

Neighbourhood Watch CROYDON

CroydonEye
Spring 2018



WE URGENTLY NEED YOUR DONATIONS TO SAVE CROYDON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

An appeal from the Committee of Croydon Borough Neighbourhood Watch Association.

There is a real risk that Croydon Borough Neighbourhood Watch will have to close at the end of April due to a lack of funding. At a time of increasing concern about crime in our borough this would be a serious loss. Croydon Neighbourhood Watch aims to bring neighbours together, look out for those most vulnerable, make fewer people feel afraid or isolated and help prevent crime in our local community. We are therefore writing to ask you to make a donation to keep the Charity going.

In other London boroughs Neighbourhood Watch is supported in full by the local police authority and/or the local council but police support in cash or in kind ended in Croydon in 2012. Since then, we have relied on our own fundraising locally (including a small grant from Croydon Council), by drawing on our dwindling reserves and by cutting our expenditure. However, these sources are no longer enough to get us beyond April. We do not think we can cut our spending any further. The committee members are all unpaid. We have some 30,000 member households, supported by about 400 NHW co-ordinators, all of them volunteers. Much of the work we do is behind the scenes; providing crime prevention materials such as our road signs and window stickers, signing up new co-ordinators, working alongside the local police as

well as Trading Standards and trying to improve and increase communication between residents and communities.

We are of course redoubling our efforts to find long term funding, from the Council, local businesses and from charitable trusts. As a charity we are legally bound not to borrow. If we cannot close the immediate funding gap with your donations, we will have to close the Charity and **Croydon will no longer have a designated Neighbourhood Watch.**

Some of you have made donations in the past, we hope you will do so again. We appeal to those who have not given before to donate this time. Details of how to do so are below.

Thank you

The CBNWA Committee



Our chairman Brian Udell attending a meeting with the Chief Inspector at Croydon Police station to discuss recent changes to local policing.

How to donate to CBNWA

Either:
Write a cheque payable to CBNWA and send it to:

The CBNWA Treasurer
24 Fernhurst Road
Addiscombe
Croydon
CR0 7DG

Or:

By bank transfer to: CBNWA
Lloyds Bank Plc
Account number: 03049348
Sort Code: 30 92 45

If you pay income tax and wish to Gift Aid your donation, the form can be found on our website, www.cbnwa.com

Advice on Burglary Prevention*

With spring approaching, please take a look at the following advice on making your garden and home more secure:

1 - Low front boundary; keep hedges and walls at the front of your house low (under 1 metre) so burglars have nowhere to hide

2 - Secure side gate; keep side gates locked at all times. Open gates mean burglars can easily access your home without being seen by passers-by or neighbours

3 - High side and rear boundaries with trellis and spiky defensive planting; keep hedges, walls and fences around your back garden high (over 1.8 metres). Add lightweight trellis to gates and fences and plant some prickly plants to make it harder for burglars to climb over

4 - Gravel driveway and path; gravel driveways and paths make it harder for burglars to go undetected

5 - Security light; install an outside security light so that intruders can't approach without being seen

6 - Intruder alarm system; install a burglar alarm system

7 - Secure shed door and window; always keep your shed locked and secured. Often sheds contain valuables such as power tools and bicycles

8 - Never leave tools lying around; they can be used as a way of breaking into your home

Remember, protecting your garden and outbuildings not only keeps bikes and other valuables in your shed safe, but can also stop burglars getting into your home

**Advice from Met Police <https://www.met.police.uk/crime-prevention/residential-burglary/protect-your-home-by-protecting-your-garden/>*

For up-to-date alerts and crime prevention advice visit www.cbnwa.com

NEIGHBOURHOOD Policing **Chief Superintendent Jeff Boothe,** **MET Police**

We are already well into 2018 and the challenges around serious youth violence and knife crime remain. The last fatality from knife crime on the borough was as recent as October 2017.

The issue is ever present in the news and there has been much discussion around the causes and what needs to be done. The Croydon Local Strategic Partnership, which is a group of senior leaders and chief executives from the public sector organisations, voluntary sector, business and the police; have agreed to implement a Children and Young Persons Plan. The Plan is a 2-3 year commitment to put Children and Young People at the forefront of all that we do. The focus is on Young people being able to have the opportunities to aspire to make the most of their lives and choose the right options.

The Plan is in the very early stages of development but there have been some

recent indications of the difference which we hope it will make to the lives of people living and working in Croydon.

The Croydon Business Improvement District, Local Authority and Police planned a series of sessions from 12th February to 2nd March, in The Centrale and Whitgift Shopping Centres to inform, discuss and educate young people on the dangers of knife crime and also the opportunities which exist in the borough. I had the pleasure of having a two hour session of questions and answers with the public around what we are doing to tackle the issues around knife crime. It was good to meet so many of you and be able to provide positive example of what we are actually doing to combat the issues.

I will be looking to run more of these sessions in the weeks and months to come, so watch out of media releases from Croydon Police.

On 12th February at the BRIT School in Selhurst, there was a moving performance from the students on knife crime. This provided a stark reminder of the consequences and impact of this crime.

The performance was followed by a Q&A session.

I am also pleased to announce that Croydon Police have launched a Young Persons Advisory Group; which will act as a critical friend in helping to shape and inform how we can better police the community and increase the engagement with young people.

In the next edition of the NHW newsletter I will be focusing on the restructuring of the service. This is going to be a real challenge but please be assured that the focus remains on keeping the people of Croydon safe and secure.



TRADING STANDARDS UPDATE on 'FRAUD RECOVERY' FRAUD

Trish Burls - Principal Officer, Trading Standards

What is it?

Fraud recovery fraud targets those that have already fallen victim to one of a whole range of frauds – and offers to either get their money back for them or claims to be from a law enforcement agency tasked with investigating the crime again.

How does it happen?

You may receive a telephone call from someone purporting to be from the Police, or Trading Standards, or HMRC or another Government body. The caller will sound very plausible and will offer a name which sounds completely convincing. They will know details about the original crime that you feel would only have been known to the original investigators.

Alternatively you may receive contact by e-mail – it will look like a very professional email complete with headers and official sign offs – but is likely to come from a webmail e-mail address (such as Hotmail or Yahoo).

What do they want?

Your money, in short. They may explain that you need to pay a release fee in order to enable them to further investigate and arrest the fraudster. Or, they may put forward some plan whereby they want you to help them, as law enforcement officers, to catch a 'dodgy' bank official/police officer/government official and in doing so will recover your lost money.

What happens?

If you pay they will undoubtedly return for more money, in order to 'progress the investigation further'. You may be told that some of your money has already been recovered but that it can't be released as yet. If you ask them to take your further 'fees' out of the recovered money you'll discover that this isn't possible.

You may be asked for your bank details in order for the recovered money to be returned to you.

THIS IS A FRAUD - REMEMBER: YOU WILL NEVER BE ASKED FOR A FEE IN ORDER TO INVESTIGATE A CRIME OR TO HELP CATCH A CRIMINAL

To report an issue contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040. To speak to Trading standards call 03454 405060

ROYAL TANDOORI SELSDON



226 Addington Road
South Croydon CR2 8LD
Tel: 020 8651 3500
ORDER ONLINE
www.royaltandooriselsdon.co.uk

Croydon Neighbourhood Watch

Email: nhw@cbnwa.com

Website: www.cbnwa.com

Charity no: 1087760

Your Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator's details: