

# >>> AUGUST 2025 <<< OUR NEWS



## Shaping our future together - save the date!

Neighbourhood Watch central support has been working on a new strategy that will shape our work for the next 5 years. In phase one, staff and trustees mapped out the process, that was followed by research and consultation phase analysing existing data, a survey, interviews and focus group discussions. The process is now moving into phase three – strategy development. We want you to be part of that.

From **22 September you can join us for a week of online conversations** about the future of Neighbourhood Watch. Put the week in your diary, and watch out for the registration details coming soon!

**Protect your future with FPEP**

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## Want to know how to properly secure your home?

Looking for information on smart home security? As part of our online conference, we will be hosting a Q&A with Sumier Foster-Shah from ERA, one of the UK's leading home security providers.

Send your questions to [eraqanda@hroc.co.uk](mailto:eraqanda@hroc.co.uk) and join the conversation later this year. Keep an eye on future editions of Our News for more information!



# PROTECT WHAT MATTERS WITH LPA'S



A Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) ensures that your wishes are honoured, even if you lose the mental capacity to make decisions. By appointing someone you trust, you can safeguard your future. There are two types of LPA:

- Health & Welfare LPA – for decisions about medical treatment and daily care.
- Property & Finance LPA – for managing your money, bills and property.

Without an LPA, your loved ones could face a lengthy, costly court battle to help you. Don't leave your future to chance. Early action is vital.

## QUESTIONS PEOPLE DON'T OFTEN ASK (BUT SHOULD!):

### **"Isn't my Will enough?"**

No. A Will only applies after death. LPAs protect you during your lifetime.

### **"I'm healthy, should I wait?"**

No. LPAs must be made before you lose capacity. They're a safety net for the unexpected, whether that be illness or even an accident.

### **"Don't my family already have authority?"**

No. They cannot legally act for you without an LPA, not even a spouse or a child.

### **"Can I still make an LPA after a dementia or Alzheimer's diagnosis?"**

Yes, if you are still able to understand what you're doing. Early action is essential.



## A MESSAGE FROM NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

"Neighbourhood Watch is built on trust, protection and peace of mind and that's exactly what LPAs provide. That's why I am going through the process myself with Future-Proof Estate Planning"

**-John Hayward-Cripps, CEO, Neighbourhood Watch**

## EXCLUSIVE 20% DISCOUNT FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH MEMBERS!

Get your affairs in order with ease from the comfort of your home. Choose from:

**Package 1:** 2 LPAs + Free single Will - **£479 (normally £599)**

**Package 2:** 4 LPAs + Free mirror Will - **£957 (normally £1,199)**

These packages let you create legally binding documents quickly, with full support throughout.

**CLICK HERE OR CALL 0800 847 7150 (QUOTE: NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH)**

# Knife robberies fall under dedicated new taskforce

P 2

Knife robberies have dropped following targeted police action in the highest risk areas, as part of the Plan for Change.

Communities hit hardest by knife crime have seen a drop in offences and more weapons removed from streets, thanks to government and police action and the Plan for Change.

The number of robberies involving a knife – or the threat of one – have dropped after months of targeted police action in the seven highest risk areas, according to new data published by government today.

After seeing a stark rise in knife-enabled robbery in the year to June 2024, driven by a 14% increase across seven police forces, the Home Secretary set up a dedicated police taskforce last October and after just nine months of activity, there has been a 6% overall annual reduction compared with the previous year across those highest risk areas – with places like West Midlands seeing a substantial annual drop of 25%.

The reduction has been driven by intense police efforts and a range of tactics, including upping visible patrols, using drones, knife arches and detection dogs to support police on the ground, and deploying plain clothes officers.

## Ninja Knife Ban

This July, the government ran a surrender scheme to offer safe disposal of ninja swords at designated police stations, ahead of the ban which comes into effect on 1 August.

The ban is the first part of the Government's manifesto commitment to introduce Ronan's Law, and latest step under the pledge to halve knife crime in the next decade. Ahead of the ban, at least a thousand deadly weapons were handed in.

The Home Office developed this scheme with members of the Coalition to Tackle Knife Crime to provide a broader range of ways the public could surrender weapons outside of police stations.

As part of the broader knife surrender scheme, Faron Paul of the charity FazAmnesty, drove a custom built and fully secure surrender van, across London, Greater Manchester and West Midlands. Words4Weapons supplied 37 new knife surrender bins.

**When the weather is nice, everyone wants to be outside and enjoy the good weather. But crime rates tend to rise during the summer months, particularly in July and August. This increase is often attributed to factors like warmer weather, school holidays, and more people being outdoors.**

In July the Home Office announced that shoppers and businesses will see increased police presence, stronger prevention and enforcement action by police and councils to support safer high streets this summer. Here's some pointers for how you can keep yourself safe too.

