

Chelmsford Group of Neighbourhood Watches

Safer & Stronger Communities Together

www.chelmsfordneighbourhoodwatch.org.uk



NEWSLETTER: Spring/Summer 2017

Emergency? ALWAYS use 999

Fly-tipping is a CRIME—let's fight it

Dumping a bit of litter? In a ditch down a remote lane? Anything from a plastic bag of rubbish, a mattress, an old 'fridge—or a pile of rubble or scrap: it's a crime by any standard. It's dangerous to people, livestock, and wildlife. It's an eyesore. It encourages vermin and disease. It can block traffic—people trying to get to work or going home, children going to and from school, emergency vehicles. It costs money to dispose of this junk—either from the local authority, that would be used for other hard-pressed services, or out of the pockets of private citizens. We all have a duty of care to ensure that any unwanted material is disposed of in a responsible way, and this includes when we engage individuals or companies to carry out work for us, like builders, gardeners, tree surgeons, house-clearers, or scrap metal merchants.

In an emergency | always dial 999

| DO IT ONLINE |

For non-emergencies, call 101, or do it on-line:
www.essex.police.uk/do-it-online

Anti-terrorist hotline

**IF YOU SUSPECT IT REPORT IT
CALL 0800 789 321
CONFIDENTIAL ANTI-TERRORIST
HOTLINE**

www.gov.uk/report-terrorism

Call anonymously to report crime



www.crimestoppers-uk.org



Waste and the Householder's Duty of Care

Chelmsford City Council has produced guidance to householders on the engagement of contractors who would dispose of waste on your behalf: and all such people will normally need to be registered to carry waste. There are unscrupulous waste carriers who have charged householders for taking waste away only to dump it in a lay-by. *These traders rely on householders not asking questions as to whether or not they are registered to carry and dispose of waste.* However, the legal responsibility falls to the householder to check they are registered. This means that *if you pay someone to take material away from your house and then they dump it (fly tipping), you ►*

Contact us: ☎ 07926 462610
info@chelmsfordneighbourhoodwatch.org.uk

Working with
local partners



Chelmsford
City Council

► could be fined up to £5,000 if it can be proved it came from your house or garden.

Steps householders should take to take when arranging for any waste to be collected, other than through the Council

To avoid running into problems, follow this advice from the City Council:

- Ask the contractor if they are a Registered Waste Carrier - and ask for their registration number.
- Check their details with the Environment Agency on telephone number 08708 506506, or online at www.environment-agency.gov.uk/publicregister. If the contractor is not registered you are advised to decline their services.
- Record your contractor's details—their name, address and telephone number along with the registration number of their vehicle
- Keep details of the contractor, for example their calling card, a copy of their newspaper advert and their receipt for payment for work.

The **Duty of Care** aims to protect people and the environment. If householders only use legitimate contractors, they can be satisfied that their waste will be disposed of lawfully. Rogue traders will lose custom, and then be forced to act within the law, or cease trading.

Councillor Ian Grundy, City Council Cabinet Member for Safer Communities says, “Everyone has a duty of care for the rubbish they produce. The majority of residents go out of their way to keep Chelmsford clean and green and dispose of waste correctly—but a few spoil it at the expense of others and our environment. We will target the few selfish people who fail to dispose of their waste responsibly and enforce this duty of care through legal action.”

Reporting a Problem

Contact Chelmsford City Council's **Community Protection Team** on

01245 606606

or

| DO IT ONLINE |

[www.chelmsford.gov.uk/environment/
report-a-street-problem/report-fly-tipping](http://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/environment/report-a-street-problem/report-fly-tipping)

If you witness someone in the act of fly-tipping you should dial 999 as the person doing the tipping is potentially endangering the community and the environment. Without putting yourself at risk, take details of the vehicle, person, location etc., but **do not approach the tipper at anytime, and report it.**

In an emergency | always dial 999

| DO IT ONLINE |

Essex Police encourage members of the public to report non-emergency matters to them—and other services—by doing it online. Their web link is

www.essex.police.uk/do-it-online

This link provides access to a range of police and other services, as shown below (and elsewhere in this newsletter). The police also encourage members of the public to provide non-emergency information—anonimously if you like—on suspicious or worrying activities you might see.



