

# Bolton Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter



May 2026

## Summer Crime Prevention: Staying Safe in Hotter Weather

Hot weather changes how we live — windows open, doors propped for airflow, pets in the car “just for a minute.” Unfortunately, it also changes how opportunistic offenders behave. Sneak-in burglaries and vehicle thefts rise sharply during warm spells, and many of these crimes happen simply because a door, window, or car was left unsecured.

## Don't Make it Easy for Burglars

**Lighter evenings and warmer weather can tempt burglars to try their luck with open windows and doors**

- Ensure the PVC windows and doors are securely LOCKED and not just closed.
- Don't advertise your holiday plans to burglars on social media.
- If you are out in the back garden, ensure that your front door is securely locked.
- When you leave a room unattended, close the windows and doors - especially on the ground floor.
- If you want to leave windows open while you sleep, fit window restrictors so they cannot be fully opened.
- Keep all wallets, purses, credit cards, car keys and other valuables out of sight.



## Why Crime Increases in Hot Weather

- Homes are ventilated more often, creating easy access points.
- People spend more time in gardens or communal areas, leaving parts of the home unattended.
- Vehicles are left unlocked while loading, unloading, or “just popping back inside.”
- Pets are brought along on errands, increasing the risk of heat-related emergencies.

These conditions create perfect opportunities for sneak-in burglaries — quick, silent entries through unsecured points while occupants are home.

## Securing Doors and Windows: Your First Line of Defence

Even when you're indoors, an unlocked door or open window can be all an offender needs. Most sneak-ins take under a minute.

- Lock doors at all times — Offenders often test handles; a locked door stops them instantly.
- Use window restrictors — Ventilate safely without leaving a full opening.
- Keep valuables out of sight — Keys, wallets, and phones near windows are easy targets.
- Secure side gates — Prevent access to rear doors and windows.
- Install simple deterrents — Door chimes, motion lights, and visible locks reduce risk.

## Vehicle Security: Small Mistakes, Big Consequences

Warm weather often leads to relaxed habits around vehicles — and offenders know it.

- Always lock your vehicle, even on your driveway or when refuelling.
- Close all windows fully — A small gap is enough for tools or hands to reach inside.
- Remove valuables — Bags, sunglasses, tech, and even loose change attract attention.
- Take keys with you — Never leave engines running to cool the car.
- Park in well-lit areas — Offenders avoid visibility.

## The Serious Danger of Leaving Pets in Vehicles

Even with windows cracked, temperatures inside a car can rise to deadly levels within minutes.

The poster features the RSPCA logo in the top left corner. The main title is "Dogs die in hot cars" in large, bold, dark blue letters. Below the title is the text "Share this today and save a dog's life". The poster is divided into four quadrants, each with a different illustration and text:

- Top Left:** A blue car with a dog inside. Text: "Never leave your dog alone in a car".
- Top Right:** A green car with two dogs inside. Text: "If it's 22°C outside, inside a car it can get to 47°C within 60 minutes".
- Bottom Left:** A white car with a dog inside. Text: "In hot stuffy vehicles dogs cannot cool themselves down, even with the windows open".
- Bottom Right:** A red car with the word "HELP" written on the windshield. Text: "Heatstroke can be fatal to dogs".

At the bottom of the poster, it says: "If you see a dog in a car on a warm day, call 999" and "www.rspca.org.uk".

Hot weather shouldn't mean higher crime or unnecessary risks. By securing your home, locking your vehicle, and protecting pets from heat, you remove the opportunities that offenders — and dangerous temperatures — rely on.

### Hot Weather and Dashcam Batteries: What Drivers Need to Know

As temperatures climb, many drivers think about sun glare, warm interiors, and longer journeys — but few consider how heat affects their dashcam. High temperatures can place serious strain on lithium-ion dashcam batteries, increasing the risk of failure, swelling, or even fire. A little awareness goes a long way in keeping both your vehicle and your equipment safe.

### Why Heat Is Dangerous for Dashcam Batteries

Dashcams are often mounted high on the windscreen, directly exposed to sunlight. Inside a parked car, temperatures can exceed 60°C, far beyond what most consumer batteries are designed to tolerate.

- Battery swelling — Heat can cause internal pressure to build, deforming the battery and damaging the device.
- Shortened battery life — High temperatures accelerate chemical wear.
- Risk of overheating — In extreme cases, batteries can fail or become a fire hazard.
- Loss of footage — Heat-related shutdowns may prevent recording during critical moments.