## **Street harassment**

The first rule is to prioritise your personal safety. Do not challenge harassers if they are threatening or you believe they may cause harm to you.

If you see someone experience street harassment, and it is safe to do so, ask them 'are you ok?'. It can make a big difference to those who experience harassment by letting them know you stand by them, and that street harassment is never okay. Find out more about how to intervene on our website.

## **Phone theft**

Analysis shows phone theft claims in UK have risen by 425% since 2021. The best insurance is preparation and prevention. The Metropolitan Police advise using your phone for the shortest possible time on the street and avoid texting while walking. Criminals often use bikes or mopeds when snatching devices, so watch out for any nearby when using your phone and stand away from the roadside.

Keep your phone physically secure. You can use phone cases with straps or lanyards that attach to your wrist to help keep you connected to your phone. They're not 100% secure, but may act as a deterrent.

Switch on your phone's security features to protect your phone and use the keypad lock so that thieves cannot immediately access your phone, or use the biometric authentication if your phone has it (finger print or facial recognition).

## **Pickpockets**

Pickpockets don't always operate alone, they may work in teams to distract the target while someone unseen removes the items and blends back into the crowd. Another member might step in as an enforcer in the event of an altercation.

[Click here](#) to learn how to spot a potential pickpocket and avoid losing your belongings to one.

# Avast Scam Guardian

Introducing AI-powered Scam Protection  
in Avast **Free** Antivirus

Avast Guardian aims to protect users from email-based scams and phishing attempts. It uses AI to analyse email content and identify potential threats, flagging suspicious emails before they even reach your inbox. Email Guard is available in both free and paid versions of Avast, but some features, like scanning emails across multiple online accounts, are exclusive to the paid version, Avast Premium Security.

Here's a more detailed breakdown:

**Core Functionality:** Email Guard scans incoming emails, analysing content and attachments for malicious code or phishing attempts.

**AI-Powered Detection:** It uses artificial intelligence to understand the context of emails and identify potentially dangerous language or links.

**Real-time Protection:** Email Guard flags suspicious emails in real-time, helping users avoid scams and phishing attacks.

**Cross-Platform Compatibility:** While some features are platform-specific, Email Guard is available on Windows, Mac, Android, and iOS devices.

Get yours now:

**Free**  **Antivirus**



## Protecting Your Parcels from Porch Pirates

The convenience of online shopping is undeniable, but it can sometimes come with a concern. Porch pirates, where opportunistic thieves steal packages from doorsteps across the UK.

The frustration of a stolen package can go beyond just the cost; it's a violation of your home's privacy and security. At SimpliSafe, we believe every home deserves to feel safe and secure, and that includes ensuring your eagerly awaited deliveries make it safely into your hands.



### Outsmarting Thieves: SimpliSafe's Top Tips

Don't let your deliveries fall victim to porch pirates. Here's how to help make your home a less appealing target:



1

#### Real-Time Tracking

Stay informed. Most carriers offer tracking notifications. Use them to know exactly when your package is due and delivered, then retrieve it promptly.



2

#### Visible Deterrence:

Install a video doorbell or outdoor security camera. They not only record suspicious activity but also allows you to see and speak to anyone at your door, often deterring thieves before they act.



3

#### Safe Place

Add a note to the delivery instructions and request drivers to place packages in less visible spots, such as behind planters or gates.



4

#### Secure Delivery Options:



##### Require a signature:

For valuable items, request a signature upon delivery.



##### Alternative locations:

Direct packages to your workplace, a trusted neighbour, or a secure locker service (e.g., Amazon Locker).



5

#### Illuminate & Deter:

Motion-activated lighting around your entryway can startle and expose thieves operating under the cover of darkness.



6

#### Community Vigilance

Strengthen your Neighbourhood Watch. Inform neighbours about expected deliveries and offer to collect theirs. A united community is a powerful deterrent.



7

#### Dedicated Parcel Boxes:

Consider investing in a sturdy, lockable parcel box, securely fastened to your property, for safe package drop-offs.



8

#### Comprehensive Home Security:

A SimpliSafe security system provides layers of protection. With loud sirens, HD cameras, instant alerts, 24/7 security monitoring and so much more, SimpliSafe actively deters and responds to threats, safeguarding your home and deliveries.



Neighbourhood Watch members can access exclusive discounts on new SimpliSafe security systems.



## VEHICLES

### LOCK UP & DOUBLE CHECK

Before leaving your car or van unattended, double check that it is locked securely. Hide your belongings under a seat or lock them away in the glovebox or boot. Secure motorcycles to a fixed object with a heavy-duty lock.

