



MARCH 2024



OUR NEWS

FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SUPPORTERS ACROSS ENGLAND & WALES

What's in March's Our News?

As the colder months move into the tentative beginnings of spring, this month's Our News brings a host of stories to read. The Rt Hon Chris Philp MP shares his thoughts on the ASB Action Plan; ERA guides us on how to protect our homes (and launch their Easter competition!); the UK Government announces their new campaign to help spot fraud and scams; and so much more!

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Join ERA's Easter competition!

If you have an upcoming renovation project and want to secure your home, ERA is giving customers the chance to win up to 50% off with their Easter 'Spin the Wheel' offer, running from 28th March to 8th April. Visit eraprotect.com to enter!

Keeping your home secure during a renovation

As spring approaches, many people will be embarking on renovation projects. Whether it's updating your bathroom, extending your property, or replacing doors and windows, it's important to ensure your property remains safe and secure. Leading home security provider, **ERA**, shares its top tips for protecting your home throughout the process:



Store valuables safely

During renovations, your home may become a hub of activity with various contractors and workers coming and going. To prevent theft or damage to your belongings, consider storing them in a secure location, such as a sturdy safe or behind a securely locked door.

Install security cameras

Installing security cameras around your property can provide an extra layer of protection and deter potential intruders. By opting for cameras with motion detection and remote monitoring capabilities, you can keep an eye on your home even when you're away.



Communicate with contractors

Effective communication with your contractors is key to ensuring the security of your home during renovations.

Clearly outline your security expectations and agree how and when they will be accessing your property. Make sure contractors are aware of any security measures in place, such as alarm systems or restricted areas.

Maintain lighting

Installing motion-activated lights around the exterior of your home and the construction site is essential for deterring trespassers and maintaining a secure environment. The [ERA Protect Outdoor Floodlight Camera](#) is just like a regular spotlight, but has the additional benefit of allowing you to see and hear what's happening outside your home via your smartphone too.

Secure tools and equipment

Construction tools and equipment can be valuable targets for theft. To minimise the risk, ensure tools are stored securely when not in use and kept out of site where possible..

Save money with ERA's Easter offer

If you have an upcoming renovation project and want to secure your home, ERA is giving customers the chance to win up to 50% off with their Easter 'Spin the Wheel' offer, running from 28th March to 8th April. Visit eraprotect.com to enter

Stop! Think Fraud

A new national campaign against fraud launched in February, with adverts running across various channels including TV, radio, social media, and billboards in public places.

Stop! Think Fraud aims to help people understand the different types of fraud and the tactics which criminals can use against them. The campaign also provides advice and guidance on the actions people can take to prevent them falling victim to fraud.

Did you know that in just one year, 1 in 17 adults were victims of fraud? Criminals can target people online and in their homes, often emotionally manipulating their victims before they steal their money or personal data.

This is why the government has launched this new national campaign which encourages people to take a moment, and to Stop! Think Fraud when they come into contact with a potential scam. The campaign will remind people to check for some of the common signs of scams before providing personal details or payments if requested

[Click this link to watch the TV advert!](#)



All adverts signpost to a new website: [Stop! Think Fraud - How to stay safe from scams \(stopthinkfraud.campaign.gov.uk\)](https://stopthinkfraud.campaign.gov.uk). Please visit the website to find out more about the different types of fraud, how to better protect yourselves and the people you know, as well as ways to report if you have been a victim of fraud.

The National Campaign Against Fraud is brought to you by the UK government in partnership with City of London Police, National Cyber Security Centre and National Crime Agency.

Sign up for SP Energy Network's free Priority Services Register

We are partnering with SP Energy Networks to encourage you to sign up to the **free Priority Services Register (PSR)** which offers additional support in the unlikely event of a power cut.



The free service provides extra support to customers who feel they need its help during power cuts. This can include people who are over the age of 60, have children under the age of 5, have a chronic illness or mobility issues. Being on the PSR doesn't mean SP Energy Networks can restore your power any quicker, but it does mean they will let you know what's happening if they know of a problem in your area and can help you get through it.

