

Sanderstead Newsletter

Ward Priorities

Burglary

To visit every burglary on the ward. To maintain and reduce residential and non-residential burglaries across the ward.

Vehicle Crime

To visit victims of vehicle theft. To reduce motor vehicle crime - including theft of and theft from motor vehicles.

Community Engagements

To engage with members of the community ranging from youths to the elderly.



What is a Safer Neighbourhood's Teams (SNT)

Your Safer Neighbourhood's Team (SNT) is a group of Met police officers dedicated to serving your community.

The team is made up of officers based in your area (or 'ward'), supported by additional officers from the wider area. We work closely with local authorities, community leaders and residents to decide our policing priorities for the area.

This helps us to find useful, long-term solutions to local problems, while maintaining our wider focus on reducing crime across London.

June Update...

Welcome to our latest edition of the Sanderstead newsletter for the month of June

With the summer months fully upon us, these are the events that marked up our June edition on the ward of Sanderstead.

On the 10/06/2026, SNT officers responded to a 10-person Knife point robbery that involved two individuals of interest being arrested on the spot in relation to the incident.

The incident which came out on our sister grounds of Selsdon and Forestdale, later spanned down to Church Way in the Sanderstead area where we were able to mount swift police action and catch up to the two main persons involved and this leading to their arrest.

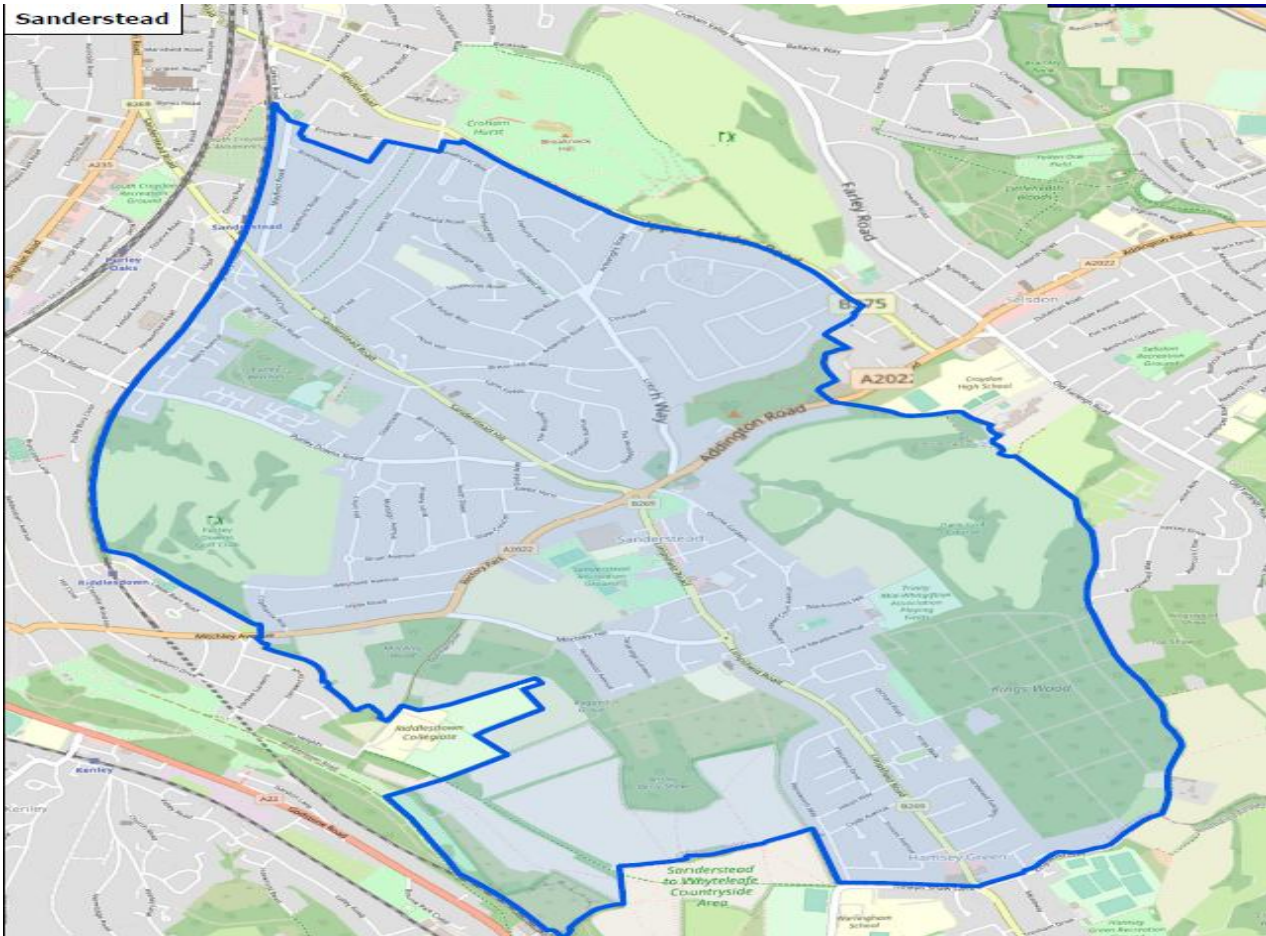
The result of this also means our efforts in catching up with the recent school and knife point robberies are taking positive steps in terms of getting those identified as responsible off our streets and keeping our young people safe.

