

WELCOME TO BEXLEY BOROUGH NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



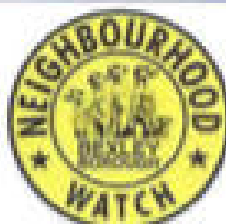
Bexley Borough Neighbourhood Watch Association
Supported by Bexley Police and Bexley Borough Council
Tel: 020 8284 5537
www.bexleywatch.org.uk



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STAY SAFE



Welcome



Welcome to the Bexley Neighbourhood Watch Association Guide Book. We have been working in the Borough for 27 years and became an Association in 1997.

Our membership was around 400 for several years but over the last couple of years we have really expanded with our membership now approaching 1,000 plus, and we continue to go from strength to strength. Bexley has a diverse and vibrant community with a population of over 240,000 residents.

Our aim is to work with all the different groups, young and old, to help build a better and safer community for all.



We work with Bexley Police, Bexley Care & Safety Partnership (Bexley Council) and other partners towards reducing crime. We work separately, meaning we are not run by either the police or the council. We are all volunteers with the exception of our one office administrator, and our aim is to reduce the fear of crime, and encourage safer and confident communities.

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What is Neighbourhood Watch?

Neighbourhood Watch is not just about reducing burglary figures – it's about creating communities who care. It brings local people together and can make a real contribution to improving their lives. The activity of Watch members can foster a new community spirit and a belief in the community's ability to tackle problems. At the same time, you feel secure, knowing your neighbours are keeping an eye on your neighbourhood.

Neighbourhood Watch is about –

- **Looking out for each other –**
- **Working for a safer neighbourhood –**
- **Keeping your community secure and fostering a caring and cohesive community spirit.**



There are other benefits to Neighbourhood Watch schemes too: (1) You will become familiar with crime prevention ideas, which will help keep your home and belongings safe; (2) You will make the elderly and vulnerable residents feel a part of the community again; (3) The extra security which belonging to a Neighbourhood Watch scheme offers you.

As a member you will receive weekly crime reports & seasonal newsletters designed to keep you informed of current crime trends as well as other local issues.



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Reasons for joining/starting a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

Neighbourhood Watch is one of the biggest and most successful crime prevention initiatives ever and the largest voluntary organisation in the country.

Our statistics show that:

- You are less likely to be burgled if you are a member of a Watch scheme.
- Neighbourhood Watch brings communities together to tackle problems such as burglary, vandalism, anti-social behaviour, vehicle crime, ID theft and scammers.
- Neighbourhood Watch is a great way to rekindle community spirit.
- Neighbourhood Watch encourages a sense of security amongst you and your neighbours and knowing that you are keeping an eye on each other's property gives reassurance, particularly for those who feel vulnerable.
- Local Neighbourhood Policing Teams work closely with Neighbourhood Watches to ensure that up to date crime prevention advice and initiatives are made available to keep your home safe.
- You may qualify for a discount on your home insurance premiums if you are a member of a registered scheme.



Beware of bogus callers

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How do I set up a scheme or join an existing scheme?

How big is a scheme?

There is no ideal size of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme, it can be anything from 5-200 homes. If you live in a small close or street with few houses, then the scheme could cover all the properties. If you live in a long street, then ideally it would be to set up a scheme covering the properties that you feel comfortable with, often splitting the road with other coordinators/volunteers in the road.



How do I set up a scheme in my street?

In order to set up a scheme, first check if there is a scheme in your street. This can be found on our web site (postcode checker), or contact your local policing team or us at Neighbourhood Watch at the contact details on the front of this booklet.

If there is no scheme in your street, we will arrange for a registration form to be delivered to you. Once you have returned it you will be contacted to discuss how to set up a scheme and then you will receive your starter pack and introduction letters.



Beware of postal, telephone and internet scams

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How do I set up a scheme or join an existing scheme?

What support do I get?

Both Neighbourhood Watch and your Safer Neighbourhoods Team will give you support along the way. All new Watches are offered a launch meeting, which is a chance for local residents to get together to find a Co-ordinator/deputy. A presentation will be given by an experienced Co-ordinator and the Ward Safer Neighbourhoods Team Liaison Officer.

As a Co-ordinator you will receive quarterly newsletters, be able to access our website and receive email alerts and our new weekly reports giving a ward by ward break down of criminal activity. The key to an effective Watch is communication, remember we are here to advise you and offer crime prevention advice please contact us on 020 8284 5537 if you have any queries or problems.

Should you decide that your neighbours would benefit from a newsletter written by you specifically for their own Watch we will happily photocopy these for all the homes in your Watch. Simply email your newsletter/flyer to bexwatch-office@btconnect.com and we will contact you when they are ready to collect.