You can benefit from proactive and ongoing contact during known power interruptions and access to a dedicated welfare line during storms. When registered, you will also have access to additional support services, including dementia support, help for carers and home fire safety visits. For an extra layer of security, you can set up a password with SP Energy Networks to safeguard against bogus callers.



Information on the PSR can be requested in various formats, including braille and large print and text relay services are available in partnership with SignLive, ensuring accessibility for those who are hard of hearing or have speech impairments.

Kendal Morris, Customer Service Director at SP Energy Networks said: *"Our customers are at the heart of everything we do and we know how important it is to support those who might need a bit more help in the unlikely event of a power cut. While our engineering teams work around the clock to restore electricity as quickly as possible when there are any issues, they are supported by an unseen army of customer service colleagues who make sure our customers know they are our priority. Whether it's people with medical dependencies on electrical equipment or households with young children, we're there to offer a helping hand when it's needed most"*.

Visit spenergynetworks.co.uk/psr, call 0330 10 10 167, or text PSR to 61999 to sign up today.

The Rt Hon Chris Philp MP, Minister of State for Crime, Policing and Fire, on the Government's ASB Action Plan

"As we approach one year since the publication of the Government's Antisocial Behaviour Action Plan, it's worth reflecting on why this is such a big priority, before I set out some of the steps we have taken.

Antisocial behaviour can have a significant impact on its victims. Whether it's taking place in neighbourhoods, the local park, the town centre, or next door, it corrodes communities, makes victims feel powerless and degrades the local area. That is why we launched a comprehensive action plan in March 2023 to galvanise and enhance the effort to drive antisocial behaviour out of our communities.

The Antisocial Behaviour Action Plan contains a series of bold measures and is backed by £160m of funding to ensure our commitments have real teeth. It gives Police and Crime Commissioners, local authorities, housing providers and other relevant agencies the powers and tools they need to tackle the menace of antisocial behaviour up and down the country."

Progress so far

"In the year since we published the plan, we have been driving progress and implementing the measures so we can start seeing the results. This includes providing funding to pilot targeted police and other uniformed patrols to crack down on antisocial behaviour in hotspot locations. The scheme started in 10 police force areas last July and the results have been very encouraging, with one pilot area telling us they have recorded a 42% fall in reported incidents of antisocial behaviour in the first six months after the scheme started compared to the same period the previous year when hotspot patrols were not in place.

On 15th February we announced funding of £66m to roll out this approach to all forces in England and Wales that will mean from April thousands of additional patrols will be taking place in places blighted by antisocial behaviour and serious violence."



“We are also supporting the provision of immediate justice pathways aimed at delivering swift, visible punishment for antisocial behaviour. This has started in 10 trailblazer police force areas and will be rolled out across England and Wales during 2024.

We delivered on our pledge to take a hard line on flagrant drug taking in communities by banning the possession of nitrous oxide, which is also known as laughing gas.

We have increased the fines for graffiti, litter, and fly-tipping, and we’ve provided an extra one million hours of youth services in areas with the highest rates of antisocial behaviour to put young people on the right track and stop them offending in the first place.”

Keeping up the momentum

“We’re not stopping there. This is an ongoing process because we need to ensure our approach is keeping up to date. We are using the Criminal Justice Bill to further strengthen the antisocial behaviour powers. Through the Bill, we are lowering the age at which a Community Protection Notice can be issued to 10 years old (with appropriate safeguards set out in guidance) to tackle youth antisocial behaviour; extending powers to the police to apply for Public Spaces Protection Orders; and allowing registered social housing providers to use closure powers, enabling them to quickly close premises which are being used to commit nuisance or disorder.

Longer term, we are developing a digital ‘one-stop-shop’ that will allow the public to report antisocial behaviour to the right local responders. It will also signpost victims to help and support provided by organisations such as Neighbourhood Watch who do a fantastic job in raising awareness of what ASB is and how to report it.”

Conclusion

“Antisocial behaviour is a menace that needs to be robustly confronted and that is what our plan is designed to do. We’re making good progress but there’s more to do and that is why it will continue to remain a priority for the Government in the months ahead.”

[Visit our NW ASB resources here!](#)



#LookCloser - preventing, spotting and reporting child exploitation

The Children's Society

This year, The Children's Society is running their #LookCloser campaign, raising awareness of child exploitation, and how to spot and report it.

