

Dear all,

Here is a brief note with updates from various meetings I have attended recently.

Before giving some updates, I need to say that I will be standing down, after many years, from the role of Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator for The Park and also from the role of Ward Coordinator for Redbourn.

If any of you feel you can pick up the coordinator role for The Park (or even Redbourn) please contact me. I will be standing down at the end of June.

Now for some updates.

Over recent months, reported crime in Redbourn has been particularly low compared to previous years/months. This is positive for The Park and the village as a whole and much thanks is due to our PCSO, (Alex) and to all the Neighbourhood Watch members and other village residents alike, each doing their bit to watch out for themselves and their neighbours and taking action if something seems abnormal. It does notice in the crime figures compared to elsewhere. I may have said before, The College of Policing publicised that areas with an active Neighbourhood Watch have at least 15% less crime than similar areas.

Neighbourhood Watch does make a difference.

Across Hertfordshire, things causing people most concern as reported directly to the police are:

- Speeding
- Fly Tipping
- Anti-social nuisance vehicle use.
- Anti-social behaviour
- Drugs & related issues

This compares with Redbourn Ward where they are currently:

- Anti-social behaviour
- Fly Tipping
- Speeding
- Parking
- E-Scooters

This information is given to the police by responses to online surveys and information requests and face to face surveys at events and front doors.

From my conversations with people, fear of being scammed seems to figure highly in Redbourn so I remind everybody of some specific safeguards which the police and Trading Standards remind us at every opportunity.

- Do not deal with cold callers at your door or agree to have work done or purchase goods. In the majority of cases, it leads to serious disappointment.

- Online or on the phone, remember NEVER give anybody a PIN or any account details. No bank or reputable organisation will ever ask for such things, and no bank or organisation such as Amazon or Microsoft will ever contact you by phone. (They simply have too many customers to do that). People can sound very convincing. Just hang up.
- When online, (browsing, email, etc.) NEVER click any link you do not totally recognise if you do click, thoroughly check the domain name (website address) it has taken you to. Scam sites can look extremely convincing and the domain name may only be one character different to the legitimate one. If you are not sure, ask a friend/neighbour first.

Also

- Ensure your car is locked when you are not in it. By a big margin, vehicle crime is opportunist resultant from unlocked vehicles. This is as true of Redbourn as elsewhere.

Since the change by the police from their previous messaging system(OWL) to the new **Herts Connected**, Hertfordshire had to start again with Neighbourhood Watch registrations from zero. Across St Albans, our area of Harpenden & Rural has most members and Redbourn Ward has the most across St Albans. Redbourn also has 29 street coordinators which is by far the most for a St Albans Ward. (My thanks go to all those coordinators)

The Park itself is back to 50% membership and we have a way to go to get back to the 95% we previously had. If your neighbour is not registered and would like to receive the local police messages and alerts, they can register very easily at <http://www.hertsconnected.co.uk> Should anyone needs help registering, they can just ask me.

Another reminder: Parking is very rarely a police issue over which they can take action. Go first to St Albans District Council for any parking matters.

Likewise, Fly Tipping is a council issue and these days they usually respond with action, very quickly.

The police have noted on several occasions that video doorbells and cameras are a great source for evidence should it be needed in respect to a crime.

The police have reaffirmed that they are focusing on their Neighbourhood Policing teams being out and about and visible. You may have noticed a difference particularly in city/town centres. When on duty our PCSO, Alex is generally out and about somewhere in the village.

My thanks to you all, best wishes for the summer and help keep everyone safe.

Regards,

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