



# OUR NEWS

> FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SUPPORTERS ACROSS ENG & WALES

Dear supporters,

As our lives are inching their way back to a post Covid-19 normality we are very excited that NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH WEEK 2021 is just a few days away. This year the focus is on staying connected to our communities, supported by our 'Listen. Talk. Do!' mantra, with podcasts, webinars, how to guides and more available on our website. More on this on page 2.



Our recent PROTECT YOUR POOCH campaign saw amazing support from a wide range of organisations and charities. The campaign, which was in response to many peoples' worries and concerns about pet theft, provides simple and effective advice on how to keep your dogs safe.

If you haven't already, please take a few minutes to complete and share our first ever INSIGHTS SURVEY, which tells us what you think. More details on this are below. This month, more than ever, please share with us the great work that you are doing, especially as part of NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH WEEK, by emailing [enquiries@ourwatch.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ourwatch.org.uk).

Yours sincerely

John Hayward-Cripps,  
CEO - Neighbourhood Watch Network

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ANNUAL INSIGHTS SURVEY

**CLOSING SOON**

A key part of our strategy is to promote the perception of Neighbourhood Watch as "neighbours **watching out** for each other, building safer and more inclusive communities".

To do this effectively, we want to better understand what **members and non-members** alike think about Neighbourhood Watch.

Please take a moment to complete our survey and share this link [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FPPJ22X](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FPPJ22X) with your friends and colleagues - even those who are not Neighbourhood Watch members - so we can obtain as broad a range of views from as diverse a range of people as possible.

TELL US  
HOW WE  
ARE DOING

TAKE OUR  
INSIGHTS SURVEY

Neighbourhood Watch Network is a charity registered in England & Wales, CIO no: 1173349

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## Neighbourhood Watch Week - LISTEN. TALK. DO!



**4 DAYS to GO**

**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH WEEK**  
**5th - 11th JUNE**

[ourwatch.org.uk/nweek](https://ourwatch.org.uk/nweek)

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**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH Week**  
5-11th June '21

If the pandemic has taught us one thing, it is that neighbourliness and community spirit is just as important as ever.

Neighbourhood Watch Week 2021 is an opportunity for us to develop the neighbourly relationships built throughout the pandemic.

This year we have a whole host of resources and events planned to support you to 'LISTEN. TALK. DO!' in your community. We encourage you to use these resources as you see fit with your community - but always within Covid-19 government rules.

### Why not kick off the week with a Big Lunch?

The Big Lunch is about celebrating community connections and getting to know one another a little better. This year, The Big Lunch starts off a summer of community, friendship and fun with a truly 'moveable' feast!

You can host a Big Lunch anytime it suits you from the 5th June, to help us celebrate Neighbourhood Watch Week and support the #MonthOfCommunity. Pick a date that works best for your community and get ready to share an unforgettable Big Lunch with your neighbours!

[Order a Big Lunch 2021 pack now](#)



**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH WEEK**  
**5th - 11th JUNE**

**TAKE PART IN THE BIG LUNCH AND LISTEN TO YOUR NEIGHBOURS**

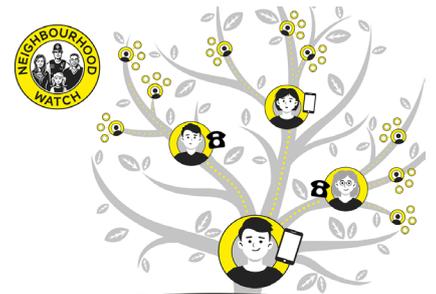
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5-11th June '21

# NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH WEEK - LISTEN. TALK. DO!

With many people feeling anxious about lockdown lifting or feeling increasingly isolated, why not connect with each other via the phone? Setting up a **'Calling Tree'** is a lovely way to keep connected, especially with those who are not online. You can find details on how to set one up by clicking the link below.



You or your neighbours may feel comfortable heading out of your front door but not yet to go inside other people's houses. If this rings true we have created an **'Every Mind Matters' postcard** to support you to initiate new conversations with your neighbours. Simply print our postcard out, complete your details, and pop it through your neighbour's door.



During Neighbourhood Watch Week you can also grab yourself a cup of tea, sit back and listen to a **Community Safety podcast** featuring our CEO, John Hayward-Cripps, watch a recording of our popular **Dog Theft webinar**, or book your place onto one of our upcoming **Scams webinars**.

## Find out more on [ourwatch.org.uk/nweek](http://ourwatch.org.uk/nweek)

For those who are ready to engage in face-to-face activities we have produced a series of **2-page guides** to support you to LISTEN. TALK. DO! with your communities.

