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Tandridge Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter

28 October 2015 – 11 November 2015

Over the past week Tandridge has suffered a series of criminal damage offences where cars have had tyres punctured. The most affected areas have been Smallfield and South Nutfield. We have seen fewer incidents in Lingfield and Oxted but we do believe them to relate.

At around the same time these incidents have occurred we have had received reports that windows to cars and businesses have also been damaged. We really want to catch those involved in this mindless crime but we need your help. If you have any information relating to suspicious incidents or people / cars seen that could relate please call 101

Darker evenings mean more opportunities for burglaries. To counteract this Surrey Police is running a three week campaign focusing on burglary.

Burglary has significantly reduced locally, helped by Surrey residents protecting themselves by securing their properties, ensuring doors are locked, and lights are left on. However, even with this decrease, we still want Surrey to be a no go area for potential burglars.

We would rather investigate a suspected burglary than be called when it's too late, so if you see something suspicious in action in your street, call us and let us know.

Inspector Dan Gutierrez

Tandridge Safer Neighbourhood Team

New focus for policing in Surrey

A significant increase in issues and crimes affecting vulnerable people, accompanied by austerity-driven budget cuts means the current local policing model in Surrey needs to change.

Crime is changing

- Over the last three years we have seen a 153% increase in reports of rape, a 122% increase in reports of sexual offences and a 34% increase in reports of domestic violence. In the same time period reports of house burglaries have fallen by 24% and reports of theft from cars is down 32%.
- We now have five hospitals in our ten top locations for repeated calls for help. This illustrates the dramatic and ongoing change in typical call outs.
- Public safety and welfare issues currently make up 27% of all the incidents we deal with and 50-60% of crimes involve a vulnerable victim, witness or offender.

Set against the context that Surrey remains one of the safest counties in the country, we need the public to understand how the crime that does occur is changing. We are responding to all of these crimes and will continue to do so. We are also solving more crimes affecting vulnerable people, however reports to us continue to increase.

To meet this changing picture we are responding by increasing the size of our teams that protect the vulnerable by 34%. Earlier this year we also created a joint Cyber Crime Unit with Sussex Police.

Easy to access services and continuity of care

We know how much the public in Surrey values visible local policing and how you want policing to be responsive to your needs. Therefore, whether you want the convenience of just contacting us online, giving us a call or if you come to talk to us at one of our police front counters, we will try to resolve your inquiry straight away if we can. When we need to send an officer in most cases they will now be able to deal with your case from start to finish so you will get a better service and a better investigation.

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Out in your neighbourhoods

You will see us more – technology means we do not need to go back to base to find out information and fill out forms. Your local policing team will be bigger as we will have more officers working for a specific Borough or District, tackling local problems and supporting smaller but still dedicated Safer Neighbourhood Teams. You will continue to have a dedicated local Inspector and dedicated Safer Neighbourhood Team Police Community Support Officers who will work with partners such as hospitals and councils to make communities safer. They will be focused on solving the chronic local issues that cause the greatest risk and harm to local communities.

Focusing on prevention and using your money better

We have to save a further £25 million over the next four years and we do not feel it is fair that the Surrey public pays for police to respond to and investigate crimes that big businesses could prevent. We will be working with businesses that could do more to stop crime occurring to encourage them to install solutions, such as pre-pay at petrol stations.

We also need the Surrey public to help us keep themselves safe by taking their own sensible crime prevention measures, whether that is protecting your computer from online crime, making sure you know who your children are talking to on the web and in person or just being neighbourly by helping those who might be vulnerable to stay safe.

We will be running a campaign in the New Year to help the public know who will be the most suitable organisation to deal with their concern or issue. Last year we dealt with 10,270 requests that could have been dealt with in a different way or by a more appropriate agency.

Delivering all our services differently

Local policing is just one small part of how we keep the public safe. Increasingly we are looking at how we work with local, regional and national partnerships and collaboration to deliver services in a better, more cost effective way.

- We have successful Joint Enforcement Teams made up of council officers and police officers tackling anti-social behaviour together in Reigate and Banstead and Spelthorne, and are about to roll out in Elmbridge on 4 December 2015.
- We run some services jointly with Sussex Police – both non-operational services such as HR, finance and IT and some joint specialist policing services such as firearms and major crime investigation.
- We are also working with other emergency services and local authority partners across Surrey and Sussex - to provide a more joined up service to the public and make better use of shared skills and resources that we all have. For example working with Surrey Fire and Rescue and using their specialist heat sensing equipment to help us search for missing people.
- We have well established regional police units for the South East who investigate organised crime and terrorism and a national police helicopter service. We are currently exploring other specialist services both regionally and nationally that could be delivered such as joined up systems through the National Police IT Company.