Support also comes by way of the Ward Co-ordinator's meeting (our AGM in the summer and a ward Coordinators meeting before Christmas). These meetings are designed to collect all the Co-ordinators/deputies from your immediate area together to discuss issues and find solutions. Good practice is shared to make Watches more effective.

What are the benefits?

- Windows/door stickers – a good deterrent for uninvited callers
- Street signs – lets the criminals know that they're being watched
- Creates a sense of community spirit – gets neighbours talking to each other and therefore more likely to look out for each other and each other's property
- Some larger insurance companies give discounts to Neighbourhood Watch schemes between 3-5%, as long as they are active and display window stickers. Remember to ask about this at renewal time as you will not always be asked if you belong to a Watch.
- The Bobby Van Project – free service offering an inspection of home security and providing locks (if needed) free of charge.
- Up to date crime prevention information
- By making the area safer property prices can increase, as the area becomes a more desirable place to live.
- Huge discount of the SmartWater property marking kit, r.r.p. £79.00 available through Neighbourhood Watch you can purchase directly with our special discount code for £25.00.
- Visit www.smartwater.com for more information.
- Your Watch is covered by Miles Smith Insurance Solution.

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Requirements for setting up a scheme

Once you deliver your introduction letters, your neighbours/residents should return their slip confirming their email address, and this will allow you to keep in contact with them and with local crime issues and warnings. Our office will assist you if you want to set up a separate email address for NW only. Not all residents will show interest but most will be happy to be part of the scheme.

There are annual NW Coordinator meetings which will be organised by our office and you will be invited to attend at a central point. The end of year Coordinators meetings are normally organised by a group of wards to enable Coordinators to meet members from other nearby wards and to meet their Dedicated Ward Police Officers. Your ward sergeants should be present at these meetings which will enable you to ask them any questions you may have.

This is also a chance for residents and other coordinators to get to know each other.

Before we can register your scheme, we must have at least one resident to act as the co-ordinator.

Once the scheme has been registered, signs will be put onto the lampposts in your street and you will be given introduction letters and NW window stickers for all of your residents. These will be inside your welcome pack, which will also include other information and leaflets.



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Watches you can join in Bexley



HOUDWATCH

We are asking residents who walk their dogs in Bexley to join us in fighting crime and for you to register with us in this initiative.

We ask that you report anything suspicious that you might see while walking your dog. Please either inform us directly or contact your local Police Team, so that this information can be spread via email to everyone registered with us.



Our aim is to reduce the opportunities of crime and anti-social behaviour and build a community spirit where dog walkers can contribute towards the protection of their neighbourhood. Registration cards are available from our office or you can email us.

PLOTWATCH

Due to the increased thefts of gardening equipment and plot vandalism in 2013-14, PlotWatch has been set up. If your allotment has already experienced this type of crime, we ask you to register your plot with the new initiative. Once your allotment is registered, signs will be erected as crime deterrents to show your participation in the scheme. This has already helped reduce allotment crime across the borough.

By providing your email address we will be able to send you news alerts of PlotWatch-related crimes in the borough.

We are encouraging all allotment groups and plot owners to report every incident of crime immediately to Neighbourhood Watch so that we may spread the word via email to everyone registered with us.



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SHOPWATCH



As a shop owner would you like to become aware of all current crime in your immediate area and if so, why not become a Neighbourhood Watch member of ShopWatch?

ShopWatch is about keeping each other aware of crime issues; once you have joined you will receive regular email updates from us. Additionally if you report an incident, copy us in; we can then ensure all other shops in the Parade or High Street that are members are made aware of what has happened. We can also ensure that the local police team are informed and that they follow up any issues. Already many shops in Bexley have joined and are seeing less crime.

Theft of horses, tack and related equipment has increased significantly. As either a private owner or livery of stables, you may have already experienced these types of crime. We ask you to register your stables or private ownership with the new initiative by providing your email address. We will be able to send you news alerts of HorseWatch-related crime within the borough.

We are encouraging all agencies, private owners and stables to report every incident of crime immediately to Neighbourhood Watch so that we may spread the word via email to everyone registered with us.



HORSEWATCH



Watches you can join in Bexley

Hospital Watch designed to protect patients and staff in and around Queen Mary's Hospital in Sidcup. Working in the normal ethos of Neighbourhood Watch it will link all Hospital Departments with both The Neighbourhood Watch Office and their local Police Team, ensuring all types of crime and suspicious activity is reported and that as many of the hospital staff are made aware throughout the QMH umbrella. This would include theft from motor vehicles of both staff and patients, theft of motor vehicles and theft of property of patients and staff within the hospital departments. Each hospital wing/department will have a NW-Representative to liaise with both our office and police, information is meant to flow both ways as with all BBNWA-Non Residential Watches. Photos of suspicious persons or persons seen committing crime can also be circulated.