The local SNT on the 16/06/2026 also worked alongside two contacts from our local Barclays group to run a street briefing exercise on fraud and banking scams at Waitrose along Limpsfield road. The task of this exercise was to engage people on topics around keeping safe online and safeguarding of personal details in line with online activity.

Visible presence was also something we were keen on for a few of our community events to interact with and speak to members of the public in relation to any pressing police matters. We attended both the Sanderstead community gruffy Fayre and Horticultural society summer shows which both had a good turn out and provided a good platform for us to speak to members of the public.



Greater Manchester stands together against hate crime. LetsEndHateCrime.com



Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch is about people getting together with their neighbours to take action to reduce crime.

They're community initiatives owned and run by their members which are supported by the police but not owned by them, although we sometimes run them.

They work by developing a close relationship between community members and the local police.

Neighbourhood Watch schemes can:

- cut crime and the opportunities for crime
- help and reassure those who live in the area
- Encourage neighbourliness and closer communities
- Go to www.cbnwa.com to find out what groups are active in your area and to register to join.

We organize contact points sessions, which are face to face sessions that members of the public can attend and discuss any concerns you may have with local officers

Please see dates, times and locations.

Please let us know if you plan on attending.

Tuesday 14th July 2026- 18:30hrs-20:00hrs All Saints Church Hall Sanderstead Ward Panel

Saturday 25th July 2026- 15:00hrs -16:00hrs CUPPA with a COPPA Maple Restaurant Limpsfield Road

Residential Burglary 01st June – 30th June 2026.

Crime Type	Date/Time Patterns	Road	Circumstances
Residential Burglary	Nil results	N/A	N/A
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Theft of a Motor Vehicle 01st June – 30th June 2026.

Crime Type	Date/Time Patterns	Road	Circumstances
Theft of a Motor Vehicle	08/06/2026 at 00:00Hrs	Harewood Gardens	Victim's vehicle was stolen off their drive while they were away on holiday.
Theft of a Motor Vehicle	09/06/2026 at 08:55Hrs	Brian Avenue	Victim reported their vehicle stolen by unknown suspects.
Theft of a Motor Vehicle	09/06/2026 at 18:09hrs	St. Mary's Road	Car was reported stolen having been left parked by the victim on their way to work.

Theft from a Motor Vehicle 01st June – 30th June 2026.

Crime Type	Date/Time Patterns	Road	Circumstances
Theft from a Motor Vehicle	02/06/2026 at 10:45Hrs	Mayfield Road	Both the front and rear number plates were stolen off the victim's vehicle.
Theft from a Motor Vehicle	02/06/2026 at 15:07Hrs	Kingswood Avenue	Victim's Front registration plate was stolen from their vehicle.
Theft from a Motor Vehicle	05/06/2026 at 12:00Hrs	West Hill	Victim's van was parked outside an address where landscaping work was ongoing. Three suspects have approached the vehicle and drilled a hole on the rear side of vehicle gaining access to tools costing over £1800.
Theft from a Motor Vehicle	05/06/2026 at 08:10Hrs	Beech Avenue	Unknown suspects reported to have stolen both front and rear registration plates from the victim's vehicle
Theft from a Motor vehicle	09/06/2026 at 23:20Hrs	St Mary's Road	Victim's rear number plate was stolen off vehicle and an unsuccessful attempt on

			the front plate which caused some damage to the vehicle
Theft from a Motor vehicle	11/06/2026 at 14:35Hrs	Purley Oaks Road	Suspect broke into victim's van and stole tool items totalling to a cost of £4000
Theft from a Motor Vehicle	14/06/2026 at 13:44Hrs	Church way	Informant reported their vehicle's wing mirror stolen.

