



## Our Website has a New Look

[www.villagewatch.co.uk](http://www.villagewatch.co.uk)

Our website has been a feature of Birstall and Wanlip Neighbourhood Watch for many years but it was beginning to creak a bit at the seams.

**We have changed its appearance and made some underlying changes that enable us to offer more.**

**We are now able to publish this Newsletter and the Beat News in their original format and will be adding and improving other pages over the next few months.**

*If you are signed-up for our email alerts, these will continue but you will be asked (in a separate email) to re-confirm your registration.*

We are very grateful to Shreekant Raivadera, a long-standing supporter of the Watch, for his skill, time and hard work in making these changes for us.

## Car Park 'Fines'

Action Fraud has received a number of reports of people, often elderly, who are being targeted by criminals pretending to be police officers or traffic wardens. They are approached while in a car park and told that they have parked illegally or exceeded the speed limit and that there is photographic evidence to prove it.

They are advised that will be fined a substantial amount but that they can reduce this by paying immediately. They are directed to a parking payment machine where they are told to pay using their bank card.

When the victim enters their PIN, the bogus official watches and remembers it. The machine will have been tampered with so that it retains the card and the victim is advised to contact their bank or the car park company for advice. Once they have left, the criminal removes the card and uses it to draw cash and make purchases.

If you have any doubts about the genuineness of a fine, do not pay anything until you have verified it with your local council or whoever else allegedly issued it. Only use contact details from public notices, never those supplied by the criminal.

Always shield your PIN from view when using any machine, and never share it with anyone else.

If your bank card is retained by a machine, inform your bank immediately. Store the emergency number(s) printed on your card(s) in your phone so that you can call them while you are still at the machine and protecting your card.

## CCTV Systems

We have been contacted by Members expressing concern about the use of private CCTV systems that they believe invade their privacy. These are regulated by *Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)* and there is a lot of information on its website:

[ico.org.uk/your-data-matters](http://ico.org.uk/your-data-matters)

Here is a brief summary of the main points but, if you are a domestic CCTV owner or otherwise concerned about its use, you should go to the website and read the detailed advice.

### If You have CCTV

If you have a CCTV system that only captures images from inside the boundaries of your domestic property, including your garden, the data protection laws do not apply.

**However, if your system captures images from anywhere outside those boundaries, such as neighbouring homes, gardens, shared spaces or public footpaths and streets, the *General Data Protection Regulation* and the *Data Protection Act 2018*, that are enforced by the *ICO*, apply to you.**

As the CCTV user, you automatically become a *data controller* who has legal obligations under the data protection laws and who must have a clear and justifiable reason for capturing images. You have to be able to demonstrate that you are complying with the law and protecting the rights of other people. You should record clearly in writing why you believe that capturing the images is more important than protecting the privacy of your neighbours.

If you fail to comply, you could be subject to enforcement action by the *ICO* that could result in a fine. You could also be subject to other legal action, including private claims for compensation. If you follow the *ICO* guidance and take all reasonable steps to fulfill your data protection obligations, it is unlikely that the *ICO* would take enforcement action against you.

### If your Neighbour has CCTV

**If you are filmed on someone else's domestic CCTV system when you are outside the boundaries of their property, you have rights under the data protection laws.**

In particular, you have the right to:

- **To be told that a home CCTV system is in use.** It is usually enough to put up signs but they must be legible and clearly visible.
- **To ask the owner for a copy of any images or information they hold about you.** This is known as making a *Subject Access Request*. You can ask either verbally or in writing for copies of any footage in which you are identifiable. The owner must respond to this request within one month.
- **To ask the owner to erase any personal data they hold about you.**
- **To ask the owner not to capture any images or footage of you in future.**

## Saturday Advice Shop

17th August 2019

10 a.m. to 12 noon

Parish Council Building

10 Sibson Road

Our Advice Shop runs together with the local Police Beat Surgery.

We have security devices for sale to members at near to cost price and various free items that can help you to keep safe.

There is also the opportunity to speak in confidence to a local Police Officer about any of your concerns.

Call in for a chat, friendly advice and even a cup of tea.