These plans will enable Surrey Police to better protect the public by responding to these changing patterns of crime and at the same time delivering the necessary savings. We will also keep neighbourhood policing visible, accessible and focused on solving the problems that blight local communities.

We will achieve these changes by adjusting how we respond, using technology to make us more efficient and moving existing officers and staff into priority areas, whilst also having to reduce local policing by a total of 234 staff posts and 32 officer posts.

Chief Constable Lynne Owens said: "Crime is changing and this is our response to it. We are re-focusing our services to protect the vulnerable and tackle the changing risks, threats and harm our communities face.

"Our plans still ensure that much valued visible local policing is at the heart of the Surrey Police model. Additionally we are equipping officers with technology so they do not need to waste time by going back to base. With the changing nature of crime and the requirement to save a further £25 million over the next four years this fundamental re-balancing of our policing service has been necessary."

Police and Crime Commissioner Kevin Hurley said: "It has been impossible to escape the news stories highlighting desperate attempts by police forces and Police and Crime Commissioners to mitigate the effects of government funding cuts. I would like to thank Surrey Police for their concerted efforts to make sensible and thoughtful savings in this restructuring plan that is 'Policing in Your Neighbourhood'."

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Appeal for information following a spate of criminal damage in Oxted and South Nutfield and Lingfield.

Surrey Police is appealing for information after a number of people reported damage to their car tyres between Friday 6 November and Monday 9 November.

On the evening of Friday 6 November five people reported that their car tyres had been slashed in the Mid Street area of South Nutfield.

On Saturday 7 November, between 6-11pm, further reports of slashed tyres were reported from Mid Street and The Avenue in South Nutfield.

Borough Inspector Daniel Gutierrez said: “On Saturday 7 November the local community firework display took place and there would have been a lot of people around. If you were in the area and think you might have seen someone acting suspiciously please contact us.”

On Sunday 8 November, Police received further reports from people who found their car tyres slashed in The Greenway in Oxted and in Station Road, Lingfield. (Crime ref. 45150101779)

Inspector Daniel Gutierrez added: “The local community of South Nutfield and Oxted have clearly been adversely affected by the actions of mindless vandals over the weekend. Not only have these criminals caused a large amount of damage, they have caused community concern and needless disruption and stress to owners of the cars damaged.

“It is vital that anyone with any information contacts the police. I also urge people from the affected areas who might have CCTV to check it and contact us with anything that could potentially help us identify the perpetrator/s.”

If you saw anybody acting suspiciously around the area or have any information, please call Surrey Police on 101 or the anonymous charity, Crimestoppers quoting the crime reference number, 45150101367.

Burglary: reduce the risk

Registering your belongings free with [Immobalise](#) improves your chances of getting it back if it is lost or stolen, and can also help us in tracking and catching those responsible if you are burgled. Get started now and create a FREE private and secure list of all your personal property.

Is it nothing? Or is it the information we need to catch a burglar?

By working closely with the public to gain information about suspicious activity, we can increase the intelligence we use to actively hunt and catch burglars.

Suspicious activity could be:

- Jumping over walls or fences
- Hanging around a house
- Suspicious selling of goods
- Peering through windows or doors
- Running from a scene

If you think you may have any other information that could help us, dial 101, report online or call the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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Know any burglars?

If you let know someone who is involved in burglary in Surrey, and don't want to talk to the police, you can call or report online to the independent charity Crimestoppers. You could receive a reward for your information.

Burglary Dwellings & Burglary Non Dwellings

Over the last fortnight, between 28 October and 11 November 2015, there have been 7 dwelling burglaries in our area, an increase from the 3 in the previous fortnight. There were 2 in the Caterham area, 2 in Warlingham and one in each of South Godstone and Woldingham. Items taken included jewellery laptops and cash.

Non dwelling burglaries have stayed the same in the last two fortnights at 12. The main areas affected were Oxted, Dormansland and Warlingham. Garden sheds, kennels, outbuildings and barns are being hit with birds, dogs, equestrian and fishing equipment being taken.