### Practical Steps to Stay Safe

- Choose heat-resistant models — Some dashcams use supercapacitors instead of batteries, which tolerate heat better.
- Park in shade — Reduces cabin temperature significantly.
- Use reflective windscreen covers — Helps protect electronics.
- Avoid leaving dashcams running in extreme heat — Especially during long, stationary periods.
- Check your dashcam regularly — Look for swelling, warping, or unusual heat.

Dashcams are invaluable for road safety, but like all electronics, they need protection from summer heat. By understanding the risks and taking simple precautions, you can keep your device reliable — and your vehicle safer — throughout the hottest months.



Your local Neighbourhood Watch is run entirely by volunteers, whether it's your scheme coordinator or association area lead, each one gives up their own time, energy and hearts to make their communities safer and more secure for everybody. If you've ever been touched by their work or simply want to say "thank you," consider buying us a coffee! Your small gesture helps fuel their big impact.

**Buy Us a Coffee** – because kindness deserves a refill. Every cup counts. Every sip supports. And every donation reminds our volunteers that their work matters and makes a big difference to your community. ❤️

**COMMUNITY  
SAFETY  
CHARTER**

[ourwatch.org.uk/charter](http://ourwatch.org.uk/charter)

**TACKLING  
CRIMES IN  
PUBLIC  
SPACES**



**#BETHECHANGE**

## ♥ Neighbourhood Watch probably does a lot more than you might think ♥

We're about more than just keeping an eye out. We bring people together, help build friendships, and create communities where everyone feels safer, stronger, and supported. From sharing local information and raising awareness to organising activities and looking out for vulnerable neighbours, it all adds up to something powerful: connection.

Our mission is to create places that are connected, active and safe, because we know that stronger communities are safer communities.

Whether you have lots of time or just a little, there's a place for you. You don't need experience, just a willingness to care about where you live.

Membership is free – so if you've ever thought about doing something for your community, you have nothing to lose and so much to gain.

Find your nearest group or start your own at [www.ourwatch.org.uk/joinNW](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk/joinNW)

<p>Things you may not know Neighbourhood Watch does: <b>community building edition</b></p>  <p>Community grants Member awards Big lunches Litter picks Plant swaps Communi-Tea parties</p>	<p>Things you may not know Neighbourhood Watch does: <b>crime awareness edition</b></p>  <p>Bystander training Safety training for businesses Webinars</p>	<p>Things you may not know Neighbourhood Watch does: <b>parents edition</b></p>  <p>School visits Kids clubs Youth council</p>
<p>Things you may not know Neighbourhood Watch does: <b>cyber edition</b></p>  <p>Cyberhood watch + Cyberhood ambassadors Digital skills workshops</p>	<p>Things you may not know Neighbourhood Watch does: <b>News edition</b></p>  <p>We have a new podcast! NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH podcast with Alfie Moore</p>	 <p>find your nearest group or start your own at <a href="http://www.outwatch.org.uk/joinNW">www.outwatch.org.uk/joinNW</a></p>

## 👁️ Join Neighbourhood Watch for FREE! 👁️

Neighbourhood Watch is all about community, safety, and looking out for each other. By joining, you'll help reduce crime, share vital information, and make Bolton a safer, stronger place to live.

Together, we can protect our streets, support our neighbours, and build a communities we're proud of.

Sign up today and be the difference!

<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/joinNW>





As part of this year's Neighbourhood Watch Week, 1st -7th June 2026, Neighbourhood Watch are proud to launch our first-ever **Award for Community Policing** recognising outstanding collaboration between policing teams and the communities they serve.

### **Award Criteria**

Nominations should demonstrate how individual officers or Neighbourhood Policing Teams have:

- Worked with Neighbourhood Watch to help a community feel safer or to improve community connections.
- Supported a Neighbourhood Watch group or individual member in their activities – this may include participating in local litter picks or community events, delivering or supporting crime prevention meetings, or working collaboratively to resolve a specific issue and achieve a positive outcome.
- Helped to establish new Neighbourhood Watch schemes or contributed to the growth and strengthening of existing schemes – for example, by encouraging new membership or supporting residents to set up a scheme in their area.

### **Eligibility**

The awards are open to serving Neighbourhood officers, Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), Police Constables (PCs), Sergeants, and Inspectors

### **Timeline**

Nominations open on Thursday 4th June and close on Sunday 5th July 2026.

