

# Community Safety

The newsletter from  
Hart District Council



Issue 40 August 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 774430** or by e-mail: [communitysafety@hart.gov.uk](mailto:communitysafety@hart.gov.uk)

## Cannabis – the facts

Cannabis is a consistent issue that is reported to the Community Safety Team. We have seen a spike in reporting recently, which is likely to be due to the warmer weather and people opening doors and windows to let in some fresh air. We thought it would be a good time to remind you of the law around Cannabis and how we and our partners tackle the issue.

- Cannabis is a Class B drug, which means **it is illegal to have for yourself, give away or sell**
- Possession can get you **up to 5 years in prison**, an unlimited fine or both
- Supplying someone else, even your friends, can get you **up to 14 years in prison**, an unlimited fine or both



We take a multi-agency approach to this issue, working closely with the Police and Housing Providers and/or landlords as appropriate. However, it is a tough issue to tackle as “**smell**” cannot be used as evidence in legislation. Police also lack powers to enter a property solely for cannabis use. This does not mean that there is nothing we can do to stop the issue.

### ***The key to solving is picture building.***

We ask the community to continue reporting the issue each time it occurs to build the picture, and in turn build the evidence. This is especially true if you believe that more than just smoking of cannabis is taking place. Noting down dates, times and any vehicles or people involved is pertinent and if possible, supporting CCTV/camera doorbell footage.

You should report incidents to the [Police](#) and you can also contact the Community Safety Team via email [communitysafety@hart.gov.uk](mailto:communitysafety@hart.gov.uk). If you would prefer to remain anonymous, you can also report to [Crimestoppers](#).

If you or someone you know is affected by Cannabis addiction there is discreet help available in the community that work with adults and children, whilst allowing them to continue in work and education:

- Social Services support for [adults](#) and [children and young people](#)
- [Inclusion Hampshire](#) can assist with addiction to drugs and/or alcohol
- [Catch22](#) can help with a range of issues including substance misuse, criminality and exploitation

## Dog Attacks – who to call

Dogs have been known as 'Man's Best Friend' since the dawn of time – but sometimes our furry friends can become involved in incidents that lead to injury, costly vet bills and trauma. We have seen a number of dog-on-dog attacks reported of late so felt some guidance on what to do may be of benefit.

**Legislation states:** "If a dog is dangerously out of control in any place (whether or not a public place) the owner; and if different, the person for the time being in charge of the dog, is guilty of an offence, or, if the dog while so out of control injures any person, an aggravated offence."

- Dog-on-person attacks are a Police matter, and the community are directed to report the incident to the [Police directly](#).
- Dog-on-dog attacks are a civil matter with liability ultimately resting with the dog's owner. Any injury, or incurred vet bills/expenses can be sought recompensation for through a solicitor.

Where there are any elements of directed anti-social behaviour however or the anti-social use of a dog - dependent upon evidence available - the Community Safety Team may be able to assist. See contact details above.



The takeaway from this is dog owners should be ensuring they are fully in control of their dog. Dogs, ideally, should remain on leads when in public spaces and if you are aware that your dog is reactive, you must take the necessary steps to ensuring the safety of the community when out and about. If there is an incident involving your dog or another person's dog, contact the correct agency for help.

## Have your say on Policing Priorities

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, Donna Jones, has opened a public consultation to develop her next Police and Crime Plan.



The Commissioner is keen to gather feedback from the public on how she can work with the Chief Constable over the next four years to deliver on the public's local policing priorities.

As an elected official, it is her duty to listen to public concerns. Each priority in the new plan will be designed based on direct feedback from residents.

Hart District Council is a vital part of the Commissioner's remit to provide efficient and effective policing and enable safer communities across the two counties.

The Commissioner would like as many members of the public to complete the survey which is open until **19 August 2024**. You can share your views [here](#) and the results will be shared by the Police and Crime Commissioner in the autumn.

## Reminder for Nominations

### THE AWARDS:

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

We need your nominations  
by 30th September!

Scan to  
nominate



We are looking forward to publicly recognising again the talented, giving and community focused young people we have in the 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 must also **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**