The guides take you through how to organise a **litter pick** or **street party**, how to run a **community listening campaign** and how to conduct an **environmental visual audit** for your area. The guides can be used to support activities during Neighbourhood Watch Week and beyond.



Find out more about the #MonthofCommunity on page 4

## Bring your community closer together for June's Month of Community

Despite the difficult times the pandemic has brought, there have been some positives to come from this period. Spending more time at home and being more present in our communities has brought with it a heartening wave of community action, seeing neighbours talking and supporting one another far more than ever before.

So good causes across the UK have teamed up to celebrate summer 2021 with the **#MonthOfCommunity**. Join in however works best for you and your community, whether that's to say cheers to volunteers, connect with your neighbours, support a cause you care about or simply to say thank you to those who've helped during the past year.

It is all about creating a focal point in the year to bring people together to reconnect, celebrate what's local and help bolster the recovery effort with something that touches everyone. It's an opportunity to bring our neighbourhoods closer and shine a light on the amazing communities we live in, and to give community spirit a boost as we head into summer.

Events include (click on the event to find out more)

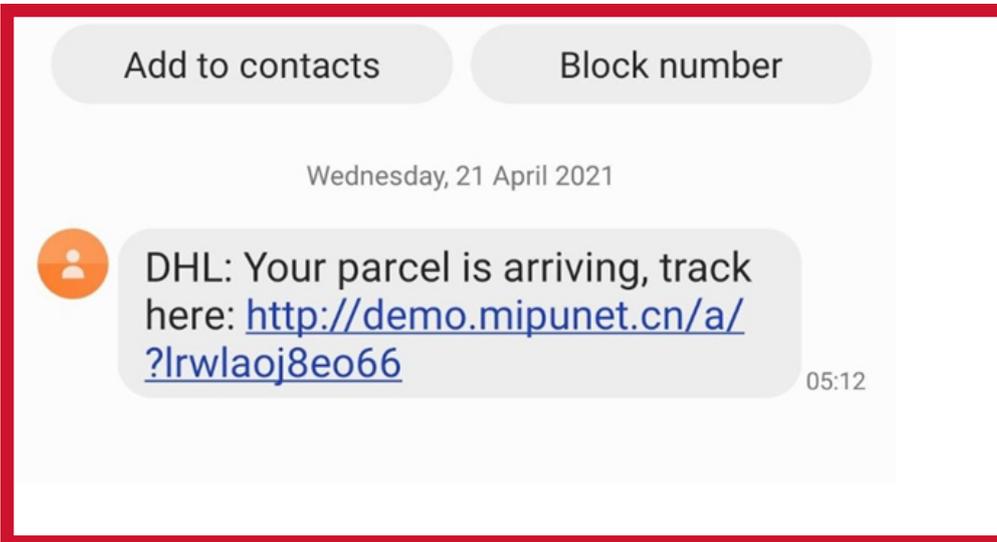
- [Volunteers Week](#) 1-7 June
- [The Big Lunch](#) from 5 June
- [Neighbourhood Watch Week](#) 5-11 June
- [Carers Week](#) 7-13 June
- [Loneliness Awareness Week](#) 14-18 June
- [Refugee Week](#) 14-20 June
- [Small Charity Week](#) 14-19 June
- [The Great Get Together](#) 18-20 June
- [Thank You Day](#) 4 July



## Don't fall victim to a SMS flubot or phishing scam

Have you received a suspicious SMS message claiming to be from a delivery company lately? And did the message inform you that you had a package arriving shortly, inviting you to click on a link to track its delivery status?

If so, you are not alone. Mobile users across the globe (including many members of the Neighbourhood Watch community) have been receiving messages like the one below:



These messages are actually linked to a banking Trojan called "FluBot".

This threat disguises itself as a legitimate text from a delivery company and asks receivers to install a tracking app in order to track the status of the package, when in fact its intention is to steal credentials and other personal data.

### How to protect yourself from FluBot?

First and foremost, install an antivirus solution that detects threats like Flubot on your mobile device. You can further protect yourself from FluBot and other mobile phishing attacks by following the advice below:

- **Do not click on links in SMS messages** - Especially if a message is asking you to install software or apps on your devices
- **Be a sceptic** - Err on the side of caution with any suspicious SMS. If you receive a communication you weren't expecting, it is always best to call the company yourself using the contact information provided on their legitimate website, to confirm the message received
- **Don't reply directly to suspicious communication** - Always begin a new communication via the company's official service channels
- **Question the message** - It is important that you train your eyes to detect phishing messages. These tend to be generic and spread to the masses, as well as automated messages or messages that present an offer that seems too good to be true (i.e. how to win a new smartphone or inherit a large sum of money from an unknown family member)
- **Do not install apps from anywhere but the official app stores** - Most major companies have their own apps available for download at trusted stores like Google Play or the Apple App Store. Also, set your mobile device's security to only install apps from trusted sources like Google Play or the Apple App Store

Awareness is the key for defending against phishing scams such as FluBot, and at a time when many are distracted by world events it is understandable to see a rise in successful attacks. If anyone you know has had a message like this, please do **share the above information with them.**



## What would you like to hear about in our **Summer Workshops?**

We are currently planning our Summer Workshops for Coordinators. This year our Summer Workshops will be held over a two week period with afternoon and evening sessions. Remember to look out for these events in our August edition of the newsletter to book your spaces.

