

# Milton Keynes Neighbourhood Watch Association Newsletter June 2017

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Since our last newsletter MKNHWA have worked closely with Thames Valley Police to set up another 20 schemes within Milton Keynes.

Welcome to all our new members.

In addition to this we have set the wheels in motion to host a Community Fair in the next 12 Months, where we will be joining forces with other local agencies to help build safer stronger communities by local engagement with Milton Keynes citizens to increase and promote social and safety awareness.

Watch this space for further details about this event.

I hope you enjoy this issue and, as always, if we can help or support you in anyway please make contact with us.

Stay safe

Nikki

## MESSAGE FROM TVP

NEIL KENTISH (Deputy Local Policing Area Commander)



It's a pleasure to be asked to contribute to this edition of the Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter. Firstly, let me introduce myself: I'm the Deputy Local Policing Area Commander for Milton Keynes and have been in post for three months now. The vast majority of my career has been spent policing in London and this is the first time I've lived and worked in the same place. I have a real affinity with MK, I love the ambition, the design and the sense of community that exists. I've lived here for twelve years now, my children go to school here so I have a real vested interest in the future growth and security of the town.

As with every area of public service, the police face real challenges around how we deal with new and increasing demands and how we balance these against a challenging financial outlook. We need to look beyond the obvious and reach out more to you, the community. It's with the help of Neighbourhood Watch that we increase vigilance, encourage reporting to build intelligence, and help to build stronger and more resilient communities. I am absolutely committed to the growth of Neighbourhood Watch (yes, I'm a member!), it forms a

major part of how your local neighbourhood officers will engage with you and genuinely seek to have a two way conversation.

We've restructured our policing teams within TVP to better meet demands of people who need us in emergencies and those who are victims of crime. It's all too often that our current neighbourhood officers are diverted elsewhere to assist in other investigations that have no real bearing on the specific area they police. From June, 2017, we will have smaller, but now dedicated neighbourhood policing teams that will not be pulled away from their areas. We've increased the amount of officers dedicated to responding to emergencies and the number of officers who investigate crime and care for victims. Overall, there is an increase in the amount of Constables policing MK. We'll be updating our website shortly where you'll be able to see your dedicated neighbourhood teams. I'm confident you'll receive an improved local service and really benefit from the continuity this change brings.

I'd encourage you all to download 'Thames Valley Alert app' to your phones via the App Store or Google Play. The app enables you to receive information that is relevant to you and the specific area you live and work in. It's a great way to stay in touch with what's happening in your area.

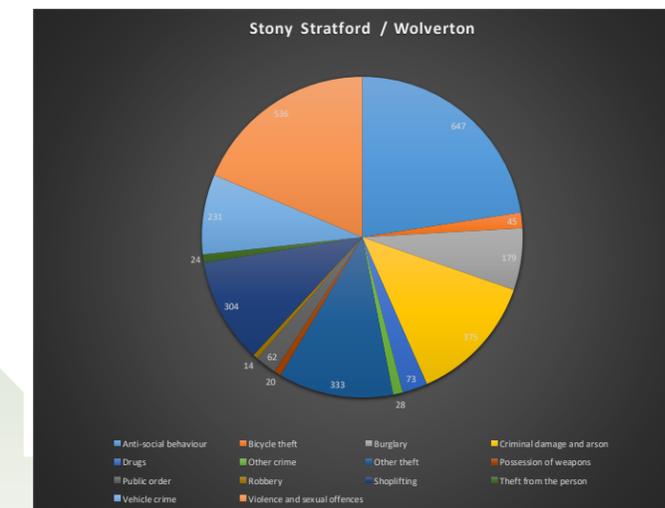
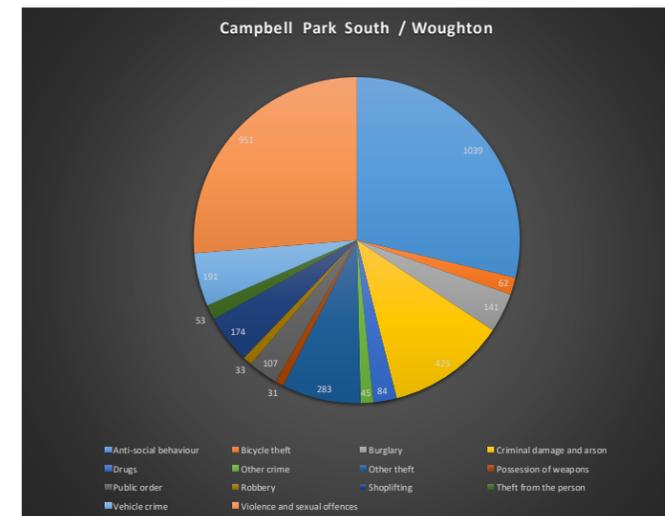
Best wishes,  
Neil

## SCAMS – AND HOW TO AVOID THEM

1. Be careful what personal information you post on sites such as Facebook. Don't reveal when and where you were born, schools you went to, your home town, pets' names, interests and hobbies.
2. Shred paper documents, including addressed envelopes.
3. Opt out of the edited version of the electoral register – mass marketing companies use this version.
4. Don't post pictures of valuables, the inside of your home, and any pictures of the outside of your home that might give your address away.
5. Don't post pictures of yourself on holiday whilst you are away – it's an invitation to burglars.
6. Beware of any email, text or phone call warning you of unusual activity on your bank account and giving you a link to sort it out.
7. WiFi internet connections in public places are not secure. Don't use them to check your bank accounts or to buy goods.
8. When paying for goods online, make sure there is a padlock in the browser and that the start of the URL (web address) in the browser begins "https" and not "http". And even if they are, take great care.
9. Friends Against Scams is a national initiative that aims to highlight scamming issues. Check their website <http://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk>
10. Consider changing your phone handset. Ones such as the BT8500 (check it and others at Which?) provide a display of the caller. If you've keyed them into the phone's memory the name will be displayed and they'll come straight through. If not, they have to announce who they are and you can decide whether to take the call, record it or block it. Just having to say who they are puts many scam callers off.



## Crime Statistics Between April 2016 and March 2017



Milton Keynes Neighbourhood Watch Association (MKNHWA) is pleased to announce an offer from A-Plan Insurance in Bletchley for all Neighbourhood Watch members in the Milton Keynes area.

A-Plan will offer any new customer a 15% discount on the cost of their Home Insurance premium and competitive rates on other insurance policies, including a reduction of £20 on motor policies. Please call them on [01908 271771](tel:01908271771) to discuss your insurance needs and how they can help you.

You will need to quote the reference **MKNWA** at the start of the call to qualify for the discount.

A-Plan is an independent insurance broker with over 80 offices in the UK and more than half a million policyholders. They have been providing insurance for over 50 years. They have kindly agreed to provide us with a referral fee for each new customer they gain through Neighbourhood Watch membership.

Please pass this information on to your members!