

Neighbourhood Watch



Welcome to this year's Neighbourhood Watch Summer Newsletter.

In this edition, we'll be sharing the latest Neighbourhood Watch news, highlighting upcoming events, and reflecting on recent activities and community events we have been involved in across the borough. We'll also provide practical advice on seasonal scams that are common during the summer months and offer tips on how you can protect yourself, your family, and your community from fraudsters.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter and find the information useful, informative, and engaging.



Junior Neighbourhood Watch

Once again, Neighbourhood Watch was invited to take part in the annual Junior Citizens event at AFC Wimbledon's Plough Lane Stadium. Throughout the week, we had the opportunity to speak with more than 600 Year 6 pupils from schools across the borough.

The event brought together a range of partner organisations, including the Metropolitan Police, London Fire Brigade, and local Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), who delivered engaging sessions on a variety of safety topics. Representing Neighbourhood Watch, I worked alongside PCSO Maria Dartnell and PCSO Dave Haywood to help children understand the role of Neighbourhood Watch, the importance of community involvement, and how everyone can play a part in keeping their neighbourhoods safe.

It was a fantastic opportunity to engage with young people, encourage positive community values, and inspire the next generation to look out for one another and take pride in their local area.



We had a fantastic week working with schools from across the borough. One of the highlights was watching more than 600 pupils – and quite a few teachers – enthusiastically attempt their best meerkat impressions, with some truly impressive performances on display!

It was also incredibly encouraging to see how engaged the children were throughout the sessions. They showed a genuine interest in community safety and quickly grasped how they can play an active role in protecting their homes, supporting their neighbours, and helping to keep their streets safe. Seeing their enthusiasm and growing awareness reinforced the importance of engaging young people in building stronger, safer communities for the future.



SNB Funding Projects

THE DIY PROJECT

The DIY Project is a community initiative designed to equip young adults aged 18-24 with practical DIY and home maintenance skills while building confidence, independence, and employability. Through a series of hands-on workshops, participants learn skills such as basic carpentry, decorating, tool safety, and household repairs, alongside teamwork, communication, and problem-solving. Working on real-life projects enables participants to gain valuable experience while making a positive contribution to their local community. The project also provides opportunities to develop confidence, explore potential career pathways, and build stronger connections with others. By offering constructive activities and practical learning opportunities, the programme supports personal development, promotes community engagement, and helps reduce the risk of young people becoming involved in crime or anti-social behaviour.



THE SECURITY PROJECT

The Security Project helps residents improve the safety and security of their homes through practical crime prevention measures and community engagement activities. Working in partnership with local organisations, the project provides security equipment such as door and window alarms, timer switches, and other crime prevention resources to residents who may be vulnerable to burglary or anti-social behaviour. Alongside the distribution of equipment, the project offers crime prevention advice, raises awareness of local safety issues, and encourages residents to become more involved in their communities through initiatives such as Neighbourhood Watch. By helping residents feel safer and more connected, the project contributes to reducing opportunities for crime and building stronger, more resilient neighbourhoods across the borough.



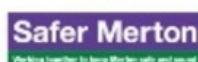


Join a supportive
women-only run group near you.
Walk, jog, or run. **FREE** weekly training.



Find a group that's right for your
ability and pace.

merton.gov.uk/boroughofsport



Summer Scam Warnings

As the summer approaches lots of us are thinking about where we want to go on holiday and book it. Unfortunately, it's also a time when scammers become particularly active. Most holiday scams take place online so it's important to keep alert. Scammers target anyone regardless of age or experience.

Common scams

- Criminals target people looking for cheap holiday deals, tricking them into giving money or financial details.
- Scammers advertise fake flights, accommodation, and holiday packages that seem “too good to be true.”
- Most scams happen online, often through cloned travel websites with URLs that look almost identical to real ones.
- Fraudsters also post fake ads for holiday homes or flights on trusted sites and social media.
- Victims are often asked to pay by bank transfer, making the money hard to recover.
- Bogus Doorstep Traders are also particularly common during the summer period.
- Avoid unsolicited offers for cleaning or repairs. Always ask for written quotes and use trusted local traders recommended by friends or family.
- Discounted Flight Tickets can't always be trusted either, we recommend booking directly with the airline to avoid scams that may involve fees to change names on tickets.
- Phishing Emails are another way that scammers can catch out victims this is when they pretend to be someone you know and ask for money.
- We recommend you use secure payment platforms and verify the authenticity of the website before entering payment details
- Scammers can create clone websites that mimic legitimate travel companies. Always check the website link and avoid clicking on links from social media, messages, or emails.
- So, make sure not to click any links or send any money unless you know exactly where they have come from or where it is going.

Stay safe in 3 steps:

STOP:

- Pause and check you're on a genuine website.
- Avoid clicking links from social media, messages, or emails.
- Be wary of deals that seem unrealistically cheap.

CHALLENGE:

- Ask yourself if the offer could be fake.
- Compare prices on other websites — big price differences are a red flag.
- Use secure payment platforms, never bank transfers.
- For package holidays, check the company is ABTA or ATOL registered.

PROTECT:

- Contact your bank immediately if you think you've been scammed
- Report incidents to Action Fraud or call 0300 123 2040 for Report Fraud UK

For more information please see: [Scam Warnings](#)
and
[Scam Warnings](#)



CCTV Good News

Mitcham

CCTV Supports Swift Arrest Following Assault in the Town Centre.

