

Community Safety

The newsletter from
Hart District Council



Issue 38 June 2024

This Newsletter aims to provide information around safeguarding and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), raise awareness of current issues across the district and promote the good work of our partner agencies and celebrate the successes we have had.

We can be contacted online: [Report antisocial behaviour | Hart District Council](#)

by phone: [01252 774476](tel:01252774476) or by e-mail: communitysafety@hart.gov.uk

Protecting Against Break Ins

Tool thefts from vans are an ongoing issue nationally and locally we have seen a particular spike in recent weeks - with personal commercial vans most at risk. Thieves break into vans using various methods:

- **'peel and steal'** is where the intruder uses their knees to apply pressure to the van's side doors, before pulling open from the top and creating a lasting bend in the door
- **electronic keys** are probably the most sophisticated way to enter and steal from a van where a skeleton or electric key is used, and they are readily accessible. These are an easy and damage-free way for thieves to remove tools from a van.
- **lock forcing** is one of the most common and more subtle ways to steal tools and contents from a van, despite it requiring a tool to do it. Thieves simply use a wrench or similar tool and remove the outer plastic surrounding the door lock, before twisting and prising away the lock from the fitting. The door will then unlock, open and result in the back doors also unlocking for easy access.

The upshot is the possible theft of £000s of tools and other contents along with causing very expensive damage that can hinder use of what could be a work van.

The following are preventative measures that can be taken:

Lock the Van - this may seem obvious, but you'd be surprised how easy it is to forget, making it an easy job for thieves to enter and steal.

Park Smart - isolated vans are a much easier target for thieves, so parking nearer to other vehicles and ideally in a well-lit area within clear view of CCTV and other vehicles – or your house if you can. Parking next to a wall or fence, preventing access to doors at all is the best option.

Enhance the Locks - adding extra safety features to the van such as alarms, immobilisers and the less-expensive deadlock or second lock systems can act as a deterrent.

Storing Tools Securely - removing all tools from the van overnight if possible but if this isn't an option, installing some form of tool secure storage inside the van is a good idea.

Residential break ins have also seen a rise recently, most commonly through downstairs windows, so all of the same advice around ensuring doors and windows are locked, valuables are kept out of sight and secured and enhanced security systems are installed are also applicable.

If you see someone acting suspiciously in your local area around houses or vehicles, please [report](#) to Police with as much detail as possible to help Police to catch perpetrators and protect others.

Football Fever

Although we don't yet have the sunshine we hope for at this time of year, summer get togethers will no doubt be soon underway and the UEFA Men's European Championship 2024 launches tonight. Research shows that when England lose a game in the World cup incidents of domestic violence and abuse increase by 38%, and by 26% when they win. Further research from Warwick Business School found that reported cases of alcohol-related domestic abuse rose by 47% on the day of an England victory at the World Cup or European Championship.



Football itself is not responsible of course for domestic abuse. Football can be a source of community, a tool for building self-esteem and a vehicle of tolerance building. Most fans watch a game without any negative behaviours. For some reason however, it can exacerbate an underlying systemic problem in our society causing some to become abusive towards those closest to them.

Domestic abuse is any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening, degrading and violent behaviour, including sexual abuse by any individual 'personally connected' to the individual. Control can take the form of, although not limited to; financial, technological or in relation to socialisation.

It can often start off small, with lots of different events that gradually chip away or erode self-confidence. It can sometimes make victims feel that they are losing their "sense of self" and that they can't trust their own judgement or feel they don't have the right to make decisions.

Victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse can be male or female and includes abuse between all family members rather than just between current or ex partners.

The [Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership](#) is a group of local services and agencies in Hampshire working together to provide help and support for:

- Victims and survivors of abuse
- Children living with domestic abuse
- People who may be abusing or hurting someone
- Professionals seeking advice

Contact 999 in an emergency or the non-emergency Advice Line on 03300 165 112.

Hart Youth Achievement Awards Are Back for 2024

THE AWARDS:

Community Champion Award, Courage Award,
Entrepreneur Award, Environment Award, Fundraising Award,
Group Achievement Award, Sport and Arts Award
and Volunteering Award.



We are looking forward to publicly recognising again the talented, giving and community focused young people we have in Hart District.

We now need all members of the community to nominate those young people aged 11-25 who need celebrating – in 2 age categories: up to 16 and 16 and over.

The young people also must **live** or **be educated** in the Hart District.

If you have received this monthly **Hart Community Safety Newsletter** forwarded to you and you would like to subscribe and receive it directly, please drop us a line with your request at:
communitysafety@hart.gov.uk