Vehicle Crime

In reference to the article above we have seen a large increase in vehicle crime in Tandridge over the last fortnight with Smallfield, Nutfield and South Nutfield being hit particularly badly with tyres slashed and windows damaged. Other areas attacked with lower numbers included Oxted, Whyteleafe, Warlingham and Caterham.

Don't suffer in silence...take the first step

There were 25 domestic violence reports in Tandridge over the last two weeks.

<http://www.surrey.police.uk/Keeping-Safe/Protecting-you-and-your-family/Domestic-abuse>

Scams

'BT' computer scam

A local resident received a telephone call from a man stating he was from BT.

He said that her computer had downloaded some files that needed to be taken off it and asked her to go to her computer and follow his instructions.

She told him that she get her technician to deal with it and put the phone down.

Don't get caught out.

There is email in circulation that appears to have been sent from a legitimate Lancashire Constabulary email address. The email appears to come from 'Lyn Whitehead' and is asking the recipient to pay an invoice that is attached to the email.

The email has not been generated from inside the Constabulary or by the Constabulary. This email has not been sent from Lancashire Constabulary. A third party supplier to the Constabulary has had their data breached, as a result of the breach this Lancashire

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Constabulary email address has been spoofed and used to generate spam to recipients far and wide.

This type of email is commonly referred to as spam, and if you have received it you MUST NOT open it. Instead delete it from your email system to avoid infecting your device.

The National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) has been alerted to a pension scam whereby cold callers continue to target members of the public aged 50 to 60 years old to release and transfer their pension early. Suspected firms who advertise and arrange pensions are offering investments in alternative commodities such as hotel developments or property in Cape Verde, and operate as unregulated collective investment schemes.

Often, the cold calling 'pension companies' involved are neither regulated nor qualified to give financial advice and classify themselves as a 'trustee', 'consultant' or an 'independent advisor' and offer exceptionally high return rates for investors.

Some victims have signed documents that authorises a limited company to be set up using their personal details, including utilising a Small Self-Administered Scheme (SSAS). Whilst SSAS accounts and limited companies are essential for legitimate schemes, the fact that victims are unaware that this will happen suggests that the scheme may not have been fully explained to them, increasing the likelihood that there may be an element of fraud involved.

Fraudsters have been phoning victims telling them that they have been placed in the wrong council tax bracket for a number of years and are entitled to a rebate. They normally say that this rebate should be worth about £7,000. Once the victim is convinced, the fraudster tells them that in order to receive the rebate they will need to pay an administration fee in advance. The payment they ask for varies between £60-£350. The victim provides the details and makes the payment, but then is no longer able to make contact with the person they spoke to on the phone. When they phone their council about the rebate and the fact that they are in the wrong tax bracket, the council will confirm that they know nothing about it and that they have been contacted by fraudsters.

The fraudsters have mainly been targeting both male and female victims who are aged 60 and over and live in the Sussex area, but it is likely that the fraudsters will also start to target victims in other areas.

Unmarked Police Cars

Last week, we were taken to task for copying from Facebook the 'Lauren' story about being followed by an unmarked car with blue lights flashing. Whilst this particular story may be untrue, it contains a very useful warning and we make no apology for drawing it to the attention of readers.

The position regarding unmarked police cars is set out at: -
<http://www.askthe.police.uk/content/Q587.htm> which reads: -

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“An unmarked police car can stop vehicles, but it must contain a constable who **MUST** be in uniform in order to carry out the stop.

If a car flashing for you to pull over or stop is unmarked, unless you are 100% certain it is the police, do not stop. Drive steadily to the nearest public place (for example a petrol station where they are open till late, a police station or somewhere there are a lot of people) and then stop. If you are in a relatively deserted area, as a last resort, consider looking for a house that is obviously occupied and pull into the driveway. You can always apologise to the householder afterwards.

Try and signal that you have acknowledged the request to stop and indicate the action you are taking (put your flashers on or signal by pointing from the driver's window etc.). Don't drive off at great speed making the police think you are trying to get away.

Keep the doors locked until you are happy it is the police. Have your mobile at hand just in case. You can ask to see a warrant card, which should carry the police officer's name and photograph, through the closed window.

Incidentally, if you are suspected of drink/drugs driving none of these actions would invalidate an officer giving you a preliminary test as you have only temporarily interrupted your journey and are still driving for the purposes of that law.”