Across the country, young people are being manipulated, sexually abused, forced to launder money and deal drugs.

Exploitation isn't obvious. But it happens everywhere. And you can stop it.

Get to know the signs of child exploitation and how to report it through The Children's Society's award-winning #LookCloser campaign with the British Transport Police and National County Lines Coordination Centre. Together we can protect children from this abuse.

There are [several fantastic resources available, for free, on The Children's Society website.](#)

Spot the signs: Ask yourself, is a young person...

- Travelling alone, particularly in school hours, late at night or frequently?
- Looking lost or in unfamiliar surroundings?
- Anxious, frightened, angry or displaying other behaviours that make you worried about them?
- In possession of more than one phone?
- Carrying lots of cash?
- Potentially under the influence of drugs or alcohol?
- Being instructed or controlled by another individual?
- Accompanied by individuals who are older than them?
- Seen begging in a public space?

[Read more on The Children's Society website.](#)

Celebrating the Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust's impact in communities

The Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust (WBVT) works in partnership with Wiltshire Police to secure the homes of older people (over 60 years old) and those registered disabled (over 18 years old), who are, or are at risk of, becoming victims of crime. The charity was established in 1998 and funds the operation of three Bobby Vans that provide mobile workshops across Wiltshire and Swindon.

The charity's three operators are skilled carpenters or lock fitters, as well as being trained in crime reduction, and carry out Fire Risk Assessments on behalf of Dorset and Wiltshire Fire Services for vulnerable households. Their aim is to ensure our counties older and more vulnerable adults remain safe at home.

In 2017, WBVT, at the request of Wiltshire Police, launched a bespoke Online Safety Initiative – Stay Safe Online, whose aim is to empower people with the tools to identify scams and avoid the financial and emotional damage caused by online fraud.

The Stay Safe Online service is available to people who are over 60 years old, or to those aged 18 years and over with a registered disability. A team of friendly, experienced, vetted Stay Safe Online Volunteers visit clients at their homes to give one 1-2-1 tuition that is tailored to the individual. They also give group talks to reach wider audiences about cybercrime.

Paul Sunners, Chair of Wiltshire Neighbourhood Watch said: *“Wiltshire Neighbourhood Watch Association is proud to work in partnership with the Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust, and to promote their Stay Safe Online initiative. The initiative is aimed at preventing people from becoming a victim of scams and other forms of cybercrime, which can have such a devastating influence on victims. The work of the Bobby Van Trust compliments the role of our Cyberhood Ambassadors, who meet with various groups across the Wiltshire and Swindon.”*

Book a Stay Safe Online visit or group talk: BobbyVanOnlineSafety@wiltshire.police.uk, or call: 01225 256867

Arrange a home security visit or group talk: bobbyvan@wiltshire.police.uk, or call: 01225 256867





**GET YOUR
NW MEMBER
DISCOUNT HERE!**

Patlock have supported Neighbourhood Watch for a number of years by assisting our members in securing their homes with their Secured By Design home security product.

Despite everyday costs and product prices increasing, Patlock have ensured that their **member discounted price of £42.50 (a 35% discount!)** remains the same. For each product sold to one of our members, Neighbourhood Watch Network receives £7 - this money continues to support the work we do as a charity. Some of our members have shared their product reviews:

"So pleased with my Patlock French door lock, which was recommended by the police. So easy to use and I feel so much more secure with it. From ordering to delivery, it was excellent." **Jennifer H**

"I wanted to buy a lock for our French patio doors having read the recommendation on our local Neighbourhood Watch portal. Their order and dispatch procedures are first rate and the product arrived next day. Very pleased with the product!" **John A**

"Excellent product purchased through the discount offered by Neighbourhood Watch. Very easy to use and offers a visible deterrent to attack, as well as a substantial barrier to forceful entry. Delivered very quickly after ordering. I am satisfied with my purchase." **David A**

"Great price, quick delivery, quality secure product. Couldn't be easier to fit, just slide over the handles and click together. Recommended and at a good price through your local Neighbourhood Watch group". **Neill D**