

»»» AUGUST 2024 «««



OUR NEWS

FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SUPPORTERS ACROSS ENGLAND & WALES

What's in August's Our News?

For many, August is the month of summer holidays and BBQs - for Neighbourhood Watch, we're continuing to share crime prevention and safety resources to our members and volunteers. This month we're exploring **harassment** and how to safely intervene when you witness it. We'll also be sharing updates from local groups and letting you know how to get involved with the **Funding Communities NW Lottery**. You also have the opportunity to enter SimpliSafe's **prize draw** to win big holiday prizes and **support our Volunteer Programme!**

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*The team at **Aldeburgh & Fearon Streets Neighbourhood Watch** continue their hard work litter picking in the local area - brilliant work in keeping the streets clean and safe!*

#RightToFeelSafe: Tackling harassment

Harassment can take many forms, and anyone can be a victim. However, statistics show that women and girls are most likely to face harassment. Everyone can make a difference by safely intervening when witnessing harassment, or by offering support to victims and reporting incidents. Everyone has the right to live their lives without fear of harassment.

Figures released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) show that for the year ending December 2023:

- 1 in 10 people aged 16 years and over experienced at least one form of harassment that made them feel upset, distressed, or threatened in the previous 12 months
- Experiences of harassment were more prevalent among younger age groups, with 41% of 16-24-year-olds having experienced at least one type of harassment in the previous 12 months
- The majority of those who had experienced in-person harassment, experienced at least one type of harassment in a public space (73%)
- Of those who had experienced any type of harassment in the last 12 months, (75%) reported at least one experience took place in person. This was true for those who had experienced non-sexual harassment (83%) and for those who had experienced sexual harassment (67%).

These figures continue to remain high each year, demonstrating the need for action to be taken to tackle this crime - **we can all do something to make a difference and stop harassment.**



Be an active bystander

Being an active bystander means being aware of when someone's behaviour is inappropriate or threatening, and choosing to intervene and offer assistance safely. The simplest thing that we can all do is ask 'are you okay?' to someone experiencing harassment. It can make a big difference to those who experience harassment by letting them know you stand by them, and that street harassment is never okay. When witnessing harassment, you can safely intervene using the **5Ds method - Delay, Distract, Document, Delegate and Direct.**

Register to our **Community Safety Charter** and receive training on tackling harassment and more!

Celebrating 2 years of our Funding Communities Lottery!



This month, we are celebrating the **TWO YEAR ANNIVERSARY** of our Funding Communities lottery and launching our new Lottery player newsletter!

Over the past two years - thanks to your support - we've managed to raise an incredible... **£70,608!**

We want to thank all of our members who have played the Neighbourhood Watch Funding Communities Lottery. It's thanks to players like you that we are able to do more as a charity - support our volunteers better, build stronger projects, and make more of an impact on crime prevention and community wellbeing. So **THANK YOU!**

[Click here to play our Funding Communities Lottery!](#)

You'll be in with the chance to win big prizes every week from just £4 a month, receive our new player newsletter with impact stories, and be contributing to Neighbourhood Watch's work!

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SCAN ME

PRIZE BUNDLE GIVEAWAY

A fantastic chance to win our prize bundle featuring a voucher for a cheeky getaway, luxury travel essentials and smart home security goodies!

- **£150 Jet2 Travel Voucher**
- **1 x SimpliSafe Starter System & Bell Box**
- **1 x Travel Essentials Pack**

(including packing cubes, suncream set, universal plug adapters)

Enter now to be in with a chance of winning, and help contribute to this important cause!

Scan the QR code above or click here to enter the prize draw!



Could you spot a loan shark lurking in your community?

Have you ever come across someone in the community who is known to lend money? They may be a well-known character, offering to help people out when they need a bit of extra cash.

But behind that friendly façade, they could be a loan shark – a criminal who lends money and demands repayments without authorisation from the Financial Conduct Authority.

Without that authorisation, they are not bound by rules that protect borrowers. They can make up their own rates of interest and can use threats, intimidation and violence when someone struggles to pay.

The signs of an illegal lender include:

- Being given no paperwork or details about the loan
- Not being sure about what you have to repay, and ending up paying more than you thought
- Being intimidated or threatened if you struggle to pay
- Being told to hand over items like bank cards or a passport until you can pay
- The lender may appear to be a friend when they first approach, but can change when you miss a payment

If you do come across someone like this, there is help available from the **England Illegal Money Lending Team (IMLT)** – also known as **Stop Loan Sharks**.

The IMLT is made up of specialist officers who are experts in investigating and prosecuting loan sharks and supporting borrowers.

The IMLT was created 20 years ago and since then has supported over 31,700 people, written off over £91.3 million worth of illegal debt, and secured over 420 prosecutions for illegal money lending, leading to more than 600 years in jail.

You can contact Stop Loan Sharks by calling the 24/7 confidential hotline **0300 555 2222** or joining the live chat available on www.stoploansharks.co.uk from Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.

STOP LOAN SHARKS
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Are you planning home repairs or improvements?

Sign up today and use BEE Contracts **FREE** for a month.

Embarking on a home improvement project can be daunting, and choosing a trusted tradesperson is only the beginning. When you need to add new things into the contract or uncover underlying problems, managing costs can be a real headache.

BEE Contracts can help you fight back against rogue traders, builder and traders scams, and unexpected bills. It helps you reduce delays during the process by getting it right from the start. A sound contract can help you, but there's more - as part of your membership, you can take advantage of trained and experienced arbitrators and legal support, giving your project the best possible chance of success. There's even technical support to help you sign up!

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- Having downloadable **invoices** as proof of your payment

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