



# PORTSMOUTH



February 2017 Newsletter

Version 1

**INTRODUCTION BY THE CHAIRMAN:** Hopefully you now all have the date in your diary for the Annual General Meeting, 1830 to 2000 on Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup> of May 2017. It will be held at St John's College in Southsea, with lots of parking space. Please do try and come along, as it is the one meeting a year that is specifically for NW Street Reps. Look forward to seeing you there.

**POLICE UPDATE:** As always, crime prevention advice consists of practical tips and useful information to help you look after yourselves, your families, property and fellow residents. Such advice should not cause undue worry or concerns. On behalf of the Portsmouth Neighbourhood Policing Team, I hope 2017 has started positively for you and resolutions have not yet been broken! The team look forward to another productive year working closely with you all.  
Inspector Dave RYAN

**VEHICLE CRIME:** We are still experiencing theft from cars in the Portsmouth area. Please see below advice on how to keep your belongings safe.

- When leaving your car, close all windows and lock your car.
- Upon locking your vehicle try, your car door to ensure it is actually locked.
- Park your car in an attended car park.
- Look for public car parks approved by the Park Mark scheme.
- When parking at home, use your garage. If you don't have a garage, park in a well-lit area.
- Don't leave anything on display in your vehicle.
- Take all your personal possessions with you.
- Remove sat nav holders and visible sat nav ring marks from windscreens.
- Leave the glove box open to show there's nothing inside.
- Fit an alarm or immobiliser to your car.
- Record the details of your property on the Immobilise website
- Do not store your car's documents in the car.
- Secure your wheels using locking wheel nuts.

For further advice please visit [www.hampshire.police.uk](http://www.hampshire.police.uk) and type in your postcode to find your local policing pages.

**Call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111**

Neighbourhood Watch Office, Cosham Police Station, Wayte Street, Cosham, Hampshire, PO6 3BS  
Phone: 023 9284 1461 E-mail address: [PompeyNWA@hotmail.com](mailto:PompeyNWA@hotmail.com)  
[www.portsmouth.gov.uk/ext/community/neighbourhood-watch-association.aspx](http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/ext/community/neighbourhood-watch-association.aspx)

**DOORSTEP CRIMINALS/COLD CALLING/BOGUS CALLERS:** Doorstep criminals call at your home unannounced. They may claim to be from a utility company, or conducting work in the area and have noticed a problem with your house that needs fixing. They may offer to do work for you or say they need to check something in your home so will ask to come in and to look around. Then they may search your home for items to steal, or may pressure you into paying them cash for work you haven't requested or agreed to. Sometimes doorstep criminals pose as police officers or even say they are looking for a lost child or pet and need to look around your house. These criminals are convincing and seem plausible and they target people in their own homes. There are simple steps you can take to protect yourself from this kind of crime.

- Don't open the door to someone you don't recognise or are not expecting. If you do feel you need to answer your door, remember to:
- Lock the back door before you open the front door – doorstep criminals often work in pairs with one person distracting you at the front door while the other enters your home through the back door.
- Put the door chain/door bar on before opening the door, see who it is before you fully open it.
- Ask to see the caller's identification – a genuine caller will not mind showing you their I.D.
- Close and lock your door and call the number of the company they claim to be from to check if they have sent someone to your home. Remember to use a number from a bill or the telephone book and not the one they give you, so you know it's a genuine one.
- Remember, even if the caller is genuine you do not need to allow them into your home. Ask them to arrange a future appointment, so you can arrange for a friend or family member to be present.
- You can arrange to have passwords set up with your utility companies. When a representative calls they will repeat this confidential word to you.
- If a suspicious caller knocks at your door, call 999 if they are on your property and are refusing to leave, or if they have left and you are concerned they may be calling on your neighbours. Otherwise, call 101 to report any suspicious activity to your local team.

**VEHICLE SAFETY:** We would encourage all vehicle owners to complete basic vehicle checks to ensure you are safe on the roads.

- Regularly check headlights, rear lights and fog lamps. "Blown" bulbs are not always noticed but can obviously affect the safety of both yourselves and other road users.
- Allow time to properly defrost windscreens and windows. Most new cars have heated screens to help this process, but whatever you use to clear ice, don't leave your vehicles unattended whilst the ignition is running (however tempting that is on cold mornings!)

**COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY:** There have been reports of fake banknotes being used in Portsmouth, most recently in the North of the city and at stores in Southsea. Bank of Scotland £20 notes seem to be the most commonly copied notes. Caution should be exercised if they are offered to you.

**THE COMMUNITY WARDENS:** Did you know that cigarette ends are classified as litter? 90% of smokers don't know this. Portsmouth City Council have given out 297 £75 fines to smokers and litterers last year. The Council provide over 900 litter bins city wide. Sweet wrappers, cans of pop, fast food containers, paper, till receipts, anything you drop on purpose is classified as littering under section 87 of the environmental protection act 1990 and will land you with a £75 fixed penalty notice if caught. Please help keep the City of Portsmouth safe clean and tidy by NOT dropping litter on the floor.

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