

July 2026

Metropolitan Police Service

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.



The July Briefing ...

The following are our highlights on how the month of July unfolded on the Sanderstead ward

Community Engagement At Lloyd Park

Our event hosted over 200 participants as well as our very own Superintendent Mr. Luke Dillon, which was fantastic to see and be part of. The exercise provided a great opportunity to engage with members of the community in a relaxed and positive environment, promoting health, wellbeing, and social connection.

Parkrun continues to be a valuable community asset, welcoming participants of all ages and abilities whether they choose to run, jog, walk, volunteer, or simply cheer others on. With the success of our last event, we will be looking into further opportunities like these in helping us strengthen relationships between residents and local partners while encouraging active lifestyles.

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.

Quarterly Ward Panel

Our latest quarterly ward panel meeting took place on the 14th of July bringing together local representatives, residents and partner agencies to discuss key issues affecting the ward.

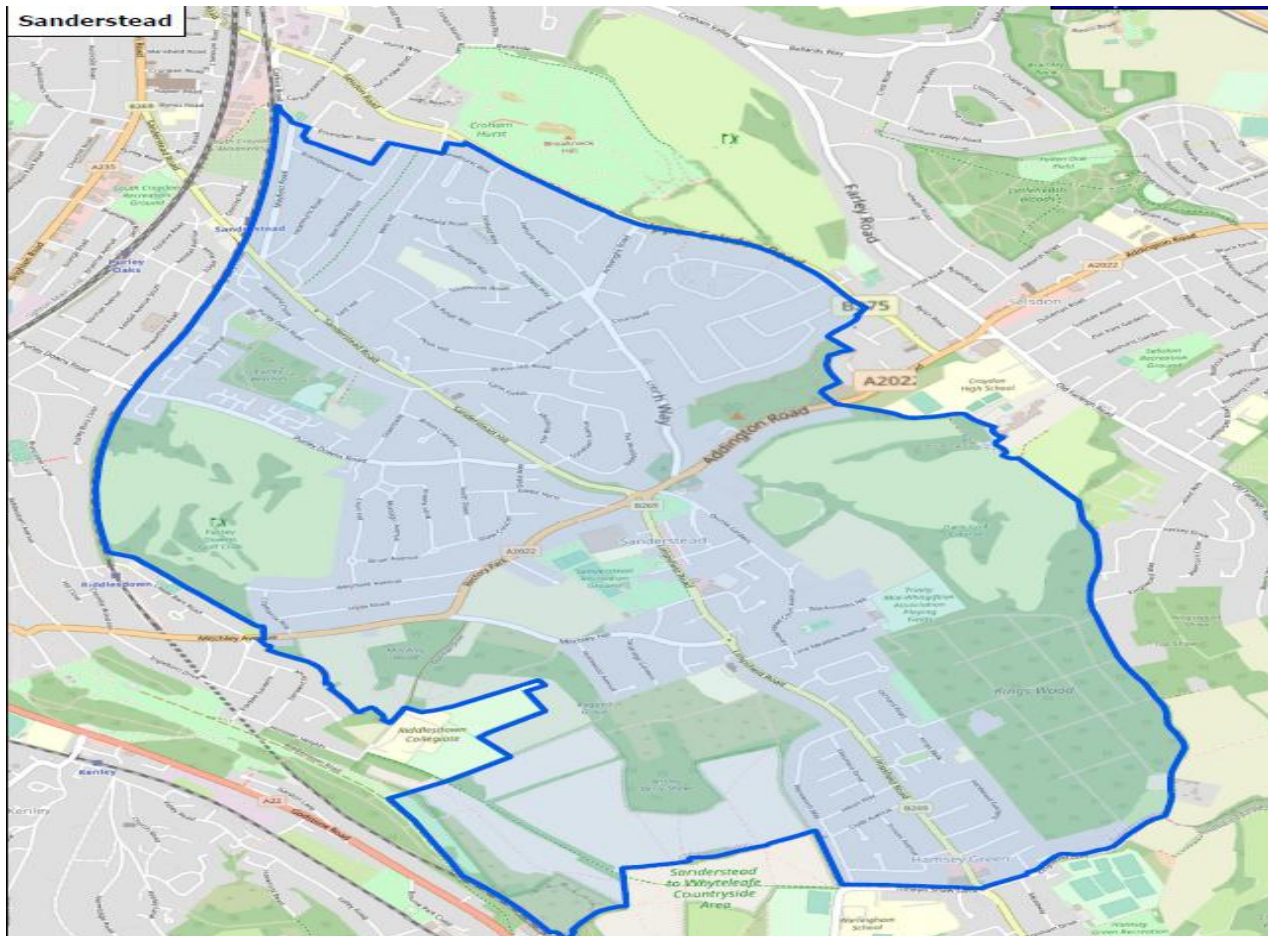
The meeting provided an important platform for residents to raise concerns, review progress on existing priorities and help shape future Neighbourhood policing activity.