There has been a significant drop in our numbers for burglaries for the month of June with zero reports for the month. We however, recognize the huge steps needed in shifting our efforts across to the other ward priorities related to vehicle crime on our ward and as such we will continue to share our crime preventative tips around protecting your property against these criminals below.

1. Lock your vehicle

Locking your vehicle, even when filling up or parked on your drive, greatly reduces the possibility of it being targeted by an opportunist thief. Even if you have locked your vehicle, check you haven't left any windows or the sunroof open.

It is illegal to leave your vehicle running unattended while you de-ice it or warm it up in cold weather. If someone takes it while it's left like this, your insurer won't pay out because you won't be covered.

If your vehicle has wing mirrors that fold in automatically when locked, make sure you lock it properly. Criminal gangs are looking for vehicles like these where the wing mirrors are still out because it is clear to them that the vehicle has been left unlocked.

2. Keep the keys safe

Vehicles today are by and large more difficult to steal than ever, unless the thief can access your key or fob to clone them. Keep your keys safe, out of view when at home, and away from your front door. It's not uncommon for car keys to be stolen from inside your home by thieves fishing for them with a stick and hook through the letterbox.

If you're selling your car and you meet up with a potential buyer, do not allow the keys out of your sight. Your keys may be cloned by thieves and used later to steal your vehicle.

Keyless entry

Cars with keyless entry unlock automatically when the key comes within a short distance of the car. This can be from inside a pocket or bag. If you have to push a button on your car key to open your car, you don't have keyless entry. Keyless car theft or 'relay theft' is when a device is used to fool the car into thinking the key is close by. This unlocks the car and starts the ignition.

Thieves only need to be within a few metres of your car key to capture the signal, even if it's inside your home. This means that even if your car and home are secure, thieves can still unlock, start and steal your car.

How to protect your keyless entry car

- When at home keep your car key (and the spare) well away from the car.
- Put the keys in a screened or signal-blocking pouch, such as a Faraday Bag and check if the bag or pouch is still working every few months.
- Reprogramme your keys if you buy a second-hand car.
- Turn off wireless signals on your fob when it's not being used.

Additional physical security such as locks and immobilisers are still highly recommended. [Section six](#) on this page has more information about this.

3. Be aware of carjackers

The fact that you're in the car isn't always a deterrent to someone trying to steal it.

In traffic, drive with the doors locked and when queuing leave enough space in front of your vehicle to enable you to get out of a tight spot. If your vehicle is bumped from behind, wait to pull over – somewhere safe and preferably where there are people. After all, you don't know the person who has collided with you; they could well be hijackers. If you're at all suspicious, consider calling the police.

If someone threatens you, it's better to hand over the keys to the vehicle than become a victim of assault. Then call [999](#) as soon as possible and ask for the police.

If your car is stolen, some modern vehicle alarm and tracker systems have the facility to isolate or shut down fuel systems, bringing the vehicle to a halt and leaving the thief high and dry.

4. Park responsibly

It's always advisable to avoid parking in dark and secluded areas. It's worth an extra five or ten-minute walk if it means your vehicle is left in a well-lit and busier street.

And if possible, always try to park in illuminated and staffed car parks or those with a park Mark safer parking award. To find one, simply check out [Park Mark](#).

5. Watch for illegal tow trucks

Thieves often attempt to lift vehicles from the street, literally. So, if you see a towaway crew acting suspiciously – especially if their vehicle isn't branded or if they're not in uniform – then please report it immediately.

As with every report of suspicious behaviour made in good faith, we'll never blame anyone for calling us if it proves unfounded.

Car parks with height-restricted entrances help prevent illegal tow trucks and removal vehicles. And fitting a [Thatcham rated](#) category 1 or 2 alarm system with tracking, immobilisation, anti-grab and movement sensors can help protect and trace your vehicle.

6. Fit good in-car security locks

Additional physical security can help to prevent your vehicle being driven away even if a thief gains entry. There are a range of security rated products tested by [Sold Secure](#) that can help, such as steering wheel locks, pedal boxes and gear stick locks.

