you need an immediate police response, or wish to report a crime, always contact the Police either online (www.hampshire.police.uk) or via 101. or 999 if an emergency.

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A NOTE FROM OUR CHAIR



Claire Wills

I have been busy trying to get up-to-date information on crime in the Eastleigh Borough area. In this edition you will see an article from our Police and Crime Commissioner. You should by now all have details of Local Designated Named Officer (Local Bobby) your committee and I am busy organising meetings with these Local Bobbies, firstly with Area Coordinators then with coordinators and members. If you wish to

organise a meeting yourself, please do so. The Local Bobbies would welcome it, but let your area coordinator know, so they can record what is happening in an area and hopefully attend.

I have been visiting banks to find out what the provision is for Eastleigh Central and Chandler's Ford (I promise to do the same for Hedge End area for the next edition).

None of the banks have a branch in Chandler's Ford, however Nat West bring a banking van to Chandler's Ford Methodist Church every Wednesday from 1:00 to 1:45, when they can help with most banking enquiries. There is the Post Office where most transactions can be carried out (withdrawing cash, paying bills etc). Other banks (Barclays, HSBC, Lloyds and Santander) assure me that most customers find Telephone Banking easy once set up and they are available to talk you through how to do this, either on the phone or in a branch.

Barclays and Nat West no longer have branches in Eastleigh. Barclays does hold a drop-in at Eastleigh Library every Tuesday from 9:30 to 4:30 (with a break 12:30 to 1:30). Santander, HSBC and Lloyds still have branches, although they do not always have a counter service available. As with Chandler's Ford, the Post Office is available and Telephone Banking is encouraged.



Lots more information can be found on our ENWA website

www.eastleighnhw.org.uk/

and also take a look at our [Facebook](#) page



Crime in the Eastleigh Area is reducing but the message from Chief Inspector Matt Paling is to secure your property. Car theft is still higher than they would want, but much of it is opportunistic – thieves can try lots of car doors and they only have to find one unlocked to be 'successful' in their crime. We have Car Numberplate Security Screw Kits available and also the Car Key Pouches for keyless entry car fobs.

CORBEN'S CORNER

By John Corben

I am having reports from all of my sources of what to me appears to be quite a large spike in scamming activity across all sectors. The worrying part, well at least to me, is the fact that this scamming activity is getting more and more sophisticated with some industry experts commenting that it can be difficult to determine the fake from the real. Moreso the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI), when used by scammers, can further make detection difficult to the potential victim.

Scammers are increasingly spoofing websites with the intent to gain money / financial information from victims. I may have mentioned before if your potential purchase looks too good to be true it might be fake. As we approach the tax year end expect a spike in messages /emails from scammers promising refunds or threatening legal action for underpayment of tax, if in doubt do not respond to any message (phone the number provided or click on any

embedded link) but contact your tax office directly for further advice.

Update on Hampshire Cyber Watch - 7 Feb 2024

In Hampshire we have an initiative called Hampshire Cyber Watch (HCW). This started in Oct 2020 as a joint project with the Cyber Crime Unit of Hampshire & IoW Police.

At the end of last year, HCW decided to align with the National NW 'Cyberhood Watch Ambassador' scheme for training. We still maintain informal links with the Police Cyber Crime Unit and receive updates from them and the Fraud Protect Officer. Because the term 'Cyber Ambassador' is already in use by a scheme launched by the PCC for schools, we continue to use the name of 'Cyber Champions' in Hants rather than 'Cyber Ambassadors'.



HCW continues to work to increase awareness and fight cybercrime across Hampshire, by giving talks to groups on ways to help keep safe online. Last year we gave over 18 talks to various NW groups, Community Groups and Care Homes across the county. This year we hope to exceed this considerably.

If you organise, or are part of a group that you feel would benefit from a talk from a Cyber Champion, please contact us via the website www.hampshirecyberwatch.org to arrange a talk.

FROM YOUR POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER, DONNA JONES

Since being elected as your PCC, I've been delivering on my promises to get more police officers out on the streets, for communities to be more connected, and to make sure you get the policing service that you deserve. It's already been a really busy and productive start to 2024, and I'm not taking my foot off the pedal.

