

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH IN ACTION

NEWSLETTER OF
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CROYDON

Croydon Eye



Crime Prevention Day & AGM 2023

October 2023 - Croydon Borough Neighbourhood Watch Association (CBNWA) hosted their most exciting conference yet, with a wonderful guest list of high profile speakers.

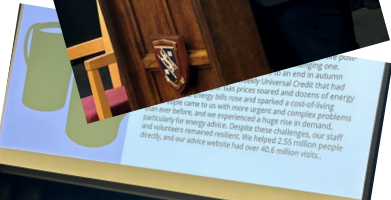
On Saturday 7th October, Croydon Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators and guests came together for a full programme of informative speakers at Royal Russell School.

Opened by the Mayor of Croydon; Jason Perry, and our very own Chairman Paul Voden, the day commenced with the Mayor's vision for Croydon and a very interesting view about what has been going on throughout the borough to improve our surroundings and local services. Mayor Perry took part in a Q&A session with attendees and he has vowed to look into pressing issues on behalf of Croydon co-ordinators.

The Mayor was followed by Cabinet Member Ola Kolade who spoke about the Safer Croydon Partnership (SCP). He publicly thanked the police in the borough for their service and appreciated that they are the first port of call for tackling these issues in Croydon. Mr Kolade outlined the progress already made and explained in detail the successes for groups such as the Safer Streets Group which has been effective in tackling street based anti-social behaviour hot spots.

Our panel Q&A followed with Croydon Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) Inspectors; James Weston, Ryan Holiday and Andy Smith, who answered questions from the floor concerning a wide range of issues from knife crime to abandoned cars.

Claire Keetch, Citizens Advice Service (CAS) Croydon, explained the history of the service dating back all the way to the 1940's where Croydon was one of the pioneering boroughs at the beginning of CAS. Volunteers began offering emergency advice from their homes, on the street, and buses! Initial enquiries ranged from debt management, finding missing or displaced relatives, and locating evacuees. CAS is an accredited organisation that is open to everybody in the Croydon Borough (as long as you work, study or live in the area) and deals with civil matters such as immigration, consumer rights, debt welfare, families and relationships.



PC Oliver Clixby from the Cyber Crime Unit, received much praise for his highly informative presentation on cyber crime and how to prevent it. There were lots of important links that were shared and a promise to host another hands on workshop for any co-ordinators who were unable to attend or simply want more expert advice!

Superintendent Mitch Carr gave a rousing speech about the vision for the MET and how this will impact on Borough Command Unit (BCU) South. He stated that his top focus is robbery and violence as well as burglaries. In Purley town centre a number of operations led by PC Tony Brown have heavily reduced the amount of robberies against school children. He spoke of wanting to increase police presence in local wards and making sure officers are only a 20 minute walk from their area of policing.

Chris Philp, Conservative MP for Croydon South and Home Office Minister for Police, Crime, Fire and Drugs, thanked the co-ordinators for volunteering, as local communities who work with the police are a critical part of keeping Croydon safe. He thanked the police for their hard work, and gave special thanks to those brave officers who have risked their lives and sometimes ended up sacrificing their own safety for the protection of others. Mr Philp explained that the number of recruited officers is now over 149,000 nationwide (the MET has 35,000 officers) which is a huge success.

National Neighbourhood Watch CEO, John Hayward-Cripps delivered the closing speech where he celebrated the successes of the organisation and the efforts of volunteers. Earlier in the day the Mayor of the London Borough of Croydon met with John Hayward-Cripps to confirm the borough's commitment to tackling crime in public spaces and they both signed the Community Safety Charter. He championed the local and national organisation and outlined the proposed projects for 2024.

We finished off an interesting day with our AGM where we celebrated the amazing work of CBNWA and our incredible co-ordinators and volunteers.



Croydon Community Event & Reduction of Street Harassment

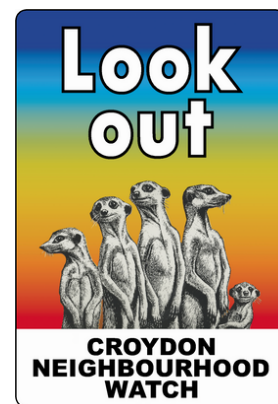
On Wednesday the 22nd of November, Croydon Borough NHW worked in collaboration with the London MET Police on a project to reduce street harassment and violence against women and girls. We stencilled information on the footpaths and in parks telling people what to do if they feel scared or harassed. The stencils were positioned in the following locations; Thornton Heath Clock Tower, Thornton Heath Job Centre, Thornton Heath Leisure Centre, Tesco, Thornton Heath Station, Thornton Heath Recreation Ground and Thornton Heath Pond.

On Saturday 25th November the SNT set up a stall outside of Tesco Thornton Heath, highlighting the app 'Street Safe' where people can report areas where they feel unsafe. The event was attended by local councillors, the Mayor, Cabinet Member Ola Kolade, and Neighbourhood Watch, with more than 1000 leaflets distributed.

Hopefully this pioneering project will be rolled out borough wide!



Update on Neighbourhood Policing in Croydon



Old Coulsdon Ward:

In early November the SNT Team supported the events at this year's Remembrance Day parade. The Scouts and Cadets marched very well and looked impressive. Sgt Brown was marching with the Police at the London Cenotaph in Whitehall this year. The team, as well as other wards in the cluster, have been busy on shoplifting operations and the Old Coulsdon Christmas light switch on. The team continues to work with partners and residents and intelligence-led policing to build more trust, less crime and high standards.



