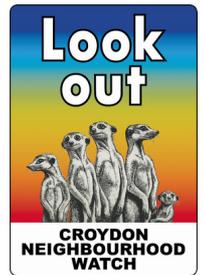


CROYDON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH UPDATE

December 2022



Vital roles - Can you help?!

Croydon Borough Neighbourhood Watch (CBNWA) relies on a group of individuals who form the committee to ensure the smooth running of the organisation. Each committee member has a specific area of responsibility and as the age old saying goes "many hands make light work".

There are currently a number of volunteer vacancies on the committee including Treasurer, Website Manager and a Fundraising Manager. Do you feel you have the skill set to carry out one of these roles?

Perhaps you know someone who may have the required skills and would be willing to volunteer for us? If so, do pass our details onto them.

Remember volunteering looks great on your CV and is a way of providing valuable work experience.

Those who take up these roles will be fully supported by the CBNWA team. If you are interested in any of these roles please email nhw@cbnwa.com



**Croydon Borough
Neighbourhood Watch
NEEDS YOU!!!!**

**CROYDON BOROUGH NEIGHBOURHOOD
WATCH NEEDS YOU!!!!**



www.cbnwa.com nhw@cbnwa.com

 [nhw @CBNWA](https://twitter.com/nhw@CBNWA)

WHICH? WEIRDEST SCAMS OF 2022

1. 'Energy-saving' gadgets

In early 2022, consumers were tantalised by claims that an energy-saving device could cut their electricity bills by 'up to 90%'.

The product was Voltex, previously known as Motex. When Which? investigated Motex, plus four other similar 'energy-saving' devices for sale on Amazon and eBay, none passed our safety tests. In fact, they were so poorly made they were at risk of causing fires or electric shocks.

We also found no evidence that any would actually save energy. Motex has since been the subject of a national product recall.

2. Fake Which? CEO

Scammers trying to trick canny Which? employees by posing as our chief executive?

Incredibly, this did happen, although the sense of audacity was undermined by poor spelling and grammar.

In January, members of the Which? social media team with publicly available email addresses received a missive 'from' Anabel Houtt, saying: 'Hope you don't have so much on your plate? I have a task for you. Reply my mail so I can concise you all about it.'

It was immediately identified as a scam - not least because it originated from a non-Which? email address. However, impersonation emails such as this are not always so crude and easily identifiable.

4. Gazprom-ises

Most of us have heard of the 'Nigerian Prince' email scam, but what about the Russian oligarch version? In June 2022, many people received an email 'from' Mr Viktor Zubkov, chairman of the board for Russian state energy giant Gazprom.

In the email, he complains of current economic sanctions 'melted' [sic] on Russians as a consequence of its war on Ukraine, which are preventing the transfer of Gazprom profits.

The good news is you, the recipient, can help by allowing your personal bank account to receive \$160m 'to escape confiscation by the US Government and the EU'

Anyone who did take up the offer would be persuaded to pay an upfront fee and/or provide their bank details, with the scammer then disappearing.

5. Elon Musk's 'bitcoin giveaway'

'Please take this email very, very seriously and email: elonmuskdonation99@ gmail.com', writes billionaire Elon Musk, in an email offering you 10 bitcoin.

Elon says this it's 'equal to 4,124,270.00'. Four million what? Who knows - there's no unit of measurement or currency stated. However, 10 bitcoin is equivalent to around £140,000 at the time of writing.

How did this VIP get your details? They were 'randomly selected from a European email database' in a way which seems very much non-compliant with data protection laws.

As with the Gazprom email, this is likely another 'advance fee' fraud, which aims to con you out of an upfront payment and probably your personal details, too.

Croydon Borough Police Updates

Croydon Cyber Crime Summary November 2022

Executive Summary

Number of offences	206
Total loss	£425,680.84
Average per victim	£2,066.41

Top 5

The top 5 by volume (number of reports) type of fraud is as follows:

Fraud Type	Amount of Offences	Amount Lost
NFIB3A - Online Shopping and Auctions	36	£20,736.47
NFIB1H - Other Advance Fee Frauds	25	£48,294.15
Push Payment	21	£99,221.19
NFIB5A - Cheque, Plastic Card and Online Bank Accounts (not PSP)	20	£15,087.09
NFIB3D - Other Consumer Non Investment Fraud	13	£5,365.01

The top 5 by amount reported lost:

Fraud Type	Amount Lost	Amount of Offences
Push Payment	£99,221.19	21
NFIB3F - Ticket Fraud	£48,329.05	6
NFIB1H - Other Advance Fee Frauds	£48,294.15	25
NFIB1E - Fraud Recovery	£48,000.00	1
NFIB2E - Other Financial Investment	£44,766.66	6

Co-ordinator News

A warning - Please never leave your car, or van, unattended with the engine running. Thieves are operating in the area who watch and wait for this to happen, and then drive off with your vehicle. It all happens in seconds.

