



JUNE 2025



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KNIFE CRIME

Awareness
Week

Neighbourhood Watch supports Knife Crime Awareness Week

As an organisation dedicated to creating safer neighbourhoods, Neighbourhood Watch believes that education and community engagement are key to preventing knife crime.

Across the country, charities, police forces, youth professionals, parents, carers, and individuals are making a tangible difference in the lives of young people. We supported Knife Crime Awareness Week, which ran from 19 -25 May, providing a national platform to recognise and celebrate these efforts.

Knife crime in England and Wales has increased in recent years, over 50,500 offences were recorded in the year ending March 2024. It is a concerning trend, but knife crime is not an inevitable part of society. Our Youth Council member Lotte wrote a blog looking at the work being done to combat it. [Read it here.](#)

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We all have a part to play in combating knife crime effectively. The key message for me, is that engaging young people through targeted interventions is essential.

Lotte Lawson, Youth Council Member



Local NW news

Congratulations Park Hall Neighbourhood Watch

Park Hall Area Neighbourhood Watch (PHANW) has received a £2,500 donation from Midland Motor Fuels, operators of a Nisa Local store in Walsall.

The funding will support PHANW's efforts to enhance community safety and wellbeing across the Park Hall area. Plans include increasing visibility of the group through the installation of new Neighbourhood Watch signs and providing essential safety items, such as torches, to vulnerable residents.

The group also aims to improve road safety by enhancing lighting in key areas and supplying blind spot mirrors, as well as offering first aid training to local residents to help build resilience in emergency situations.





Neighbourhood Watch and Patlock celebrate a decade of safety

In 2015, PATLOCK established a strategic partnership with Neighbourhood Watch, recognising our shared goals and commitment to making communities safer and more secure.

Our continued aim is to work together in assisting members to reduce home burglaries and enhance neighbourhood security.

To celebrate 10 years of partnership, PATLOCK are offering a further 10% reduction from our already discounted member price during Neighbourhood Watch Week.

This celebratory offer price of £38.25 is only available during Neighbourhood Watch Week between 1st-7th June 2025.

CLICK HERE  to enjoy the extra 10% saving and purchase PATLOCK at the offer price of **£38.25**

This offer is limited to 3 Patlocks per customer and is only available from 1st-7th June 2025.

Volunteer recognition awards

Neighbourhood Watch was built by amazing volunteers.

So many people selflessly give their time, skills and energy to keeping our communities safer, friendlier and more resilient. It never ceases to be inspiring.

It is so important to us to celebrate the great, often unique, work that our volunteers do in their communities.

These awards recognise individuals whose work goes above and beyond the usual expectations.

The awards categories are:

- Innovation and reach
- Crime prevention
- Community health and wellbeing
- Young volunteer award
- Special recognition award

How to nominate a volunteer:

Entries will open on Monday 2 June and close at 5pm on Sunday 6 July .

Find out more and
nominate someone brilliant

SECURE YOUR FUTURE LIKE YOU SECURE YOUR HOME



As Neighbourhood Watch members, you take pride in protecting your community by locking doors, staying alert, and looking out for each other.

But have you thought about how secure your own financial future is?

Many people believe that having a Will is enough, but it only takes effect after you pass away. If you were suddenly unable to make decisions due to illness or injury, your loved ones might not be able to step in without the right legal documents.

TOP THINGS TO CONSIDER WITH ESTATE PLANNING

- **An up to date Will** - to ensure your wishes are clearly recorded and the right people inherit at the right time.
- **Health & Welfare LPA** – so someone you trust can make medical decisions if you can't.
- **Property & Finance LPA** – to allow a chosen person to manage your money and home if needed.
- **Setting up the right Trusts** – to protect your assets and support your loved ones.



DID YOU KNOW...

Your loved ones can't make medical or care decisions for you without legal authority?

A Health and Welfare LPA lets you choose someone you trust to decide on your care, treatment and living arrangements if you're no longer able to.

Without one, your family could face delays and stress navigating legal processes, at a time when quick decisions matter most.

DID YOU KNOW...

Your family can't access your finances without legal authority, even to pay essential bills?

