



Merton Neighbourhood Watch

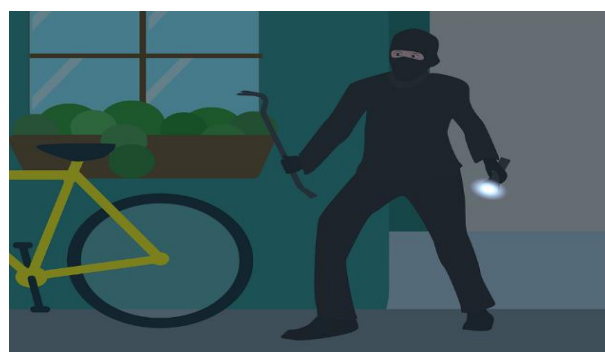
Spring 2021

Keep Your Home Safe This Spring

Protecting your garden and outbuildings not only keeps bikes and other valuables in your shed safe, but can also stop burglars getting into your home.

1. Low front boundary; keep hedges and walls at the front of your house low (under one metre) so burglars have nowhere to hide.
2. Secure side gate; keep side gates locked at all times. Open gates mean burglars can easily access your home without being seen by passers-by or neighbours.
3. High side and rear boundaries with trellis and spiky defensive planting; keep hedges, walls and fences around your back garden high. Add lightweight trellis to gates and fences and plant some prickly plants to make it harder for burglars to climb over.
4. Gravel driveway and path; gravel driveways and paths make it harder for burglars to go undetected.
5. Security light; install an outside security light so that intruders can't approach without being seen.
6. Intruder alarm system; install a burglar alarm system.
7. Secure your shed; always keep your shed locked and secured, and make sure it is anchored down to prevent it from being lifted in order to gain access. Often sheds contain valuables such as power tools and bicycles. Consider using a battery operated alarm.
8. Never leave tools lying around as they can be used as a way of breaking into your home. Make sure ladders are secured or put away as they can provide access to upper floors.

Leaving ground floor windows, doors and patio doors open can give burglars the perfect opportunity. If you're upstairs or out of the room, even just for a few minutes, close them and help shut burglars out.





NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

AGM 2020

On Thursday 4th February 2021 we were delighted to hold the AGM for 2020 via zoom. Thanks to all those who were able to attend. Whilst we couldn't be together in person, it was lovely to see so many faces and update you on the Committee's work over the past year. There was also a Q&A session with Inspector Bob Whitehead from the South West Basic Command Unit.

Merton Neighbourhood Watch twitter @WatchMerton

Don't forget – for those who use social media we now have a Merton Neighbourhood Watch twitter account – please follow us!

The account will be tweeting crime prevention updates and advice. The twitter handle is **@WatchMerton**



Looking for
your
Neighbourhood
Policing Team?

Abbey

Abbey@met.police.uk
0208 649 3584
@MPSAbbeyVW

Cannon Hill

CannonHill
@met.police.uk
0208 721 2455
@MPSCanonHill

Colliers Wood

ColliersWood
@met.police.uk
0208 721 2743
@MPSColliersWood

Cricket Green

CricketGreen
@met.police.uk
0208 649 3576
@MPSCricketGreen

Dundonald

Dundonald
@met.police.uk
0208 721 2450
@MPSDundonald

Figges Marsh

FiggesMarsh
@met.police.uk
0208 649 3603
@MPSFiggesMarsh

Graveney

GraveneyVW@met.police.uk
0208 721 2724
@MPSGraveneyVW

Hillside

Hillside
@met.police.uk
0208 721 2458
@MPSHillside

Lavender Fields

LavenderFields
@met.police.uk
0208 721 2744
@MPSLavenderFids

Longthornton

Longthornton@met.police.uk
0208 721 2742
@MPSLongthornton

Lower Morden

LowerMorden
@met.police.uk
0208 721 2456
@MPSLowerMorden

Merton Park

MertonPark
@met.police.uk
07920233908
@MPSMertonPark

Pollards Hill

Pollards@met.police.uk
0208 649 3604
@MPSPollardsHill

Ravensbury

Ravensbury
@met.police.uk
07768178387
@MPSRavensbury

Raynes Park

RaynesPark
@met.police.uk
0208 721 2459
@MPSRaynesPark

St Helier

StHelier@met.police.uk
07843065908
@MPSStHelierVW

Trinity

Trinity@met.police.uk
0208 721 2453
@MPSTrinity

Village

WimbledonVillage
@met.police.uk
02087212452
@MPSVillageVW

West Barnes

WestBarnes
@met.police.uk
0208 721 2454
@MPSWestBarnes

Wimbledon Park

WimbledonPark
@met.police.uk
0208 721 2452
@MPSWimbledonPk



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

Merton

Scams talk for Neighbourhood Watch

Merton Council Trading Standards gave a virtual scams talk for Neighbourhood Watch on Wednesday 17th March 2021.

