

Crime report for Hawstead for the period 21/03/2013 – 16/05/2013.

Since the last meeting on 21/03/2013 we are pleased to report that there has been no crimes of note. Whilst this is very promising to report obviously crime is always taking place, so below is some trends and patterns we have been seeing elsewhere in the area of recent times.

I understand my colleague Ryan Wilson has been to visit you recently with regard to setting up a village CCTV system.

Unfortunately no one from the team is able to make it to the meeting tonight in person, however if there is anything raised for our concern then obviously do not hesitate to forward this onto us.

General information worth noting:

In the past few weeks there has been a slight increase in the number of catalytic converter thefts in the area. Within one night we had 3 stolen in Barrow, 3 in Chevington, 1 in Chedburgh and 1 in Wkepstead. So we are advising anyone with 4x4's and high clearance vehicles to park them in well-lit areas, look at having them security marked, and make the underneath's of the vehicles as difficult as possible to access by the offenders.

We have an updated rural red route for the burglary patrols paying particular attention to The Thurlows, Bradleys, Wrattings, Withersfield and Kedington especially surrounding burglary other buildings. In relation to the series of school burglaries 4 males have recently been arrested in connection with these.

There has been a number of reported offences linked to thefts of used cooking oil from fast food outlets and public houses in Forest Heath, Babergh and St Eds. A team of males are visiting these places and claiming to be working for the environment agency and taking the used containers of cooking oil and potentially using them to fuel vehicles. If anyone suspects this maybe happening we urge them to check the identity of the persons with the company they say they are from to confirm they are legit before allowing them to take the oil and if they have any concerns to call and let us know also.

We also had a distraction theft in Clare where 2 females entered a business and one was speaking to the receptionist enquiring about making an appointment, meanwhile the other stole 2 mobile phones from staff members coat pockets which were hanging on a coat hook close by. This is something we don't often see in the villages as much as the town centres but is a popular technique used by criminals.

A crime we also see a lot out in the rural areas is heating oil thefts. If you see any suspicious tankers or vans lurking shortly after deliveries of oil to your area make note and let us know, also consider extra security around your tanks, there is a number of different alarms that can be purchased and installed to help deter thieves from targeting your tank.

A few weeks ago we had a couple of thefts of staddle stones from properties in two of our villages within a short space of time. This may be coincidence, but it is certainly worth noting if you own or know anyone that possesses these type of garden ornamental stones, as they potentially may be on the lookout for more of the same.

If you see any suspicious behaviour, vehicles or persons then do not hesitate to contact us on 101. We would much rather be informed of any going's on you are unsure of, and have them checked out, rather than thinking it isn't worth reporting and then as a consequence something ends up happening.