## Beat News

The most recent *Beat News* is published in full on the *Police News* pages of our website – [www.villagewatch.co.uk](http://www.villagewatch.co.uk)

The reports are also printed each month in the *Birstall Post*.

Here is a summary of the June *Beat News* from PC Dave Jaeckels:

- There were forty-nine crimes reported in June, a drop from fifty-nine in May.
- There were five offences of theft from cars; a drop from eleven in the previous month.
- The number of house burglaries reported was five.
- The number of reported assaults dropped from fourteen to nine.
- Four drugs offences were reported (see Neighbourhood Update below).
- Two vehicles were reported stolen.
- There were four reports of criminal damage, four of other damage, six of public order offences and four of fuel theft.

Further information can be found at:

[www.police.uk/leicestershire/NL60](http://www.police.uk/leicestershire/NL60)

## Crime Prevention Advice

Fraud is a big problem at the moment and fraudsters are constantly finding more sophisticated and convincing ways to make us part with our money. Recently I have been advised about a scam where the victim receives a call from someone claiming to be from HMRC, saying that they owe money in tax and that if it is not paid they will be arrested. If they follow the directions they are taken to a 'call handler' who will then ask for credit card details so they can process a payment. This is obviously a scam as HMRC will never contact you over the phone in this way.

- NEVER give your credit/debit card details to anyone who contacts you 'out of the blue'. If you are genuinely interested in anything they have to say, politely end the call, do some checks on them/the company and call them back another time.
- Do not follow 'links' on emails unless you are 100% sure that they are genuine. Links can contain viruses that can attack your computer/device and access your personal information.
- Make sure that any anti-virus software installed is up to date and working properly.

**TRUST your instinct - not the caller or the e-mailer. If it sounds suspicious or too good to be true, it probably is!**

## Neighbourhood Update

The Beat Team has adopted a new Neighbourhood Priority this month aimed at tackling Anti-Social Behaviour caused by drug dealing in the village. We have been patrolling areas where we know this to be happening and we have also executed a warrant under the Misuse of Drugs Act, during which a large amount of controlled drugs were found. An adult male was arrested for drugs offences and has been released at this time whilst further enquiries are completed.

In an unrelated incident, another house in the village was found to have a large number of cannabis plants growing inside it. These have all been seized and destroyed however as yet, no arrests have been made in relation to that incident.

The beat team continues to receive information about drug dealing in Birstall & Wanlip and further enforcement will take place in due course.

## Police Beat Surgery

You can meet one of our local Police Officers to discuss, in confidence, any issues that concern you on:

**Saturday, 17th August in the NHW Advice Shop at 10 Sibson Road between 10 a.m. and 12 noon**

*(Times are always subject to Officers not being required elsewhere in an emergency.)*

**YOU ARE AT MUCH GREATER RISK OF BEING ROBBED ON THE INTERNET THAT YOU ARE WALKING ALONG THE STREET**

## Personal Alarms



**Stay Safe when Out and About**

Available from our Advice Shop

**£3.50** each

## Contacting Birstall and Wanlip Neighbourhood Watch

Email: [watch@villagewatch.co.uk](mailto:watch@villagewatch.co.uk)

Phone: 0756 2422 756

*Calls go to our answering service but we always do our best to reply within 24 hours  
Please remember to leave your number*

**Write: c/o Birstall Parish Council  
Council Office, Birstall Road,  
Birstall, Leicester, LE4 4DH**

*We also have a post box on the counter  
in the Council Office*

## Scam Websites

Leicestershire Trading Standards have issued a warning about a rise in scam websites. They appear in search results and offer a range of goods for sale at very competitive prices. People who order from them find that the items never arrive and that the amount charged to their credit card is significantly more than they agreed.

Purchasers are urged to check for warning signs, such as spelling mistakes or lack of checkable contact details. If you are tempted by such offers, search for the company by name to see if it exists and what other people think of them. When making payment always look for the padlock in the address bar that denotes a secure payment site.

Thank you to Birstall Parish Council for continuing to support the Watch – [www.birstallparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.birstallparishcouncil.org.uk)