HOSPITAL WATCH



FAITH WATCH



As the price of scrap metal soars, so places of worship have increasingly become victims of stolen lead and copper, cons and theft. Your place of worship may have already experienced this type of crime. We ask you to register with this initiative. Once you have registered, signs can be erected on request as crime deterrents, to show your participation in the scheme. By providing your email address we will be able to send you news alerts of FaithWatch-related crimes in the borough.

We are encouraging all members to report every incident of crime immediately to Neighbourhood Watch so that we may spread the word via email to every place of worship registered with us.



STAY SAFE



Personal Safety



- Think ahead and plan your journey, avoiding deserted areas.
- Try to avoid walking alone at night, and keep to well-lit main roads where possible. You should try to avoid short cuts like alleyways, waste ground and wooded, bushy areas.
- Stay alert: be aware of what's going on around you.
- It is always worth letting someone know where you are going, the route you intend to take and when you expect to return.
- Consider investing in a mobile phone. There are various services available for light users.
- Try to avoid wearing headphones as your ability to hear traffic, strangers or potential trouble is severely restricted.

Safeguarding your mobile phone

As many as 10,000 mobile phones are stolen every month. Two thirds of the victims are aged between 13 and 16. Many phones are also stolen from unattended cars. Here are some practical measures you can take to keep your mobile phone safe.

Remember to...

- register your mobile phone at www.immobilise.com.
- keep your phone out of sight in your pocket or handbag when not in use.
- use your phone's security lock code, if it has one.
- record details of your electronic serial number (ESN) and consider separate insurance.
- most phones have an IMEI number which is a unique identifier for the phone. Find the IMEI number by typing *#06# into your phone and it will display a 15 digit number. Keep a note of that number separately from the phone.
- property mark your phone with your postcode and door number to help police identify stolen ones.
- report a lost or stolen phone to the police immediately.
- inform your service provider if your phone is stolen or lost.

Don't...

- attract attention to your phone when you are carrying or using it in the street.
- park in isolated or dark areas.
- leave your phone in an unattended car – if you must, lock it out of sight. It only takes seconds for a thief to smash a window and steal your phone.

By taking these simple precautions, you can protect your phone.

If you see anything suspicious, call the police - dial 999.

Bexley NW work with The Suzy Lamplugh Trust annually to promote their National Personal Safety Day.

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Vehicle Crime



Did you know that...

- Half a million vehicles are stolen in the UK every year.
- Vehicle crime accounts for more than a quarter of all reported crime.
- 40 percent of stolen vehicles are never returned to their owners.
- A lot of vehicle crime is due to owners leaving items on view or even their vehicles unlocked
- Older cars are more likely to be stolen than newer ones.
- Property is stolen from cars every 13 seconds in England and Wales.
- More than 30 percent of vehicle crime happens in car parks.

Common car sense

Please remember to lock your vehicle every time you leave it even if parked on your drive. Always remove personal property such as handbags, stereos and satellite navigation equipment. Please also remove the cradle and wipe away any suction marks.



If you see anyone committing a crime or acting suspiciously please ring the police using 999.

If you wish to report any crime anonymously, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Number plates

As a simple prevention measure, motorists can replace the regular screws used to attach the number plate to their car with clutch screws that cannot be unscrewed once in place. Clutch screws are available from car part and hardware stores. They are relatively inexpensive and easy to fit and using them could save motorists the inconvenience, time and expense of having new number plates fitted.

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What to do to prevent crime and becoming a victim:

- If you see anyone committing a crime or acting suspiciously please ring the police using 999 at the time.
- If you wish to report any crime anonymously or give information about criminals in your neighbourhood please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111
- If you wish to report a crime that has already occurred or speak to the police on another matter telephone them on 101 and the operator will either take your information or pass you to a person who can. Ask the operator for their call reference. They will either give you what they call a CAD number or a CHS number depending on the call. Make a note of the number and the date so you can later ask what happened. Remember always to keep the NW-Office informed as well information can be added to our weekly report to keep other Coordinators aware of such criminal activity.
- Be aware that the Metropolitan Police offer a wide range of booklets, leaflets and fact sheets which cover all aspects of crime prevention. Obtain copies of these documents from your local police office or station.
- The Police Bexley NHW offer crime prevention advice on home security, or vehicle security through your Safer Neighbourhood Team. They can also provide property marking advice.
- The Police and Bexley NHW also advise the council on broader crime prevention measures that include things such as improved lighting, making communal areas safer for residents, and making places less accessible to outsiders, and also consulting on placement of CCTV cameras.