Inspector Andy Sawyer, Chelmsford's Community Policing Team leader, says Neighbourhood Watch members (and the public in general) “should make use of the ‘Do it Online’ facility on our website—just Google ‘Essex Police’ and follow the links. Information can be left on the **Crimestoppers** link as they log everything and everything then goes to the relevant police service. In high profile or some particular cases of interest, we do then get approached by **Crimestoppers** to confirm we've acted on the information (and asked what we've done). Clearly there is nothing stopping Neighbourhood Watch members or any member of the public from still calling 101 or 999 as appropriate, or going direct to the **Crimestoppers** website.”

If you haven't access to the Internet, call

Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

or call

Essex Police on 101

REPORT IT!

STOP HATE CRIME...

www.report-it.org.uk



In previous newsletters we have pressed the need to be vigilant against fraud—by telephone, Internet (including email), by post, and by people knocking on your door; then there's 'plastic card' fraud—stolen credit and debit cards being put to criminal use; and stolen user names and passwords with online bank accounts, Paypal™ accounts, online shopping, and so on. Online fraud is now the most common crime in the UK, with almost one in ten people being victim, and more than five and a half million related offences taking place each year. So we make no apology for keeping on about this scourge.

Action Fraud

National Fraud & Cyber Crime Reporting Centre

0300 123 2040

www.actionfraud.police.uk

Here are some reminders:

- NEVER give pin numbers or passwords out over the phone or on-line;
- BE VERY CAUTIOUS about clicking a link in an email—NEVER is safest;
- BEWARE of look-alike websites—even websites that are 'legitimate' businesses can charge a hefty fee for an otherwise free service from, for example, HM Government: a legitimate government website will have **gov.uk** in its web address.

Check out our website for more detailed information. The FCA provides good advice, too:

www.scamsmart.fca.org.uk

Chelmsford Neighbourhood Watch: our website

www.chelmsfordneighbourhoodwatch.org.uk

We are amateur volunteers and our website is far from perfect, but we attempt to provide links and information to the communities of Chelmsford about Neighbourhood Watch, personal safety, home security, working together for safer communities, and so on. We always welcome constructive comments and criticisms to help us continually improve what we have on the site. We've put up a forum on our website where you can share ideas and information if you wish. And we always welcome new members.

Sign up to Essex Community Messaging to receive regular and immediate information from Essex Police and linked Neighbourhood Watches



**[www.essex.police.uk/contact-us/
essex-community-messaging](http://www.essex.police.uk/contact-us/essex-community-messaging)**

A graphic poster with a black and white photograph of a burglar breaking into a house. Overlaid text includes "DARK DAYS", "LIGHT DAYS", "WATCH OUT!", "BURGLARS", "ABOUT", "Secure your home and let them think you're in", and the website "www.chelmsfordneighbourhoodwatch.org.uk".

DARK DAYS

LIGHT DAYS

WATCH OUT!

BURGLARS

ABOUT

Secure

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www.chelmsfordneighbourhoodwatch.org.uk

Neighbourhood Watch—the only way is doing it together!

A Neighbourhood Watch is a local group of people living in a neighbourhood of houses or apartments, part of a street, a whole street, a neighbourhood of streets, or a parish, where they look out for everyone in their area in mutual support. There are many excellent examples of Watches across Essex, and a strong history in the Chelmsford district. But Watches are dependent on local people continuing to work together—sadly, too often, Watches fall by the wayside because the burden of activity falls on the shoulders of one or two people: they may get tired of doing all the work and no-one takes over. Successful Watches need the involvement and support of the whole neighbourhood: it's in everyone's interests to do this, and by sharing the burden it becomes not a burden!

We need more younger people involved—and schools too: safer and healthy communities are a matter for all members of a community, and the more we all can work together the safer and more confident we all will be.

Contact us if you want advice on setting up a local Neighbourhood Watch:

www.chelmsfordneighbourhoodwatch.org.uk

On our website you can access resource materials, like the Neighbourhood Watch Members' booklet, which gives a wealth of information and advice on setting up and making a local Watch successful.



So, look us up, make contact, and let's work together for safer, happier communities.

**Don't be a victim:
look out for your
personal property**

**PURSE
DIPPING**

Don't be a victim!

**WALLET
SNATCHING**

**Look out for your
personal property**

www.chelmsfordneighbourhoodwatch.org.uk

Don't be a victim! Carelessness with purses, handbags, wallets, smart phones, keys ... they're all stealable. So often you will see people walking about with their wallets or phones in their back pockets, a handbag left on the back of a chair in a café or slung quite visibly (and stealable) in a shopping trolley; a smart phone left on a café table—look away for a second and it can be gone!

BE AWARE - BE SAFE