

Community Safety

The newsletter from
Hart District Council



Issue 43 November 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

E-Scooter on the Christmas Wishlist? What you need to know!

As Christmas approaches, many will consider gifting an e-scooter. However, it's crucial to understand the relevant legislation and make sure that you are using it not only safely, but lawfully as well.

What is an e-scooter?

E-scooters, classified as motor vehicles under the Road Traffic Act 1988, fall under the category of 'powered transporters'. Consequently, they are subject to the same regulations as motor vehicles, including the necessity for a licence and insurance.

Owning your own e-scooter

Currently, private e-scooter insurance is unavailable, making it illegal to use them on roads or public spaces like parks and pavements. Riding a privately-owned e-scooter in public may result in seizure under Section 165 of the Road Traffic Act 1988. If you cause injury while riding, the incident will be investigated as if you were operating a motorcycle or car.

Where you can use your e-scooter

You may only use your e-scooter on private land with the landowner's permission. Violating these rules may lead to a fixed penalty notice. Penalties vary by enforcement agency, Hampshire Police utilise their powers under Section 165 Road Traffic Act to seize the scooter and the issuing of a fixed penalty notice.

Additional offences include:

- Riding on a pavement: **fixed penalty notice and possible £50 fine**
- Using a mobile phone while riding: **£200 fine and six penalty points**
- Running a red light: **fixed penalty notice, £100 fine, and potential penalty points**
- Drink driving: **similar penalties as driving a car, including court fines, a driving ban, and possible imprisonment**

Using an e-scooter antisocially in public can also lead to seizure under Section 59 of the Police Reform Act.



Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour on School Buses

A number of reports have been raised recently from the community concerning behaviour of school children on bus routes and wanted to take this opportunity to share some of the great partnership working that has happened to tackle the issue.

The Hart Community Safety Team have been building on our relationships with local schools, bus companies and the local neighbourhood policing teams to stamp out ASB on buses – ensuring that the community can use these buses safely and without fear. One example of this great work has been with Calthorpe Park School. Issues had been highlighted to us by the school and together with Stagecoach and



Hampshire Police we have implemented a 'Code of Conduct' that has been well received and supported by parents.

Hampshire Police have been carrying out "spot patrols" on the route to ensure that the code is being adhered to. If you have any concerns about ASB on a bus route in your area, please contact us at communitysafety@hart.gov.uk

Anonymous registration – What it is and how it works

Anonymous registration was set up to help individuals whose safety would be at risk (or where the safety of other people at the same address as them would be at risk) if their name or address was listed on the electoral register – for example a person who has fled domestic abuse. All voters are required to give basic personal information to their local Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) so that the ERO can check that they are eligible to register to vote. The difference between a standard and an anonymous registration is how these details then appear on the electoral register and how the ERO communicates with you.

You can register to vote anonymously if you feel your safety would be at risk if your name and address appeared on the electoral register, but you need to act now as the full version of the electoral register is produced each year on 1 December.

women's aid
until women & children are safe

The
Electoral
Commission

For further information, see [the Electoral Commission website](https://www.electoralcommission.gov.uk) or contact elections@hart.gov.uk

'tis the Season to be Vigilant – Protect those Parcels

With Christmas fast approaching and possible plans to head away to visit friends and family, it is even more key to ensure that you leave your home as secure as possible. Recent burglaries have involved criminals gaining access through side gates, then breaking in through patio doors. Whilst security provision is a personal choice and, of course, budget dependent, there are some quick, low-cost measures that can be taken to make your home less appealing and easy to access:

- additional gate locks - making them hard to reach or raising the height, if possible
- anti-climb paint for top edges of fences and gates
- security motion-activated security lighting or signs will deter - available in most DIY stores
- video doorbells can both deter intruders and alert owners of visitors - they can also be excellent evidence gathering devices in the unfortunate event of becoming a victim
- gravel paths are not favoured by criminals since any noise will alert residents and neighbours
- prickly bushes can also help, but take time to grow - consider these for the future

Ultimately, remaining vigilant to any suspicious activity or people within our communities will play a huge role in keeping communities protected – including looking out for vehicles or people '**patrolling**' streets – particularly now as many online orders are being delivered. Always provide delivery instructions with online orders to ensure parcels are not left in sight. For advice or help on your consumer rights around any parcels that you have not received, see the [Consumer Council](https://www.consumer-council.gov.uk) website.

In addition, joining or creating a local [Neighbourhood Watch](#), WhatsApp or Nextdoor group on your road will help to share information and ensure you and your neighbours support and look out for one another. Police always prefer to receive information than not, since it may be important and provide a piece of the jigsaw that they were missing so please **report all crime or ASB, including suspicious activity** to Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary (HIOW) [online](#) or through calling **101** (call times to 101 are now much improved) – or calling **999** if there is immediate threat to life or the crime is in progress.

Please see here for further [crime prevention](#) advice or contact us direct for with any questions or concerns you may have about your property or the safety of your community.



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communitysafety@hart.gov.uk