

LOCAL WATCH-WORD



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

Sept 2026

SPEEDWATCH: A SMALL EFFORT AGAINST A £2 BILLION PROBLEM

Local Speedwatch volunteers have recently been testing a new portable roadside display device that shows drivers their speed as they approach. Able to detect vehicles up to 300 metres away, the unit provides an instant visual warning to anyone exceeding the 30mph limit. Early trials suggest it is an effective way to encourage drivers to slow down before entering residential areas.

Speeding remains one of the most serious and costly road-safety issues in Great Britain. In 2025, an estimated 1,556 people were killed on the roads, with around 28,355 seriously injured. Excessive or inappropriate speed is a major factor in fatal collisions, contributing to more than half of all road deaths. This means roughly 800–900 lives lost each year are linked to speed-related behaviour.

The financial impact is equally stark. The Department for Transport values the prevention of a single road fatality at around £2.5 million, covering emergency response, medical care, long-term support, lost productivity and wider social costs. On this basis, speed-related deaths alone may cost society close to £2 billion annually—before even considering the additional burden of serious injuries.

Community Speedwatch programmes offer a simple, cost-effective way to help reduce this harm. Rather than relying solely on enforcement after collisions occur, Speedwatch focuses on prevention and behavioural change. Volunteers monitor vehicle speeds, provide visible reminders of speed limits and pass details of persistent offenders to the police for follow-up. Even small reductions in average speeds can significantly cut both the likelihood and severity of collisions; a few miles per hour can be the difference between injury and fatality.



Quarterly Tip

***Are you comfortable with your card's withdrawal limit?
Go online or contact your bank***

To check your debit card limit, log in to your mobile banking app, go to the "Cards" or "Account Settings" section, and select "Card Limits" or "Manage Card." You can also check your limits by logging into online banking, calling the phone number on the back of your card, or visiting a local bank branch.



Chandler's Ford Community Speedwatch is always looking for new volunteers. The role is straightforward, well supported and requires only a small amount of time. Full training and equipment—including the new display device—are provided, and sessions take place in small groups at agreed roadside locations.

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A NOTE FROM OUR CHAIR



Claire Wills

I hope you have all had a good summer – not too hot. I hope you have all managed to save your gardens – I note that my lawn is now starting to green up again, but my hanging baskets alas have not all survived – must look for more drought

resistant plants for next year.

Our AGM was held as planned on Tuesday 7th July at Botley Sports Pavillion at 7:30pm. Unfortunately, we did not have enough people attend to make a quorum, so we will need to think about how to approach this going forward. I would love to hear your views on what we can do – Have it on line again, make it more of a social event choose a different time of day? Please let me know. We had Judi Maddison from the Hampshire Air Ambulance to give us a talk, which was very interesting. Also, our new Eastleigh District Inspector, Alan Dinely, came to talk to us as well.

I have been asked by National NHW to follow up on schemes that are not on the Alert system and also to look at those people registered on the system who are listed as having comms issues or are uncontactable or are duplicates. So, look out for messages/emails/phone calls from me while we sort these out.

Thanks again to all members and coordinators for their support.

Claire



Lots more information can be found on our ENWA website

www.eastleighnhw.org.uk/

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



CORBEN'S CORNER

By John Corben

If you ever experience a cyber security issue and are looking to seek help as to where you can turn to, then you could do a lot worse than looking up 'The National Cyber Security Centre' online, and navigating to the appropriate section for the issues you are experiencing. Topics such as Hacked Accounts, Infected Devices, Phishing and more are covered. Each topic details a range of relevant suggestions that can be tried to assist you to minimise or mitigate your problem. Of course, many issues may need a professional approach to resolve the problem and that is where it is always wise to approach a cyber security specialist to seek their help. When I experienced 'WannaCry' ransomware software on my computer, it encrypted all my files and locked my computer. I had two options, which were to either pay the ransom of some £150.00, or visit my local computer shop in Chandlers Ford and ask them to cleanse my computer and reinstall Windows. I chose the second option and apart from losing all my personal files and

pictures, it was money well spent. Where did my 'WannaCry' ransomware come from? Simple, I clicked on a link in a malicious email which I had previously trusted, and instantly my computer was hacked and infected. In my defence, this was fifteen or so years ago when we were all rather naïve to computer hacking and the risks of our actions were not well known.



So then, what's trending? An increase in phone call spoofing which is where, with the help of software, a scammer is able to change how their number appears on their potential victim's phone to trick them into thinking they are calling from the company. Be assured, the software does not allow them to receive calls made to this number. Therefore, if in doubt, hang up and if possible, phone the company direct to confirm the call's authenticity. Never ever be tricked into divulging any personal information or transfer any monies for any reason. Next, with the recently approval of weight loss medication and its ability to be purchased over the counter, scammers (assisted with medical AI NHS pictures) have been uploading fake websites offering the medication at fantastic prices. These scam websites are difficult to identify. However, after a few weeks, the bad publicity they attract is sometimes able to be identified online by typing a company name into a web search engine and looking at what is being said about them. If the offer looks too good to be true then it probably isn't true.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU, OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW, IS SUBJECT TO A DEFAMATORY ATTACK ON SOCIAL MEDIA

By Mike Anthony

Social media gives people freedom to express opinions, but this can sometimes be abused. Adults may find themselves facing online harassment, abuse or defamation. The guidance below applies to adults over 18. If a child is in immediate danger, call **999**. For non-emergencies involving children, report through the [CEOP Safety Centre](#), the [Internet Watch Foundation](#), or your local council's social care team.

This advice also covers potential *libel*—false statements published online that damage a person's reputation—where police may not have jurisdiction. For specific cases, always seek professional legal advice.