Crime

LINGFIELD and DORMANS AREA	Location	Description
Theft	Dormans Park	2 large topiary plants and pots stolen. Male suspect had unusual large letter T on back of jacket
Criminal Damage	Selbys, Lingfield	4 windows of house smashed possibly by catapult
Theft from Motor Vehicle	Newchapel Road, Lingfield	Several parts have been stolen from a Volvo including lights and grill
Theft from Motor Vehicle	Chellows Lane, Crowhurst	Ford Transit window has been smashed and a chainsaw, Kango 950 and loose change has been stolen

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Burglary Non Dwelling	Dormans Park	Large container on building site has been entered by force and a large amount of tools have been stolen
Burglary Non Dwelling	Moor Lane, Dormansland	Stable door has been entered by force, tack room entered and various equestrian goods were stolen
Attempt from MV	Station Road, Lingfield	Two males broke in to a van and were disturbed by the owner. Nothing was taken
Criminal Damage	Vicarage Road, Lingfield	Front passenger car window smashed
Criminal Damage	Saxbys Lane, Lingfield	2 large holes made in vehicle front window
Criminal Damage	Vicarage Road, Lingfield	Rear offside window smashed
Criminal Damage	Station Road, Lingfield	4 tyres punctured on vehicle

GODSTONE AND BLINDLEY HEATH AREA	Location	Description
Burglary	Easter Way	Suspects have gone to back garden stolen tools from a shed and tried to gain access to the back patio doors before being disturbed.
Criminal Damage	Eastbourne Road	2 windows have been broken
Criminal Damage to MV	Ockleys Mead	Window of a vehicle smashed
Criminal Damage	Ockleys Mead	Front window of house catapulted
Theft	Carlton Road	Finches stolen from aviary
Theft	Church Lane	Patio slabs stolen
Burglary Non Dwelling	Eastbourne Road	Barn entered and tools stolen
Criminal Damage to MV	Featherstone	Rear window smashed on vehicle
SMALLFIELD AREA	Location	Description
Criminal Damage	Grange Way	Front offside tyre slashed on car
Criminal Damage	Grange Way	Two tyres slashed on car

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Criminal Damage	Careys Close	Window damaged on unoccupied property
Criminal Damage	The Cravens	Tyre slashed on car
Criminal Damage	Plough Road	Drivers side window of car smashed
Criminal Damage	Churchill Road	Front window of house cracked
Criminal Damage	Churchill Road	Front drivers door car window smashed
Criminal Damage	Careys Wood	Car window smashed
Criminal Damage	Wheeler Lane	Rear car window cracked
Criminal Damage	Churchill Road	Two car windows smashed
Criminal Damage	Churchill Road	Two car windows smashed
Criminal Damage	Careys Wood	Two car windows smashed
Criminal Damage	The Cravens	Nail forced in to car tyre
Criminal Damage	Redehall Road	Damage caused to cladding of house
Criminal Damage	Chapel Road	Outer casing of double glazed window smashed
Criminal Damage	Chapel Road	Outer pain of glass smashed on property window by small metal pellet
Criminal Damage	Careys Wood	Outer pain of glass smashed on house window by a metal nut
Criminal Damage	Careys Wood	Two car tyres slashed
Criminal Damage	Careys Wood	Car tyres slashed
Criminal Damage	Woodlands	Dent caused to car bodywork whilst parked on driveway
Criminal Damage	Chapel Road	Whilst vehicle was being driven along road something was fired at it causing a small dent to rear offside window

Responses to consultations

Response to Gatwick - Independent Review of Arrivals and Departures

Full details are available on Tandridge DC's website: -

<http://www.tandridge.gov.uk/LifeinTandridge/consultation/responses.htm>

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Standen House & Garden, East Grinstead – Volunteers Wanted

If you haven't visited Standen, it is well worth doing so. The website address is <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/standen-house-and-garden> .

Give volunteering at Standen a go this winter!

This year Standen will be home to a 20ft Winter Tree, designed by fashion icon Dame Zandra Rhodes and sculptor Andrew Logan.

During this exciting event we will be opening the doors to the house on weekend evenings from 28 November to 27 December.

If you've thought about volunteering but haven't had time, why not get involved in this unique event? Get to see behind the scenes and help visitors experience this festive treat.

Shifts will be 4pm to 6.30pm and you will be given all the information you need on the night. You could be looking after a log fire in the hall, welcoming visitors, showcasing our Winter Tree and generally helping visitors have a special experience.



Interested in finding out more? Contact Bleau Hudson at:
volunteer4standen@nationaltrust.org.uk

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