Selhurst Ward:

Drug use and drug dealing is a ward priority. We continue to use our powers such as 'stop and search' and to develop intelligence around particular addresses and individuals. Intelligence enables us to obtain warrants and take drug dealers off the streets - please continue to provide information to us. In the last month we conducted a number of weapons sweeps in areas where violent crime has previously taken place or in likely hiding places for weapons. We continue to do these regularly on our patrols. Whilst on patrol, PCSO NK spotted a vehicle that looked out of place. A check on the vehicle's registration number revealed it had been stolen a few days before. The vehicle was recovered and returned to the rightful owner.

Purley & Woodcote Ward:

This month we have had yet another successful catalytic converter marking event; we marked over 20 cars which has provided deterrent and prevention. The Safer Neighbourhood Team hosted a crime prevention stall at Purley Tesco along with our outreach team who were recruiting. We managed to talk to a lot of people, answered questions, and offered crime prevention advice. The outreach team also were successful in speaking to lots of people who showed interest in becoming police officers. There was also a launch of the Talkbus at Purley Tesco; the bus is there to offer advice, guidance and information on health & wellbeing issues for children, young people and families. They visit schools, colleges, communities and public venues, providing a safe space for all to access.

Burglary Advice

Below are some useful tips to secure your home:

- Please ensure that gates or access to the rear of your house are locked and secure.
- Don't forget to lock your shed; your tools can be used to break in.
- Trim overgrown plants - don't give burglars a hiding place.
- Fit security lighting, either dusk to dawn energy efficient lighting that will come on automatically as dusk sets in, or a passive infra-red (PIR) light that will draw attention to movement.
- Use an automatic time switch on an indoor light, either in a room that cannot be peered into from the road, or upstairs. Regularly change the timing on the switch.
- Put a time switch on a radio that has been tuned to a chat station, this will give the impression that the house is occupied. Again regularly change the timing on the switch.
- Property mark your valuables. Some articles are unsuitable for marking so photograph them with a ruler in view to show scale.
- Secure windows, paying particular attention to those on the ground floor and above flat roof areas. Always use locks and bolts and keep all your keys, including car keys, out of sight and out of reach.
- Intruder alarms are an effective deterrent against burglars. Before choosing a system ensure it is the one most suitable for your needs.



Norbury & Pollards Hill

Throughout November, officers have been running weapon sweeps in Norbury Park, Norwood Grove and Norbury Hall Park. These have been conducted both with members of the community and with the officers from these wards. Officers had received reports from a member of the community about a possibly abandoned vehicle. They attended and checks came back that the vehicle was stolen! It was recovered on 14th November. November has brought around the Quarterly Ward Panel Meetings for the Norbury Wards. These meetings are for the community to bring their concerns to the local governing bodies and to set goals for the next three months, whilst also being shown what has been happened in the previous three months. Thank you to everyone who attended both Panel Meetings.



Crime Prevention Advice

Thefts of motor vehicles are an ongoing problem across the borough. Of particular note are what are called "keyless car thefts". Sanderstead Safer Neighbourhoods team have given us some crime prevention advice in regards to keyless car thefts:-

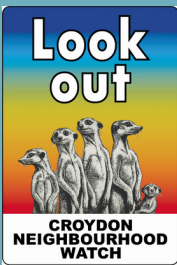
What is keyless car theft? This issue concerns vehicles which are not started by a traditional key being placed into the ignition. These vehicles are started when the driver presses a button in the car in conjunction with the car key being close to the vehicle and emitting a signal enabling the engine to start up.

Suspects use a relay amplifier and a relay transmitter to commit the theft. Working in pairs they identify a house with a relevant car parked nearby. One person stands by the car with a transmitter while a second waves an amplifier around the perimeter of the house. If the car key is close enough the amplifier will detect its signal, amplify it, and send it to the accomplice's transmitter. This transmitter then effectively becomes the key, and tricks the car into thinking the real key is nearby. In total, this can take as little as 60 seconds and can be completed in near silence.



Protecting your car: An effective way of doing this is to block or minimise the signal that your key emits. This can be achieved by keeping your keys (including spare keys) away from doors and windows (particularly those that can be accessed easily from the street). Consider purchasing a Faraday pouch to keep the keys in (including spare keys). These pouches contain signal-blocking materials that stop your key transmitting its code, preventing thieves from being able to detect and amplify the signal. You should also check your car's manual or speak to your dealer to find out if your key can be switched off.

It may also be worth considering purchasing a tracking device to place on your vehicle (make sure you keep the device out of sight). This will help the police track and then recover your vehicle should the worst happen and it is stolen. You could also consider using a steering wheel lock, a driveway parking post, or even a wheel clamp to deter thieves. Finally, always manually check your vehicle is locked.



Subscribe to our mailing list at www.cbnwa.com to get up to date communications from Croydon Neighbourhood Watch.

Your Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator's details:

For further crime prevention advice for your vehicle please type in the link below to your internet browser:

www.met.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/keeping-vehicles-safe/preventing-car-vehicle-theft/



www.cbnwa.com nhw@cbnwa.com

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