

Ferring Neighbourhood Watch



**Over 40 years of building community spirit,
safety in numbers and working together
to reduce crime and the
disproportionate fear of crime**

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**In This Issue: Happy New Year; Feedback;
Highway Code; Stay Safe be Considerate;
Protect your bicycles, mopeds & motor bikes;
Weather warning; Priority Services Register**

Wishing all the local community a very happy new year! With everybody looking out for each other to make it both safe and enjoyable for all in 2026. If only everybody did their bit and looked out for their immediate neighbours, just imagine what wonderful communities we could nurture together.

Feedback received from Octobers newsletter, I share with you a tip sent to me by one of our readers. If you have a burglar alarm box outside of your house, do make sure it is regularly cleaned. As a passing thief would see a dirty unit and would assume that it hasn't been serviced recently and therefore, probably not working or set. It's a two minute job and just something obvious from looking from the road.

Other feedback received was with regard to liking the feature on the **Highway Code** and wanting to add useful updates for drivers highlighting certain rules. Such as **163** which is to do with overtaking cyclists and horses. Please be mindful to give at least 1.5m-2m space. Plus take extra caution at junctions. Whilst **167** advises staying behind horse-drawn vehicles when turning left at roundabouts and junctions to avoid cutting them off. Both rules focus on driver awareness to protect vulnerable road users during overtaking manoeuvres. Highway Code rule **170** also emphasizes taking extra care at junctions, primarily by giving way to pedestrians who have started to cross the road you're turning into, watching for vulnerable road users (cyclists, motorcyclists, etc), also being aware that long vehicles might need more space to turn. You must stop and wait for a safe gap in traffic before emerging, and if a pedestrian is already crossing into your path, they have priority!

Do be thoughtful and considerate when parking vehicles and refrain from parking on grass verges, pavements and obstructing wheelchair/pushchair slopes and help keep your community tidy by using appropriate bins. Plus, if you are a dog owner please 'pick up' and ensure 'poo bags' are deposited in the correct bins. You can report any issues with overflowing rubbish or dog bins at www.arun.gov.uk 01903 737754 cleansing@arun.gov.uk

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Stay Safe!

Protect Your Mopeds & Motorbikes Don't Let Thieves Ride Away With It! We've seen a rise in moped and motorbike thefts in recent times, particularly targeting 125cc models. These smaller bikes are often easier for thieves to move quickly – especially if they're not properly secured. Many of the thefts have occurred overnight and in residential areas, with some bikes taken directly from driveways or outside properties. Don't make it easy for them – here's how you can help protect your bike:

- Use a disc lock on the front wheel
- Chain your bike to a solid object or ground anchor
- Park in well-lit, secure areas or ideally in a garage
- Cover your bike to make it less visible and attractive
- Remove valuables and avoid leaving helmets or accessories on display
- Mark and register your bike with schemes like Bike Register or Data Tag

In the UK, a bicycle is stolen on average every minute; with less than 5% ever being recovered. Always lock your bicycle to a solid object that can't be lifted over, broken, cut, or removed – such as metal railings, ground-anchored stands, or securely fixed grilles. Avoid using trees, gates, or chain-link fencing unless you're certain they're tamper proof. For maximum protection, use 2 different types of locks, a good quality D-lock, combined with a heavy-duty chain and padlock is ideal. Use the locks to secure both the frame and wheels. 50% of bicycles are stolen from the owners home. Always lock your bikes at home even if its in the garage. Consider investing in a ground anchor attached securely to a wall or concrete floor. Make sure you keep your bicycle out of view of prying eyes as this alone will provide irresistible incentive to break into your property. You can insure your bike on your home contents insurance – but don't forget to also cover it for thefts away from the home.

If you see suspicious activity around parked bikes or mopeds – especially late at night – please report it via 101 or online at 101@sussex.pnn.police.uk

In an emergency, always call 999

As very cold weather is affecting the UK, this is a good time to consider registering for extra advice and support, including when there could be interruptions to your electricity, gas or water supply. The Priority Service Register (PSR) is **FREE** to join. It helps utility companies to look after customers who have extra communication, access or safety needs. Your energy supplier and network operator will both keep a Priority Services Register. To find out more visit www.thepsr.co.uk and enter your postcode.



Please also consider helping others to join the PSR, for example, elderly relatives, friends or neighbours, people with serious medical conditions, or people who may struggle with the internet. You can join for example once you have reached state pension age, are pregnant or have children, have been bereaved or lost a job, have a mental health condition or use medical equipment that requires a power supply. Priority support will be given in an emergency, plus extra help such as advanced notice of scheduled power cuts, regular meter reading service, account info and bills in large print or Braille. Do check out the website to see who can join and what extra advice and support is available.

Take care all, wrap up well when you go out and about, keep warm and keep safe. The next edition of NHW Newsletter will be out in April. Roll on Springtime!

Many thanks for the messages that I have received since becoming editor of Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter. Please bear with me whilst I get to grips with the role. Any feedback will always be welcome or any ideas you would like included for future newsletters very much appreciated.

You can contact me direct Carolynn Ayres at editorialnhw@gmail.com