The day's agenda included discussions about community safety, anti-social behaviour, crime prevention initiatives and opportunities for greater community involvement, an example here being the park run exercise.

We would like to thank and recognize the crucial role our ward panel members/or attendees play in informing local policing priorities in striving to make Sanderstead a safe place to live

TOO GREAT FOR HATE

Greater Manchester stands together against hate crime. [LetsEndHateCrime.com](https://www.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.

***Saturday 22nd August 2026 Riddlesdown
community grounds Tithepit Shaw Park Run
8:45am***

***Sunday 30th August 2026 Maple Restaurant Cuppa
with a Coppa Drop-In Surgery 15:00hrs to 16:00hrs***

Residential Burglary 01st July – 31st July 2026.

Crime Type	Date/Time Patterns	Road	Circumstances
Residential Burglary	13/07/2026 11:30hrs	Limpsfield Road	Victim's door was broken off the hinges with wooden splinters visible on the floor by the entrance of the property. Untidy search was left behind and jewellery items stolen from the address.
Residential Burglary	13/07/2026 13:30hrs	Limpsfield Road	Linked Incident with the above, with the second victim incurring damage to the front door of their property.
Residential	25/07/2026	Whimbrel Close	Victim woke up to a dent in their front door and have then swiftly noticed the following items missing from their property. car keys that were stolen along with the corresponding vehicle, black handbag, door keys, bank cards, driving license and £20 cash

Theft of a Motor Vehicle 01st July – 31st July 2026.

Crime Type	Date/Time Patterns	Road	Circumstances
Theft of a Motor Vehicle	03/07/2026 at 14:47hrs	Limpsfield Road	Victim's partner has a colleague who's promised repairs on a vehicle and hasn't returned the vehicle
Theft of a Motor Vehicle	04/07/2026 at 01:00hrs	Lime Meadow Avenue	An unknown suspect/s have taken motor vehicle from driveway overnight without use of keys.
Theft of a Motor Vehicle	22/07/2026 at 13:39hrs	Mayfield Road	Insurance company put forward a report for theft of their motor vehicle after multiple attempts to reach its owner were tried to verify details about his insurance claim
Theft of a Motor Vehicle	24/07/2026 at 12:30hrs	Tithepit Shaw Lane	Victim's vehicle that was stolen was found burnt out two days later.
Theft of a Motor Vehicle	30/07/2026 at 05:40hrs	West Hill	suspects have stolen the victims vehicle when it was unattended using unknown method of entry

Theft from a Motor Vehicle 01st July – 31st July 2026.

Crime Type	Date/Time Patterns	Road	Circumstances
Theft from a Motor Vehicle	13/07/2026 at 12:00hrs	Beechwood Road	Victim's van got broken into via a side door by method of drilling through the vehicles lock
Theft from a Motor Vehicle	13/07/2026 at 15:07hrs	Harewood Gardens	Victim reporting the front and rear number plates taken from their vehicle
Theft from a Motor Vehicle	20/07/2026 at 14:32hrs	Brambledown Road	Both Registration plates were reported stolen from the victim's vehicle
Theft from a Motor Vehicle	30/07/2026 at 11:45hrs	North Downs	suspects stole registration plates from the victim's vehicle while it was left unattended.

A slight upward trend in our July figures has been observed in relation to Motor vehicle crime.

In keeping with the fight against crime and looking positively ahead, we will leave and continue sharing our old material around preventative tips that specifically touch on theft of and from motor vehicles.

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 actually 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.