A Property and Finance LPA allows you to appoint someone you trust to manage your money, property and day-to-day finances if you lose capacity.

Without one, your loved ones might be left in limbo, facing delays and legal hurdles just to take care of your affairs.

EXCLUSIVE 20% OFFER

To make this process even easier, Future-Proof Estate Planning is offering Neighbourhood Watch members an **exclusive 20% discount on your estate planning documents** - [click here](#). Their online system allows you to create your Will and LPAs from the comfort of your own home.

Should you need assistance, telephone support is available to guide you through every step, ensuring the process is as simple and stress-free as possible.

OR call us on 0800 9500 000 (QUOTE: Neighbourhood Watch)



Strengthening the community

A strong community isn't just about friendly faces; it's also about creating an environment where everyone feels safe and secure.

Here are a few ways to contribute to strengthening your 'community feel'

Get to know your neighbours:



A simple "hello" can be the start of a valuable connection. Introduce yourself to new residents and make an effort to chat with those you see regularly.

Participate in community events:



Whether it's a clean-up drive or a simple gathering, getting involved is a fantastic way to connect with your neighbours and show your community spirit.

Be observant and report concerns:



Remember, Neighbourhood Watch is all about being our eyes and ears. If you see something that doesn't feel right, don't hesitate to report it or share information within your local watch group.

Offer support where you can:



A helping hand can go a long way. Offer to collect mail for a neighbour who's away, or check in on someone who might be vulnerable.

5 Top Tips for a Secure Home



When we feel safe and sound within our own four walls, it can lead to fostering a stronger sense of community. SimpliSafe offers these valuable tips to help enhance your home security.



1

Secure all your entry points:

Ensure all doors and windows have sturdy locks, and an alarm's entry sensor can alert you the moment a door or window is opened.



2

Light up your home at night:

Well-lit outdoor areas can deter potential intruders. Consider motion-sensor lights for added security and energy efficiency.



3

Make your security system visible:

Bell boxes, outdoor cameras and window stickers can act as a powerful deterrent against criminals.



4

Increased security with 24/7 monitoring:

SimpliSafe offers 24/7 security monitoring, meaning in the event of an alarm, our security experts will verify the situation and alert emergency services or dispatch a guard to your home.



5

Protect your outbuildings:

Sheds and garages can also be targets for theft. You should consider extending your security to these outdoor areas with additional sensors and cameras.

If you want to add an extra layer of security to your home, save 50% on SimpliSafe's systems with the exclusive Neighbourhood Watch discount.

Police to crush e-scooters and off-road bikes used anti-socially within 48 hours

Communities blighted by off-road biking in public parks, and intimidating street racing are set to benefit from new police powers to crack down on anti-social behaviour.

Anti-social drivers face having their cars, e-scooters or off-road bikes seized and destroyed after 48 hours under stronger powers proposed by the government.

Currently, police must wait 14 days before being able to dispose of a vehicle, making it easier for offenders to reclaim their vehicles and with a limited deterrent to repeat offending.

The measure to fast-track the disposal of vehicles comes alongside additional proposals to give police stronger powers to seize any vehicles involved in anti-social behaviour, with officers no longer required to issue a warning.

The changes are expected to have a wider impact on tackling more serious crime with e-scooters and e-bikes often used to facilitate drug dealing, organised acquisitive crime and serious violence. [Find out more on our site.](#)

A portrait of Sandra Bauer, Deputy Chief Executive of Neighbourhood Watch, is shown on the left side of the page. She has long, wavy brown hair and is wearing a dark top. The background of the portrait is a soft, out-of-focus image of a person riding a bicycle.

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We're so used to seeing powerful vehicles on our roads that it's easy to forget just how dangerous and noisy they can be, especially when they are being used antisocially.

Our members tell us that the impact on a community or neighbourhood can be huge, creating safety risks, noise disturbance and intimidating people.

Sandra Bauer,
Deputy Chief Executive,
Neighbourhood Watch



40 years of

Neighbourhood
Watch Week

STRONGER TOGETHER
@TameBridgeNW

Thank you

Making our area a
better place to live
- together -

Facebook: Bedford NW and Gnrwatch
www.ourwatch.org.uk