Many attendees of our previous workshops have provided us with positive feedback on the topics covered and the chance it provided them to talk with other volunteers across England and Wales.

Previous topics include:

- How to Run Campaigns Locally
- Exploring Your Membership
- Running Online Crime Prevention Events
- Problem Solving

We want to build on the success of these previous workshops by giving you the opportunity to let us know **what topics you would like us to cover this year.**

Please email your ideas by the end of June to Cheryl Spruce, our Head of Membership and Community Engagement, at [cheryl.spruce@ourwatch.org.uk](mailto:cheryl.spruce@ourwatch.org.uk). We look forward to hearing from you.

## Watch our recorded **PROTECT YOUR POOCH Webinar**

We would like to say a special thank you to **Katy Bourne - PCC for Sussex Sussex Police, Dr Daniel Allen - Founder of the Pet Theft Reform, Sergeant Matt Coe - Metropolitan Police** and **Annabelle Goodenough - Regional Manager South East at Crimestoppers** and all those who participated in our PROTECT YOUR POOCH webinar highlighting the issue of dog theft and what we can do about it. With over 900 people registered it was very informative event with some great questions raised.



**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

**PROTECT YOUR POOCH Webinar** **27<sup>th</sup> MAY 2021**

5pm: **Welcome**  
*John Hayward-Cripps, CEO of Neighbourhood Watch Network*

5.10pm: **Dog theft survey and pet theft task force**  
*Katy Bourne, PCC for Sussex*

5.30pm: **Dog theft research- early findings**  
*Dr Daniel Allen – Founder of Pet Theft Reform*

5.45pm: **Preventing dog theft**  
*Matt Coe Sergeant in the Metropolitan Police*

6pm: **Reporting to Crimestoppers**  
*Annabelle Goodenough, Region Manager South East of Crimestoppers*

6.10pm: **Q&A**



Watch the recording here: [ourwatch.org.uk/webinars](https://ourwatch.org.uk/webinars)

## Fraud trends and emerging issues

The National Fraud Investigation Bureau (NFIB) produces monthly threat assessments outlining trends in fraud reporting and emerging frauds that are anticipated over the coming weeks.

In this article we summarise some of the types of fraud where reporting has increased recently, as well as what to look out for in the coming weeks.

### **Increases in reporting have been seen in:**

- Online shopping fraud
- Door to door sales fraud
- Phone fraud
- Investment fraud
- Rental fraud
- Computer viruses and malware
- Mandate fraud (where fraudsters obtain details of direct debits, standing orders or account transfer details and amend them to transfer money to other accounts)
- Delivery company-branded smishing, with messages asking customers to click a link to either reschedule or pay for an underpaid delivery charge
- Phishing scams involving text messages purporting to be from a bank stating that a new payee or new device has been added

### **Stay ahead of the fraudsters - emerging issues to look out for:**

- **Festival/concert ticketing fraud** - There has been a huge demand for tickets to the festivals and concerts that have now been announced. Fraudsters are expected to try and take advantage of this demand over the coming months
- **Holiday fraud** - Following the government's announcement that some international travel can resume, low-cost private testing systems offering Covid testing for holidaymakers are likely to be overwhelmed

by the sheer demand. Fraudsters may look to take advantage of this demand by purporting to offer reasonably priced tests to holidaymakers

- **Post-vaccine survey scams** - People are being contacted via email and/or text message after receiving the COVID19 vaccine to participate in a fraudulent post-vaccine survey with the promise of a prize or cash at the end. Their credit card information is requested, and they are charged for the shipping and handling fees, but never receive the promised prize. Although the victims appear to be based in the US at present, it is likely that this sort of fraud will be attempted in the UK
- **End of furlough schemes** - It is highly likely that following the end of the furlough scheme in September there will be an increase in demand for short term loans. Fraudsters are likely to try and exploit this demand leading to a potential increase in the volume of cold calls from companies purporting to offer various loans to individuals struggling financially
- **Advance fee fraud** - This is when fraudsters target victims to make advance or upfront payments for goods, services and/or financial gains that do not materialise. It is likely that career opportunities may be offered for payment of an upfront fee for jobs that do not exist

Use our [PROTECT YOUR PASSWORD](#) resources and follow the guidelines of [Take Five](#) when dealing with suspected fraudsters on the phone, on your doorstep, via the post or online.