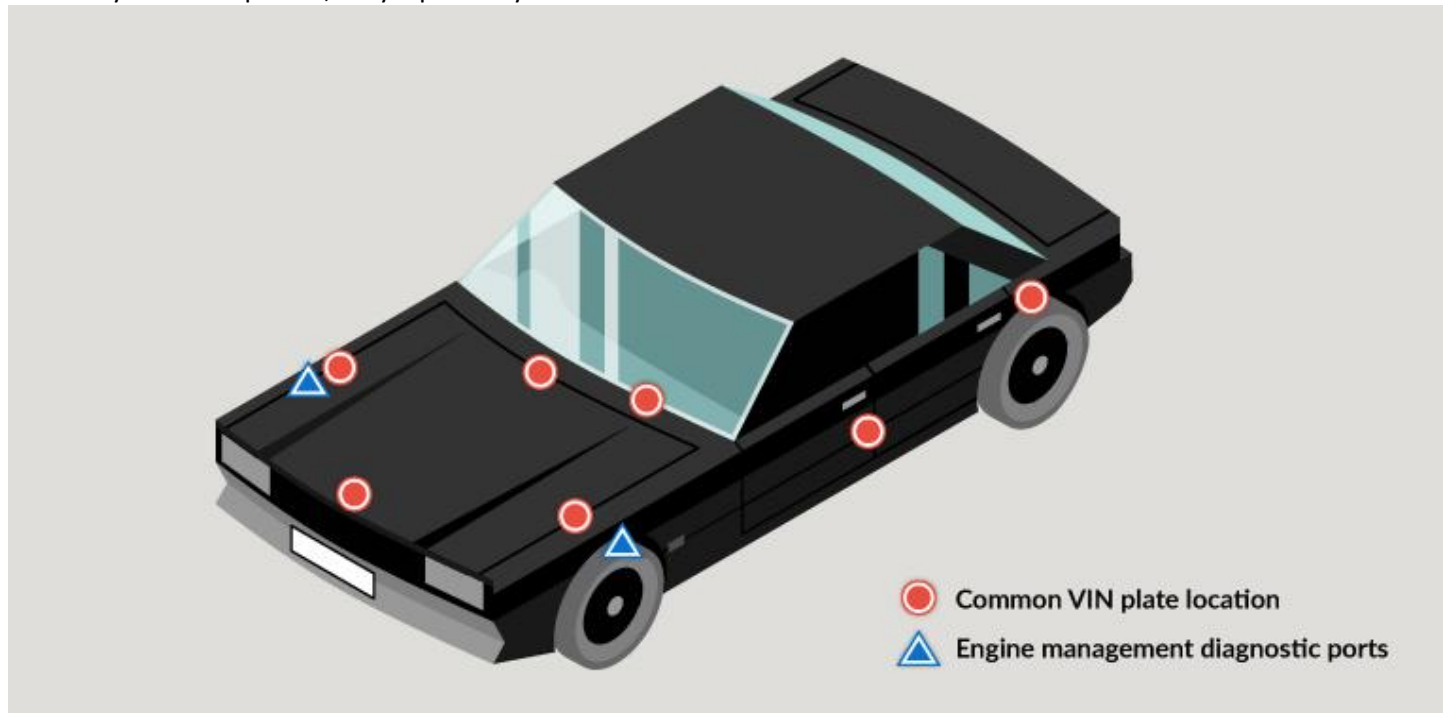
It's also worth speaking to your vehicle dealership about installing an aftermarket immobiliser approved by the manufacturer.

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...

We are pleased to report a continued increase in MET Engage sign-ups, demonstrating the public's commitment to staying informed and connected with local policing activity. MET Engage provides residents, businesses, and community stakeholders with direct access to updates, crime prevention advice, local news, and opportunities to participate in consultations and engagement events.

The growth in registrations highlights the value of timely communication and shows that our communities are eager to work alongside policing teams to help create safer neighbourhoods. We encourage everyone who has not yet registered to sign up and take advantage of the platform's benefits.

By joining MET Engage, members can:

- Receive local policing updates and alerts.
- Stay informed about community priorities and initiatives.
- Access crime prevention guidance and safety advice.
- Participate in surveys and consultations that help shape local policing decisions.

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