



Keeping our communities
safe and reassured



Stafford Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter

May 2016

Garden ornaments and furniture

The theft of garden ornaments, furniture and planters is another Spring/Summer trend. Consider the security of your property and remember that valuable planters and ornaments are safer in the back garden where passers by can't see them.

Secure garden furniture using an anchoring device making it harder to remove. These can also be used to protect expensive planters and ornamental trees. Use brackets to protect hanging baskets. Consider security marking your valuables. If they are difficult to mark, take a photograph of them to help with identification if the worst happens and they are stolen.



It's cold caller season

As the weather improves, there tends to be more cold callers knocking on doors. Cold callers may be offering work around the home and garden, asking residents to sign direct debits to donate to charities, offering small household goods for sale or travelling in vans offering carpets, beds or televisions. Telephone cold callers may include home and security companies trying to make appointments to visit and companies cold calling to offer solutions to cold telephone calls (for a monthly fee). Some of the above will be genuine, but some may be rogue traders, distraction burglars, or there to gather information on the doorstep for their criminal associates. You can't tell by looking at someone how honest they are.



Dealing with cold callers you risk being overcharged for goods or services that may be poor quality from workers that can't be traced once they leave, or distracted while an accomplice steals from the address. If you deal with a rogue trader on the doorstep, your details could be passed to other cold callers so that you receive more visits.

If cold callers don't succeed in your area, they are less likely to come back, and although you may not be at risk, there are vulnerable neighbours in every area that may fall prey to unscrupulous callers. We can all help by not opening the door and not dealing with cold callers. Anyone needing work around the home and garden is advised to get at least three quotes from different, reputable companies before making a decision. If you don't have a friend or neighbour that can recommend a reliable company, consider using the Staffordshire & Stoke on Trent Traders Register at www.traderregister.org.uk telephone 01785-330888

We can be contacted at: nw@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk or call 101 and ask to speak to a Community Engagement Officer.

Open day, Sunday 5 June, 11am to 4pm

Staffordshire Police are once again hosting an Open Day at Police Headquarters to give local people the opportunity to take a look behind the scenes. The day will be action packed and full of family fun. Register your interest in attending the Open Day and be the first to receive the latest news and information using <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GH8x6V9>



Smart Alert

Staffordshire Smart Alert is just one way you can receive community safety information and engage with local policing.

Smart Alert was an idea which emerged from a community engagement event hosted by the Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Ellis, and officers from Staffordshire Police. Held with residents, businesses and partners, attendees considered how best

Staffordshire Police could engage with local residents to provide up to date information about things that matter to them. The system allows you to tailor your Alerts to our local area or to your personal interests simply and easily.



Victim Gateway

For the first time support is being offered to ALL victims – not just those who report crime to police and this is funded by the Police and crime Commissioner for Staffordshire – which means the Gateway will double the number of people offered help from 23,000 to approximately 50,000 a year. Victims will get timely advice and emotional and practical support in the way that suits them best, whether over the phone or face to face.



You can also report crime by contacting the independent crime-fighting charity Crimestoppers anonymously on **0800 555 111** or through their Anonymous Online Form at www.crimestoppers-uk.org. No personal details are taken, information cannot be traced or recorded and you will not go to court.