To find out more about how to report fraudulent or suspicious texts, post, emails or phonecalls. read page 6 of our [May 2021 newsletter](#).

You can read the full NFIB Fraud Threat Assessment for April 2021 [here](#).

## Talk/together

[Together](#) is a coalition which welcomes everyone from community groups to some of the UK's best-known organisations. Their aim is to bring people together and bridge divides, to help build a kinder, closer and more connected society.

In July 2020, Together began to conduct **talk/together** - the UK's biggest ever conversation about what unites us and divides us, offering insight into how public attitudes have evolved as the Covid crisis unfolded.

Over 150,000 people have taken part, completing 78,790 open surveys, with 218 expert submissions, nearly 500 in-depth conversations and 68,500 partner engagements.

The **talk/together** final report was published on 1st March and you can read it or an executive summary [here](#).

The report shares findings that are very relevant for Neighbourhood Watch and aligned with the direction we are heading in to achieve our 5-year strategy. Our trustees and staff have jointly discussed ways in which we can support and add to the project, and we will be continuing this discussion in the next set of Association Leads Zoom calls in July.

Pages 9 and 10 of the [Executive Summary](#) look at the changes people want to see grouped into **10 themes**. These themes are based on

the hundreds of suggestions that were received for action to put in place the foundations, facilitators and connections needed to build a society where we have shared identities, consensus about the norms of behaviour, respect for difference and higher levels of trust, empathy, and kindness.

### Summary of the changes people want to see – grouped into 10 themes

1. **National and local leadership** that prioritises social connection in all four nations of the UK
2. **Give people more say** in decisions that affect them – and learn to disagree better
3. Make sure **we can communicate** with each other
4. Re-energise **citizenship education**
5. Make sure that **building, design and the planning system** promotes social connection
6. Recognise that the **workplace** is key to social connection
7. Take action to **support volunteering**
8. Encourage a **culture of hospitality**
9. The UK's COVID-19 recovery plans should aim to increase participation in **sports, cultural, environmental and community activities**.
10. We need a **new, country-wide moment** that celebrates communities and what we have in common.

## We would love to hear from you!

Whether you are Coordinator, member, partner or just receive our newsletter.

What are your views on these themes?

How can Neighbourhood Watch support these themes?

Send your suggestions to [enquiries@ourwatch.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ourwatch.org.uk) or join us on an open brainstorming Zoom workshop on Thursday 10th June, 10-11am, to share your thoughts and ideas. **Book your place [here](#)**.

# How to keep your home safe this summer

**Help give yourself greater peace of mind and keep your home safe whilst you enjoy this summer with [Co-op Insurance's](#) top tips to keeping your home safe from theft.**

Coronavirus forced many people to place their holiday plans on hold. However, with the government now reviewing travel, it's possible you might just get away this year. Whether you are planning a foreign holiday or not, you'll likely be out enjoying your new found freedom at pubs and restaurants over the Summer, leaving your homes unoccupied much more regularly as lockdown restrictions lift. While this can be great news for the economy, it could bring a possible rise in household burglaries so it's important to be vigilant. Here's our top tips on keeping your home safe this Summer.

## **Ensure your doors are locked**

While the nice weather means we typically spend longer outdoors, we can often forget to lock the doors after we leave the house. Always remember to keep both front and back doors locked, whether you're simply going for a jog or popping out to your local shop. Don't forget your windows!

## **Protect your home online**

If you do want to use social media to tell friends that you're in the pub or on holiday, there are things you can do to protect your home and possessions from burglars. Make

sure your social media profile is set to private and avoid using the location and check-in features when you're out and about. Also, try to save those holiday posts until after you are back home.

## **Get tech savvy together with your home security**

You could think about installing a wifi security camera to deter potential thieves. Or keep an eye on things with a video doorbell. Another clever tip is to install smart lights. Some smart lights have away modes that turn the lights on and off intermittently making it appear as though someone is home.

## **Get covered with contents insurance**

Help give yourself greater peace of mind this summer and beyond by taking out a contents insurance policy if you haven't already. Our Contents Insurance includes cover against loss or damage in the home from theft, including theft from your outbuildings\*, helping you enjoy your time out and about, by protecting the things you leave at home.

*\*Co-op Insurance Theft cover is subject to exclusions and policy limits. Please check our policy documents for further information and to check suitability. Home insurance is offered through Co-op*



**Get ready for summer weather - click on the image below to find out more**