### **How to nominate**

Nominations can be submitted by completing our nomination form, links to this will be on our special Neighbourhood Watch Week pages on our website [www.ourwatch.org.uk/NWWeek](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk/NWWeek). Our dedicated page for the police awards is <http://www.ourwatch.org.uk/policeawards> and nomination forms will be available from 4th June 2026.

### **Sponsor**

This year's awards are sponsored by VISAV, the company behind the Neighbourhood Alert system.

### **Why these awards are important**

These awards provide an excellent opportunity to showcase the positive impact of partnership working, celebrate innovation in community policing, and promote the values of Neighbourhood Watch.

### **Message of support**

We are very pleased to share the following message of support from Dr Fatima Eltinay, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire:

*"As Chair of Derbyshire Neighbourhood Watch and Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire, I am delighted to support the Neighbourhood Watch Community Police Awards, recognising local police officers who go above and beyond for the communities they serve.*

*Community policing is not only about responding to incidents. At its best, it is about being visible, approachable and rooted in local communities. It is about taking time to listen, understanding what matters to residents and working with partners to prevent harm, solve problems and build confidence.*

*Through my role with Derbyshire Neighbourhood Watch, I see the real impact of officers who engage meaningfully with local people. Those relationships matter. They help residents feel heard, they encourage trust in policing and they strengthen the partnership between communities and the officers who serve them.*

*These awards rightly shine a light on local officers whose commitment is often shown through quiet, consistent and everyday acts of community policing."*



Nominations for the 2026 volunteer recognition awards will open on Monday 1 June and close on 5 July.

It is so important to us to celebrate the great, often unique, work that our volunteers do. These awards, sponsored by SimpliSafe, recognise individuals whose work goes above and beyond - making a real change in their communities.

We received over 385 nominations last year, so it was a very difficult task to choose the finalists. We have 5 categories, these are:

- Innovation and reach
- Crime prevention
- Community health and wellbeing
- Young volunteer award
- Special recognition award

### **Innovation and Reach**

Strengthening community connections. Do you know a Coordinator or Neighbourhood Watch group who have:

- Overcome challenges to grow their group?
- Thought of a unique way to connect with others
- Created effective new partnerships.
- Considered an innovative way to encourage new members to join or ensure diversity and inclusion shine through.
- Are there people in the group that traditionally would not have joined but did because the group or person helped them feel included?

### **Crime prevention**

Watching out for one another and demonstrating positive actions. Do you know of a Coordinator or Neighbourhood Watch group who have done something different to help prevent crime?

- Do people feel safer from something they were involved in and want to recognise the Coordinator or group for their actions?
- Are there examples of how working with partners helped prevent crime?
- Has the Coordinator or group raised awareness of crimes in different ways to encourage the whole community to be involved?
- This could include working with youth or faith groups, supporting vulnerable people to be more aware of crime, developing inventive ways to reduce crime in the community or fear of crime.

## Community health and wellbeing

When we look out for one another, our community connection strengthens and supports us to do activities that bring us together. Let us know about a local Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator or group that:

- Supported their community to look after the environment (this could be arranging a community tidy up, litter pick, planting of communal areas, or anything that has made your community feel looked after)
- Has made you feel supported or demonstrated their care for more vulnerable people in our communities
- Held social events to bring the community together and encouraged positive community values and help you feel better about your area
- Are inclusive and include people of all ages, genders, disabilities, faiths, and ethnicities in activities, showing compassion, empathy, and kindness in what they do

## Special recognition award

This category celebrates a Neighbourhood Watch volunteer who has gone above and beyond to make a difference in their neighbourhood or area, potentially over many years. Do you know a volunteer who has:

Committed their time and efforts towards improving their area and the life of their community  
Demonstrated our values: friendly, trusted and active in their volunteering with Neighbourhood Watch  
Volunteered with Neighbourhood Watch but do not fall into the other award categories, for instance a Cyberhood Watch Ambassador, Association Lead, Membership Support Administrator (MSA)

## Young volunteer award

Celebrating young volunteers, aged 16-24, who go the extra mile in their local communities, demonstrating our values and the importance of connection and action. Do you know a young person who:

- Has been volunteering with Neighbourhood Watch and making a positive impact in their community.
- Gives up their time to support their local community (foodbanks, community hubs and groups, homeless, faith groups)
- Held fundraising activities with their school or college or have organised litter picks or other local events.
- You think this young volunteer deserves to be recognised for their hard work and commitment to their community

## Eligibility

All nominees must be Neighbourhood Watch volunteers with exception of the young person's category.

## How to nominate

Complete the online form below. The deadline for all nominations is 5 July.

[Nominate a volunteer](#)

