



Castle Point Neighbourhood Watch NEWS



WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ESSEX POLICE

Spring 2016

New team with your safety at heart

ESSEX Police has launched a new Community Policing Team in Castle Point as part of a renewed commitment to local policing that puts partnerships with councils and other organisations at the heart of community safety.

The new teams will work in community safety hubs with partners like councils, other Emergency Services, Health providers, charities, Neighbourhood Watch and community groups.

Their main focus will be on community safety priorities, solving local problems like high risk anti-social behaviour, local "hot spot" crimes, repeat victims or keeping the night time economy safe.

Assistant Chief Constable Maurice Mason says: "Our renewed commitment to local policing means new teams will work as one with our partners to protect people from harm, talk and listen to communities about their concerns, gather information and help find answers to local problems.

"Our ambition is for a seamless link with Community Safety Partnership teams across Essex, working together to tackle locally-agreed priorities.

"Working alongside those teams will be all the other parts of Essex Police which keeps people safe. That's three thousand officers working for a safer Essex, including specialist domestic abuse teams, emergency crews responding to 999 calls, detectives investigating serious crime, and our countywide roads policing teams, firearms and police dog teams and officers and staff dealing with cyber-crime and fraud."

Chief Inspector Lesley Ford, district commander of Castle Point and Rochford, adds: "It is important that we continue to work with our communities and partner agencies to reduce harm and crime.

"We will proactively target criminals, par-



ticularly those who reoffend, and prioritise our protection of those who are the most vulnerable in our communities.

"Everybody can play a part in keeping our communities safe - including Neighbourhood Watch and Active Citizen Volunteers, and I look forward to working with you to keep Rochford and Castle Point a very safe place to live."

More information about our team can be found on the Essex Police community policing web pages.

We are still here

Both Canvey and Benfleet police stations are now closed to the public, but you can still contact your local station by calling 101 for non emergencies and 999 if it is an emergency. Your nearest walk-in station is Basildon which is open seven days a week.



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Rayleigh Police Station, High Street, Rayleigh, Essex SS6 7QB
NHW Direct Dial: 01268 770519 Email: castlepointnhw@yahoo.co.uk



Supermarket thefts

ESSEX Police has reported a number of thefts of bags, purses and other property from cars in supermarket car parks in Castle Point and Rochford District.

In some cases the vehicle was insecure, in others the driver was distracted by a suspect getting them to move away from their car by either asking for directions or being shown that there was damage to the vehicles number plate.

While talking to the suspect another person entered the unlocked car and removed a handbag containing cash & bank cards. Please take extra care of your money and possessions, keep valuables out of sight and always lock your car when you are not in it – even if this will only be for a few seconds.

Remember

- If you're going out for the day or simply shopping in town please remember to close windows/ sunroofs as an open window is the ideal opportunity for a thief to reach in and take items within seconds.
- Remove or put items in the boot or glove compartment - i.e. Don't leave handbags, sat navs or mobiles on display.
- Very simply, please lock your vehicle every time you leave it even if this is only for a few seconds. Many thefts occur from vehicles that are insecure. Opportunist thieves will often try door handles to see if they are insecure.

For further information visit www.essex.police.uk/be_safe/your_property/vehicles.aspx or contact the Crime Reduction Officer on the Police non-emergency number 101

Bogus bank and police calls on the increase

CASES of so-called phone spoofing, where scammers ring your home phone pretending to be a bank or the police or another legitimate company or body, are on the increase.

Fraud watchdog Financial Fraud Action UK says the number of cases doubled in the past year. This is down in part to a crackdown on another form of telephone scam where scammers call someone and tell them to ring them back on the helpline number for the bank. However, they keep the line open when the

victim hangs up so they are still connected.

Previously calls could remain connected in this way for up to two minutes, but a crack-down has seen this reduced to seconds. So scammers are turning to the easier alternative of phone spoofing.

Scammers use easily accessible technology to change the number that appears on the caller ID display of your phone to a legitimate number from a bank or other organisation.

Fraudsters pose as bank staff or government employees and try to persuade you to hand over personal passwords and pin numbers.

Sometimes they will send a text to your mobile, which will show up as having come from your bank. Once the payment has gone through you'll receive another message acknowledging the transaction, making you believe it's genuine.

Ofcom is working with international regulators and UK telecoms providers to resolve the problem. Some of the fraudsters are based overseas so it can be more difficult to pin them down. It can also be difficult to track down the cash once it's gone:

Keep yourself safe - Your bank or credit card company will never ask you for personal details or pin numbers over the phone, so never give it out even if you think that the caller is legitimate.

If you are asked to move your money because there has been fraudulent activity on your account, don't fall for it.

If you are unsure of the caller's authenticity you should hang up and ring your bank back on a number you trust, leaving at least five minutes between phone calls.

Phone a friend first to make sure the line is clear. As part of its action, Ofcom is working with phone networks in the UK to minimise the amount of time phone lines stay open.

Essex Community messaging

SIGN up to receive information, crime prevention advice and notifications from Essex Police and other key partners - simply paste the following link into your browser- http://www.essex.police.uk/contact_us/community_messaging.aspx When signing up please tick the box to indicate you are a member of Neighbourhood Watch.

Council tax scam alert

RESIDENTS are reminded to stay alert to scammers who call and claim they are owed money due to a backlog in poll tax. The caller, who has been operating in Essex, asks for a release fee in order to obtain the higher amount of money. But councils do not charge a release fee for council tax refunds and any refund is sent in the form of a cheque.

The council is urging residents to be aware of the scam and to pass the message to their family, friends and neighbours.

Canvey co-ordinators needed

CASTLE Point NHW wants to recruit more co-ordinators especially in the Canvey Island area where residents have been reluctant to sign up. If you can spare just a few hours a month and would like to join the Association, email them at castlepointnhw@yahoo.co.uk or phone Maureen on 01268 770519

Pension fraudsters are after your cash

THE number of pension companies being targeted by fraudsters has doubled in two years and older people are getting bombarded with calls, texts and mail from fraudsters trying to steal their savings.

The fraudsters are embracing pension freedom. After being offered a free pension review in a cold call, one potential victim was visited at work by a bogus independent financial adviser who offered the chance of investing in overseas property.

Luckily he decided it was too much of a risk. He was indeed lucky. He nearly lost his entire £90,000 pension pot to the scheme.

The message is simple: pensions are precious so do not fall for conmen who want to snatch your money.

■ If anyone cold calls you about your pension, just hang up the phone and if you receive texts or emails about your pension from a person or firm you do not know, with promises of get-rich-quick schemes or investing your pensions, just delete them.

■ If you get junk mail through the post throw it straight in the bin.

■ If anyone you don't know offers to trace lost pensions don't listen it's a scam.

In fact, tracing past pensions or getting state pension statements are services offered for free. Just go to GOV.UK, which is a trusted source.

There are also other services that you can contact if you are not sure what to do. For free and independent guidance about pensions you can talk to The Pensions Advisory Service on 0300 1231047 or, if you are over 50 and want to understand what your options are, call Pension Wise on 0300 3301001. Both organisations offer free and impartial guidance.



Our new email address is castlepointnhw@yahoo.co.uk