Key advice:

- **Stop:** Taking a moment to think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe.
- **Challenge:** Could it be fake? It's ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.
- **Protect:** Contact your bank immediately if you think you've fallen victim to a scam and report it to Action Fraud.
- The police, or your bank, will never ask you to withdraw money or transfer it to a different account. They will also never ask you to reveal your full banking password or PIN.
- Do not click on links or attachments in unexpected or suspicious texts or emails.
- Confirm requests are genuine by using a known number or email address to contact organisations directly.
- To keep yourself secure online, ensure you are using the latest software, apps and operating systems on your phones, tablets and laptops. Update these regularly or set your devices to automatically update so you don't have to worry.

To report a scam:

trading.standards@merton.gov.uk

0808 223 1133

<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>

0300 123 2040

Emails that you believe to be fraudulent can be forwarded to report@phishing.gov.uk

Suspicious text messages should be forwarded to **7726**

Merton Hate Crime Advice Surgeries

Have you been targeted because of your race, religion, gender identity, disability or sexual orientation? Our advice surgeries are a safe space to discuss hate crime and how to report it anonymously. Members of the public can get free advice with no appointment necessary.

When: Surgeries are now being held over the phone on the second Tuesday of every month, midday to 1pm. Call 020 8545 4146

Hate Crime Third Party Reporting Scheme

Merton's 'third party reporting centres' have been trained to assist you in submitting a report to the police and can make such a report your behalf.

See our website for a list of local organisations who can offer you advice:

<https://www.merton.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/crime-prevention-and-community-safety/hate-crime>

For further info email: safes.merton@merton.gov.uk



AFC Wimbledon have recently joined Merton's Hate Crime Third Party Reporting Scheme

5 Minutes with PCSO Sandra Wood, Cannon Hill Safer Neighbourhood Team

Tell us about your role

My role is varied and no two days are the same. To name a few; I can be on a cordon, giving talks to community groups or working with partner agencies to reduce anti-social behaviour and fear of crime. I enjoy being out on Cannon Hill ward offering a visible and reassurance presence whilst engaging with members of the community. I offer crime prevention advice either individually or within a group and give support to victims of crime. I like working with community groups within the ward such as schools, youth clubs and luncheon clubs - the list is endless. My experience has shown this is proven method of understanding the issues and concerns of the community. It is also a positive way of the community putting a face to their dedicated ward officers.

Why do you think Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) is important?

NHW is extremely important, it is not just an added resource to the police by being extra eyes and ears. The community know their area and often know when something is not right. NHW gives residents the confidence to report incidents either directly to police or via their NHW coordinator.

Street signage for NHW can deter crime as offenders know residents are looking out for each other.

What are benefits of being part of a NHW?

NHW brings neighbours together, it encourages people to get to know each other and look out for their neighbour. Neighbours can share experiences and crime prevention. It can create a greater sense of security and reduce fear of crime.

How do you get involved with your NHW coordinators?

The current pandemic has restricted engagement with coordinators, I am hopeful this can be addressed when restrictions are eased. Coordinators are aware of Cannon Hill SNT contact details and I hope they will be in touch with any concerns.

I often engage with the coordinators whilst out on patrol on the ward, usually the conversation will start "I am glad I have seen you, this maybe nothing but...." Perfect way to share information.

How can NHW coordinators assist their local police team?

NHW coordinators are invaluable, bringing issues and concerns to our attention. NHW coordinators also link in with members and non-members by sharing crime trends and stats; this often reduces fear of crime by sharing facts.

When setting up a new watch, I always stress to potential coordinators they can be as involved as their time and commitments allow - from being a point of contact for their street to working with Merton Council's NHW lead.

Please see page 2 for a list of the Safer Neighbourhood Team contact details.