During routine monitoring of the town centre, CCTV operators observed an intoxicated male behaving erratically and causing concern through his actions. A short time later, the male was seen punching a female without warning. CCTV operators immediately informed police, providing the male's exact location along with live updates on his movements. Responding officers attended the scene promptly and, with the assistance of CCTV, located and arrested the male in connection with the assault. This incident demonstrates the value of proactive CCTV monitoring and close partnership working with police, enabling a rapid response to violent incidents, the swift apprehension of suspects, and helping to keep the town centre safe for residents and visitors.

Morden

Late-Night Patrol Leads to Positive Drug Enforcement Outcome.

During a late-night patrol of a public car park, CCTV operators observed a group of males handling what appeared to be cannabis and using a cannabis grinder. Recognising the suspected drug activity, operators immediately shared the live feed with police and reported the incident, providing officers with the group's exact location. Police units attended the scene promptly and spoke with the individuals. Following enquiries, two Community Resolutions were issued for possession of cannabis. This incident demonstrates how proactive CCTV patrols and effective partnership working with police help address drug-related activity and contribute to maintaining a safe environment within the town centre.

Colliers Wood

Proactive CCTV Patrol Deters Suspicious Male from Further Activity.

During a late-night patrol of the residential area, CCTV operators observed a male acting suspiciously by looking into front gardens and parked vehicles. The male was then seen attempting to open the doors of two vehicles, raising concerns that he may have been attempting to commit theft. Recognising the suspicious behaviour, CCTV operators immediately informed police and provided the male's location along with live updates on his movements. Responding officers attended the area promptly and detained the male. Following a search, no items of concern were found, and the male was allowed to leave. Although no offences were identified at the time, the police intervention disrupted the male's suspicious behaviour and deterred any further activity in the area. This incident demonstrates the value of proactive CCTV patrols and effective partnership working with police, enabling suspicious behaviour to be identified early, appropriate action to be taken, and helping to prevent potential crime within the community.

Wimbledon

CCTV Tracks Indecent Exposure Suspect to Swift Arrest.

Police radio reported that a male had indecently exposed himself at a bus stop in the busy town centre before boarding a bus and leaving the area. CCTV operators immediately reviewed footage, identified the suspect, and tracked the bus as it travelled through the town. The male was observed getting off the bus and entering a nearby café. Responding officers were provided with continuous live updates on the suspect's location, enabling them to attend quickly and safely intercept him. The male was arrested on suspicion of indecent exposure and taken into custody. This incident demonstrates the effectiveness of CCTV in rapidly locating suspects who attempt to leave the scene, providing real-time intelligence that enables police to make swift arrests and help keep the public safe.



IDAHOBIT 2026

On 15 May 2026, colleagues from across Merton Council came together to mark International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT). This year's theme, "At the Heart of Democracy," highlighted the importance of creating a society where everyone can participate fully, safely, and equally, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or sex characteristics.

Hosted by members of Merton Council, the event provided an opportunity for staff to celebrate diversity, promote inclusion, and reflect on the role that equality and respect play in building strong and vibrant communities. The theme encouraged us to recognise that democratic values are strengthened when every voice is heard and everyone feels valued and represented.

The day served as an important reminder of our collective commitment to fostering an inclusive borough where people from all backgrounds feel safe, respected, and able to thrive. Through events such as IDAHOBIT, Merton Council continues to champion equality, challenge discrimination, and support LGBTQ+ communities across the borough.



Coming Up



London Reggae & Ska Festival 2026

Residents are invited to come together for the London Reggae & Ska Festival on Sunday 9 August 2026 at Morden Park, London Road, Morden, from 2:00pm to 10:00pm. Celebrating the rich heritage of reggae and ska music, the festival promises a fantastic day of live entertainment, great food, and a welcoming atmosphere for all ages. Bringing people from across Merton and beyond together, the event is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy music, celebrate cultural diversity, meet new people, and strengthen community connections in one of the borough's largest green spaces. We look forward to seeing residents, families, and friends come together for what promises to be a memorable day of music and community spirit.



Merton Pride 2026

Residents, families, friends, and allies are invited to celebrate Merton Pride 2026 on Saturday 5 September 2026, from 10:00am to 10:00pm. The day begins in Morden Hall Park before a vibrant Pride March makes its way to Merton Abbey Mills, Watermill Way, SW19 2RD, where attendees can enjoy community stalls, live entertainment, music, and activities throughout the day. Organised by MertonPlus LGBTQ+ Community Group, Merton Pride is a celebration of diversity, inclusion, and community spirit, bringing people together to support equality and create a borough where everyone feels welcome, valued, and safe. Whether you're marching, volunteering, or simply joining in the celebrations, Merton Pride offers a fantastic opportunity to connect with others and celebrate the rich diversity that makes Merton such a vibrant place to live.



Rockin' at the Mills 2026

Residents are invited to enjoy Rockin' at the Mills on Saturday 1 August 2026 at Merton Abbey Mills, Watermill Way, Wimbledon, from 2:00pm to 11:00pm. This free, family-friendly event celebrates the music and culture of the 1950s, featuring live bands, classic cars, vintage stalls, and a fantastic selection of rock 'n' roll, rockabilly, rhythm and blues, and doo-wop music. Set in the unique surroundings of Merton Abbey Mills, the event offers a great opportunity for residents and visitors to come together, enjoy a lively community atmosphere, support local businesses, and celebrate one of Merton's most distinctive cultural destinations.