Avoid Public Retaliation

Do not respond with angry comments or get drawn into arguments. Engaging publicly can escalate the situation. Stay calm and focus on protecting yourself and gathering evidence.

Document and Preserve Evidence

Take clear screenshots of posts, comments, user profiles and URLs. Record dates, times and any share counts. Keep copies of any messages you send or receive.

Report to the Platform

Use the platform's reporting tools to flag harassment, bullying or false information. You can also message the platform asking for the content to be removed for breaching community guidelines.

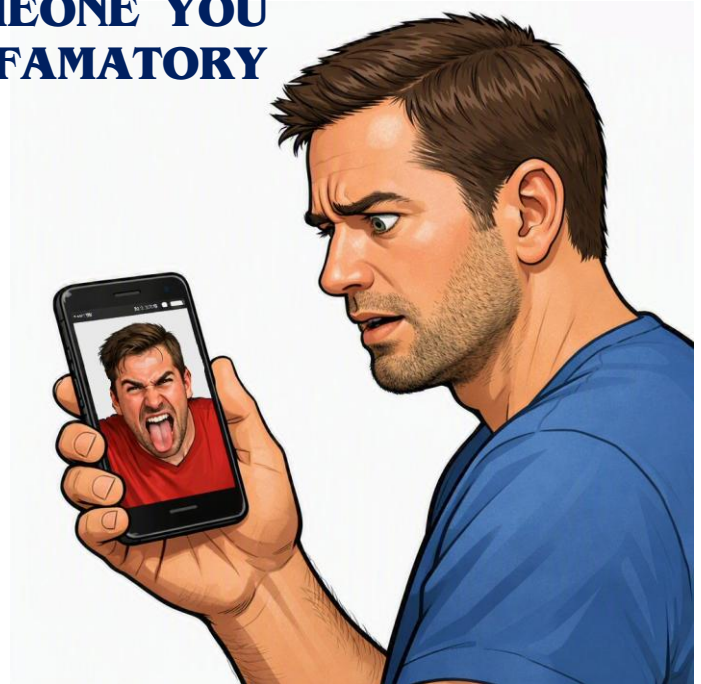
Contact the Person

Send a polite but firm written request asking them to remove the content. If they refuse and the harm continues, consider formal steps.

Formal Steps

You may:

- Report harmful content through recognised services.



- Contact [Citizens Advice](#).
- Seek advice from a lawyer specialising in defamation or reputation management. They may issue a formal cease-and-desist letter.
- Consider a defamation claim if the content has caused serious harm.

Where to Report Harmful Content

- **General Harmful Content:** Report Harmful Content (saferinternet.org.uk/report-harmful-content).
- **Online Scams/Fraud:** Citizens Advice consumer service (0808 223 1133) or Report Fraud.
- **Regulator Escalation:** Complain to **Ofcom** if a site fails to act appropriately.

When to Involve the Police

Police may act if messages are threatening, abusive or offensive. Relevant offences include **harassment** (two or more related incidents causing alarm or distress) and **malicious communications** (a single indecent, threatening or grossly offensive message). False or threatening content may also breach the **Online Safety Act 2023**. Report incidents to your local policing team.

MILLIONS UNCLAIMED IN CHILD TRUST FUNDS



Hundreds of millions of pounds held in Child Trust Funds (CTFs) remain unclaimed, despite the accounts having been created to give young people a financial start in adult life.

CTFs were tax-free savings accounts for children born between 1 September 2002 and 2 January 2011. The Labour government paid more than £2 billion into accounts for around 6.3 million children during the scheme's lifetime. Most received an initial government payment of about £250, while children from lower-income households and those in local-authority care could receive an additional £250.

Parents were issued vouchers to open an account, but if they did not act, HMRC opened one automatically. As a result, many young

people may have a CTF without knowing it exists. Under HMRC rules, children AREN'T allowed both a CTF and Junior ISA, so if you are thinking of opening a JISA, ensure that there isn't an overlooked CTF.

The National Audit Office (NAO) has warned that substantial sums have still not been accessed. Dame Meg Hillier MP, Chair of the Public Accounts Committee, said HMRC had allowed money to remain in accounts for years while fund providers earned fees, despite not knowing how many young people had lost track of their savings.

She said the nearly £400 million yet to be claimed could provide an important lifeline during the cost-of-living crisis, especially for young people from low-income backgrounds.

You can check for a Child Trust Fund free on GOV.UK. You'll need your child's name, date of birth, address history and your National Insurance number. Sign in or create a Government Gateway account, complete the form, and HMRC will tell you which provider holds the account.

REPORTING DASHCAM FOOTAGE TO HAMPSHIRE POLICE

Hampshire Police provide a dedicated system, known as **Hants SNAP**, for members of the public to submit dashcam footage of suspected driving offences. The service forms part of the wider UK Operation Snap initiative, designed to streamline the reporting of dangerous or careless driving captured on personal cameras. Hampshire applies strict criteria to ensure that any footage submitted can be used effectively as evidence.

To begin a report, users must complete the [online Hants SNAP form](#), providing details such as the date, time, and precise location of the incident, along with the registration number of the offending vehicle. A factual witness statement is also required, outlining what happened without speculation or commentary. Once the form is submitted, Hampshire Police send a **unique upload link**, which must be used within **72 hours** to submit the video.

The footage itself must be **original and unedited**, showing at least **one minute before and after** the incident. Edited clips, social-media

posts, or footage that has been trimmed or altered will not be accepted. Users must also retain the original file on their device, as it may be needed if the case progresses to court.

After submission, Hampshire Police review the evidence and decide whether formal action, a warning, or no further action, is appropriate. While most cases do not require follow-up contact, individuals should be prepared to attend court if necessary. Reporting promptly—within Hampshire's **seven-day limit**—greatly increases the likelihood of successful action being taken.