A local tradesperson had their van stolen in this way from a nearby street. He had left his van to quickly go to a nearby property, thinking he would only be a few seconds. But that is all it took for thieves, who had obviously been watching, to jump into his van and drive off. You can easily imagine how this theft has impacted on this poor man, his family, his work and business.

Thankfully, the theft was caught on nearby CCTV, and has been passed to the Police. The CCTV footage clearly shows a blue car following the van, then stop when the van stops (to watch and check things), and then a man gets out of this blue car, gets into the van and drives off, with the blue car following. The man is very bold, wearing ordinary clothes but no face covering, just gloves to prevent finger print marks. These thieves seem very organised.

During the recent frosty weather, many people have been tempted to switch on their engines to 'warm up' their car, and go indoors to fetch things. Please stay with your car. Thieves are watching for every opportunity to make easy money. Do not let yourself become a victim, however tempting it might be to have a nice warm car. Try to allow a little extra time in the mornings when the weather is frosty, to scrape windows etc.

Vicky Bruce

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator

St. Oswald's Road, SW16

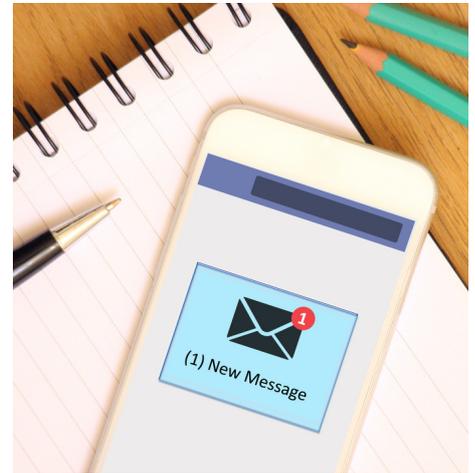
Scam Alerts

Delivery Scam

There are lots of different types of scams, and people can be targeted in many ways - whether that's by phone, email, mail or even in person. One type of scam is a delivery text/email scam. These can be text messages or phishing emails pretending to be from a delivery courier like DPD or Royal Mail. These messages claim that you have missed a delivery and ask you to reschedule for a fee, thereby obtaining your bank details. Whilst it can start with a small fee, it can end with criminals emptying a person's entire bank account.

You can take precautions by following the advice below:

- Don't click on links in text messages or emails.
- Ignore the message and contact the business directly.
- You should report the text and can alert the network operator by sending the text to the number 7726 .
- If you have clicked on any links and lost money, contact your bank immediately.



Scams Reported by our co-ordinators

Several of our co-ordinators have been in touch to report a potential scam involving replacing copper wire with fibre cable. A man knocked at the door and explained that the fibre cable would be much faster. His details could not be verified and he had no paperwork but he did show the residents an ID badge.

Please be vigilant when answering the door to cold callers and please verify any ID presented by calling the organisation independently (DO NOT use a number presented by the cold caller).

Please share any scams with nhw@cbnwa.com

Useful Contact Details



CRIME STOPPERS: IF YOU WISH TO CONTACT POLICE ANONYMOUSLY YOU CAN CONTACT CRIME STOPPERS ON 0800 555 111 OR GO TO THEIR WEBSITE [HTTPS://CRIMESTOPPERS-UK.ORG/](https://crimestoppers-uk.org/)

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON: SWITCHBOARD 020 8726 6000 OR VIA THE FREE MY CROYDON APP

CROYDON TRADING STANDARDS: 020 8407 1311, EMAIL: TRADING.STANDARDS@CROYDON.GOV.UK

CITIZENS ADVICE CONSUMER SERVICE: 03454 04 05 06

CROYDON COUNCIL ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR TEAM: EMAIL: ASBTEAM@CROYDON.GOV.UK

CROYDON COUNCIL FLY-TIPPING HOTLINE: 020 8604 7000 EMAIL: FLYTIP@CROYDON.GOV.UK

GRAFFITI REPORTING: 020 8726 6200

ABANDONED VEHICLES: IF YOU WANT TO CHECK WHETHER A CAR IS TAXED YOU CAN CHECK HERE: WWW.GOV.UK/CHECK-VEHICLE-TAX

UNTAXED BUT NOT ABANDONED VEHICLES: CAN BE REPORTED VIA WWW.GOV.UK/REPORT-UNTAXED-VEHICLE

UNTAXED AND ABANDONED VEHICLES: REPORT TO CROYDON COUNCIL ABANDONED VEHICLE SECTION EMAIL: AVS.PARKING@CROYDON.GOV.UK