The launch of my named Local Bobbies scheme means that the Eastleigh District now has named and contactable neighbourhood police officers dedicated to your communities and you can access their mobile number and email address. This encapsulates my vision for strengthening community and police relations, connecting the public to the police once more. It also supports the Chief Constable's priority to deliver exceptional local policing.

We all want safer communities, and I'm making sure we stay on this trajectory. I delivered on my promise to ensure the force recruited 600 additional police officers as part of the national uplift programme. In January 2023, I funded another 50 police officers and in January 2024 I announced funding for 75 more.



This means I've now funded the force to increase its police officer numbers by 725 since March 2020.

Opening up police stations to the public is a vital part of feeling and being connected to the police. My pledge to open 10 more sends a strong

message that police visibility is increasing at an impressive rate across the whole of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. You will probably already know that I'll be opening a new police station in Eastleigh early next year and we are currently reviewing sites. I'm really looking forward to the opening.

There is less crime in Eastleigh. In 2023, reported crime was down compared to 2022 with reductions in serious and sexual violence, residential burglaries and all anti-social behaviour down nearly 17%. I'm determined to make sure we stay on track and to build even further on the accomplishments already achieved.

Neighbourhood Watch and I share a common goal – for safer and more connected communities. Increased police visibility means we can reach this goal by all working together.

WHAT IS THE ONLINE SAFETY BILL?

The Online Safety Bill, which has now received Royal Assent and become UK law. This Bill aims to hold social media companies accountable, enhance transparency and create a safer online environment for everyone. The Bill is a crucial piece of legislation designed to safeguard both children and adults in the digital realm. Its key provisions are as follows:

1. Protection for Children:

- Social media companies will be legally responsible for ensuring the safety of children and young people online.
- These platforms must promptly remove illegal content or prevent it from appearing altogether.
- The Bill targets content that promotes self-harm, ensuring its removal.
- Age limits and age-checking measures will be enforced to prevent children from accessing harmful material.
- Risk assessments will be made transparent, and parents and children will have accessible ways to report issues online.

2. Triple Shield for Adults:

- All relevant services will be required to implement measures to prevent illegal activity and swiftly remove illegal content.
- Category 1 services, which include the largest and highest-risk platforms, must adhere to their



own terms and conditions and remove banned content.

- These services will empower adult users with tools to control the content they see and manage their interactions.

3. Types of Content Addressed:

- The Bill tackles illegal content, ensuring its removal to protect both children and adults.
- Additionally, it introduces new offenses, including making self-harm promotion illegal for the first time.
- The focus is not only on existing illegal content but also on preventing its appearance altogether.

By enforcing these regulations, it is hoped to mitigate risks, promote responsible digital behaviour, and foster a more secure internet landscape.

HOW TO MINIMISE NUMBER PLATE THEFT

Number plate theft is a serious crime that can lead to a lot of stress and financial loss for the victim. Thieves often steal number plates from parked cars to disguise another car and commit crimes such as ram-raiding, burglary, and driving from petrol stations without paying. If your number plates are stolen, report it to the police immediately to avoid receiving unwarranted fines and letters.

To protect your plates, park in busy, well-lit areas, use a garage at night if possible, and consider using theft-resistant number plates screws that are designed to resist known attack methods.



Eastleigh Neighbourhood Watch Association have a limited number of these theft-resistant number plate screws available for purchase. Contact Claire Wills chair@eastleighnhw.org.uk
If you would like to purchase a set of these.



PLEASE REPORT CRIME TO US, IT IS IMPORTANT

By PC Simon Peacock (Dedicated Neighbourhood Officer (Hedge End South))

We can't fix it if we don't know it broken. Policing Hampshire and the Isle of Wight today relies on the Police putting resources where they are required. We can't put a cop on every corner and analyse crime reports and intelligence. If you do not report to us crime, anti-social behaviour and your suspicions, we can't solve the problem. Please don't assume someone else has reported the matter.

You may not get a visit or a call from a Police Officer or PCSO, but the Dedicated Neighbourhood Officer will see every incident reported. Every report counts.

You can report crime, anti-social behaviour and information to us by calling 101, or the preferred means of going online and making an on-line report. www.hampshire.police.uk/

CALL THE
POLICE

101

www.hampshire.police.uk/

IN AN EMERGENCY
ALWAYS CALL 999