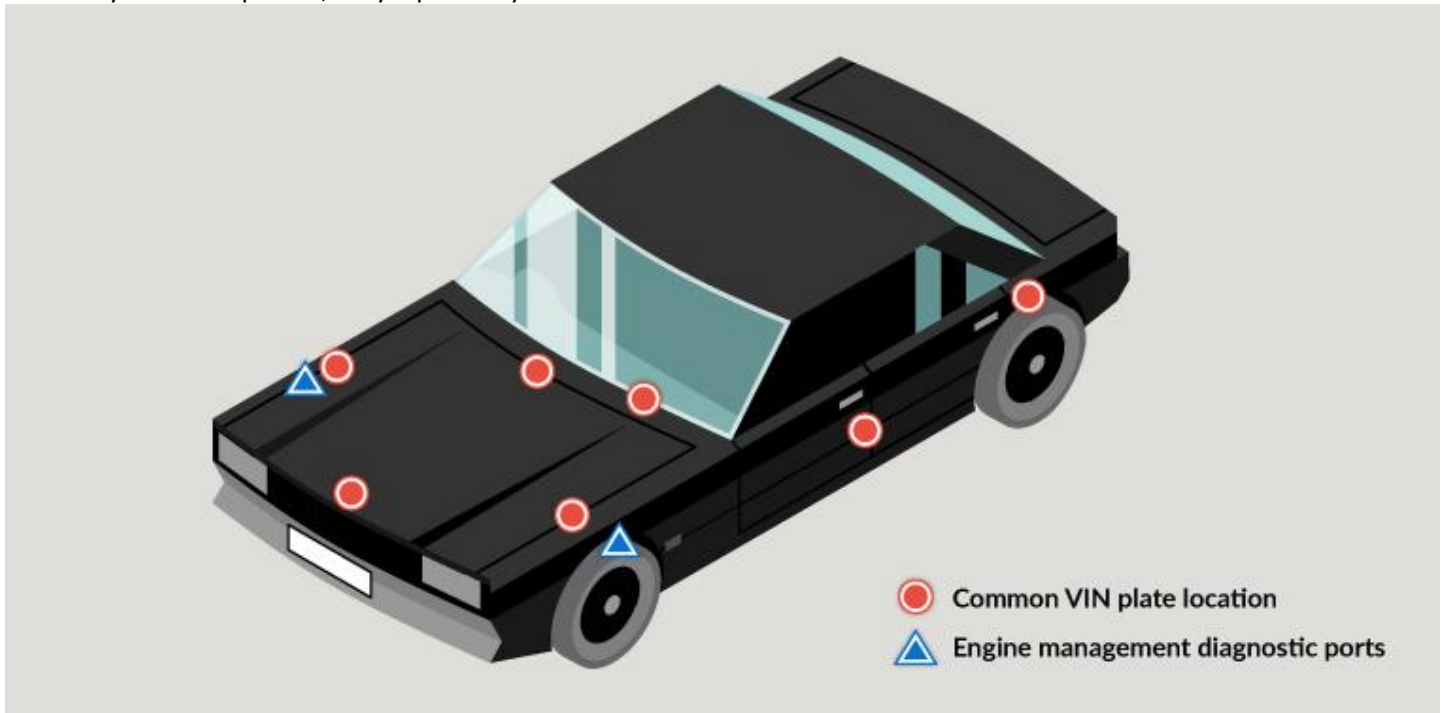
Some of these products, tested to Sold Secure Diamond, can even resist a small hand-held angle grinder.

It's also worth speaking to your vehicle dealership about installing an aftermarket immobiliser approved by the manufacturer.

Immobilisers prevent a vehicle from starting unless the correct fob, key or activation process is used. They can be personalised so that you're the only one who knows how to unset it via a number of dashboard controls.

7. Double-check electronic locking

Electronic devices can be used to jam the electronic signal from your key fob to lock your vehicle. Always manually check your vehicle has locked before walking away. If unsure, lock it manually, then scan the immediate area for anyone hanging around. If a potential thief who's watching feels they've been spotted, they'll probably move off.



8. Before owning, check for cloning

Changing the identity of a vehicle, known as vehicle cloning, can be as simple as adding stolen number plates. When buying a vehicle, always check the DVLA V5 document and make sure the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) on the vehicle is the same as on the document.

Make sure you check more than one of the VINs as well as the engine numbers on the vehicle (see diagram).

[Check a used vehicle you're buying.](#)

9. Secure your port

Many modern vehicles are fitted with engine management diagnostic ports, which can unlock and start your vehicle. If your vehicle has this type of port, consider fitting a lockable cover.

A determined burglar can be difficult to discourage. Good-quality doors, windows and locks are excellent deterrents, but there's even more you can do to slow down burglars in their tracks.

Our Extra Bits...

MET Engage, so why sign up?

The platform will allow you get timely alerts on crimes, scams and fraud in your area, safety tips and prevention advice, local officer updates on community events/or detail and lastly, you will have a platform to help you voice your concerns to help shape local policing priorities.

Met Engage supplements, but does not replace, official reporting channels i.e. contacts such as (999,101 and the police online submission form). Your data will also be kept secure and used for sending relevant trusted information.

<https://www.metengage.co.uk/>