Vehicle theft increasingly involves a property break-in for access to keys. Together, home and vehicle security are crucial for protecting your vehicle and its contents from theft.

### SECURE YOUR KEYS

Keep your keys in a safe place, out of sight at all times. Burglars frequently steal keys from homes and simply drive away with the vehicle. Upgrading your home security can help to keep your vehicles safe too.

### VISIBLE SECURITY

Steering wheel and handbrake locks are effective methods for protecting your vehicle from thieves. As well as providing an extra layer of security, they also act as a great visual deterrent.

### ALARM, IMMOBILISER & TRACKER

Most modern vehicles come with a factory-fitted immobiliser, but adding a Thatcham-approved alarm can further reduce the risk of theft. Fitting a tracking device won't prevent a vehicle from being stolen, but it can increase the chances of recovery.



Information provided  
in association with

SECURED BY  
**PATLOCK**

### INSURANCE

Make sure your insurance policy details are up to date and that you have the correct level of insurance required to cover your needs.

### PARK SAFE

Where possible, park in a place that's well-lit and open to public view. Look for car parks that are covered by CCTV or patrolled by security. Thieves will be less likely to target your vehicle if they think they will be seen or disturbed.

## Protecting your vehicle starts at home.

With advances in vehicle security and the complex requirements of keyless vehicle theft, a property break-in to obtain keys is becoming a more common occurrence. Increasing your home security can help to keep your vehicle keys safe.

The simple solution for securing French doors is to fit a PATLOCK. PATLOCK has no keys or combination lock and is quick and easy to fit with ratchet locking bars that secure in seconds.

- ✓ Instant French door security.
- ✓ The only French door lock recommended by UK Police Forces.
- ✓ Locks patio doors securely, designed to deter and stop intruders.

**CLICK HERE to purchase PATLOCK at the**  
**Neighbourhood Watch discounted price of**  
**£42.50**

## 2026 National ASB Awards

Do you know a group or person doing amazing work to reduce antisocial behaviour (ASB)?

Celebrate their achievements at Resolve ASB's antisocial behaviour awards. The nomination period for the 2026 ASB Awards closes at the end of August, and we would love for you to enter.

You can also nominate a colleague or your team/organisation.

It's completely free to make a nomination and you are allowed to nominate yourself.



It takes around 5-7 minutes to submit a nomination, and you can do so here: <https://www.resolveuk.org.uk/our-services/the-asb-awards>

All shortlisted nominees will receive a certificate and at least one free ticket to the prestigious Awards Ceremony, taking place on 26 February 2026 in Nottingham.

## Central team news

### Saying goodbye...

Our team over the last few weeks has said goodbye to the amazing team for our BT project. We reached 5136 people across England and Wales. Over the past 12 months this team have recruited and trained volunteers to deliver sessions. The journey has been really rewarding and we look forward to many more collaborations.

We have also waved goodbye to our Head of Fundraising Amy Mawby after six and a half years with us. We wish them all the very best for the future.

### Cyber in Croydon!

We were delighted to be invited to attend the Cyber crime event in Croydon and let everyone know about our Cyberhood Watch initiative. We even added a quiz! Great event and well attended.

### Supporting volunteers

We held workshops for our Membership Support Administrators (MSAs) with over 50 attend our free one hour event.

Our Cyberhood Watch Ambassadors attended our regular information get together event.

### Maggie Lewis...

We are sad to report the passing of Maggie who was a prominent volunteer in Oxford, Thames Valley. Our thoughts are with her friends, family, and colleagues.

# Community news

## Congratulations Marie!



We were honoured and delighted to present Marie Splatt with the Good Neighbour Award at the recent Camborne Community Awards.

"Marie is an angel in disguise to so many people in Camborne, quietly and without fanfare. She ensures that everyone who she comes into contact with is treated with kindness, dignity and love.

If you're hungry she will find some food for you, she welcomes children (and feeds them sugary snacks lol), she is the ultimate humble servant."

## Success in South Moor

What began as a small group of frustrated residents has now grown into a 200-strong volunteer network working to tackle environmental issues, build community pride, and create a safer, cleaner South Moor.

### Their impact so far:

- Organising regular clean-up events that bring people together.
- Removing over 102 bags of rubbish in June alone.
- Setting up an easy reporting system to respond quickly to fly-tipping and waste.
- Creating a welcoming, supportive community of local volunteers.

The transformation has been remarkable. Streets are cleaner, connections are stronger, and community pride is soaring.

South Moor Together is a brilliant example of what happens when everyday people come together to care for where they live.