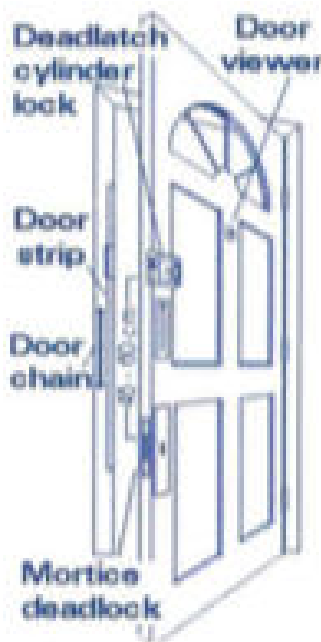
Burglary

Is the crime that worries people the most. So the answer is to take all the necessary precautions to prevent it.

It is recommended that you fit a good automatic dead-latch cylinder rim lock and a good 5 lever mortice deadlock conforming to British standards to your front door. You can strengthen the door frame by fitting a 'London bar' to support the locking points and a 'Birmingham bar' to reinforce the hinges. Do the same to all external doors to your property.



External Doors



1. Lock all external doors and windows and set your burglar alarm if you have one when ever you leave even for a few minutes.
2. Fit a good automatic dead-latch cylinder rim lock and a good 5-lever mortice deadlock conforming to British standards to your front door and any other perimeter door to your home.
3. Consider fitting London and Birmingham bars to reinforce your door frame.
4. Do not leave valuables lying around i.e. car keys as burglars are likely to drive your goods away in your car!
5. Security mark your property. Contact us for special NW discounted Smartwater code, you can then buy direct using this code online at www.smartwater.com
6. Secure you garage and shed as you would your home and secure valuable items or those items such as ladders which can help a burglar in your shed or garage to an anchor point. You can also use Smartwater marking for your items in these areas.
7. Criminals often target houses and flats with UPVC doors because homeowners do not always lock them correctly. Some owners may not be aware that their door may be opened if it is not locked with a key, by using the external door handle, or accessing the inside door handle via the letterbox. In both cases locking the door with a key from the outside could prevent entry. If UPVC doors are not locked all but the central bolt can be disarmed and burglars can force the door relatively easily. UPVC doors are perfectly secure provided they are used correctly but all too often residents do not lock them with a key. This is enough to stop the door from coming open but it is not enough to stop the determined burglar. By double locking the door with a key you can greatly reduce the likelihood of falling victim to an opportunist thief.

Letterboxes

Letterboxes/plates should be considered as an aperture which can be used by the criminal, either to extract goods from within close proximity to the door, commonly door keys, or to work vulnerable locking devices from the inside.

Letterplates should conform to British Standards. They should be positioned no closer than 400 mm from the door lock and under no circumstances should they be fitted to the bottom rail of the door. An internal cover plate offers additional security, as does a letter basket, though you might wish to consider removing the bottom, allowing the mail to fall to the floor and thus preventing theft of the mail.

www.bexleywatch.org.uk website will have more information.

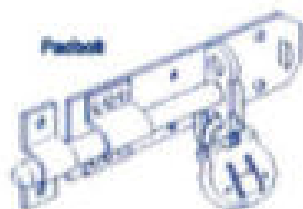
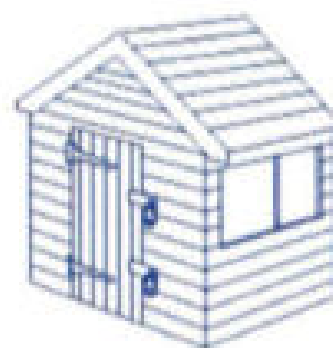
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Garden Sheds



Garden sheds are a very popular target with burglars and are often overlooked when security is being considered. The value of the contents, such as garden mowers, strimmers, and cycles etc can often add up to thousands of pounds. It is therefore wise to secure the shed door with at least one heavy duty hasp and close shackle padlock. It may not always be



appropriate to fit a heavy duty padlock, hasp and staple as the shed door and frame may not be strong enough to support them.

There is a range of smaller but sturdy padlocks, padbolts, hasps and staples which would be suitable. Whether fitting heavy duty devices or otherwise, always use coach bolt fixings through the door and frame.



All opening windows require good window locks. In addition to fitting external physical security to your shed, it is worth considering the installation of an alarm. This does not mean a complete burglar alarm system, though if your house already has such an installation it may be possible for it to be extended to the shed. There are various stand alone devices on the market specifically designed for remote use in garages or sheds, which fall into two main categories:

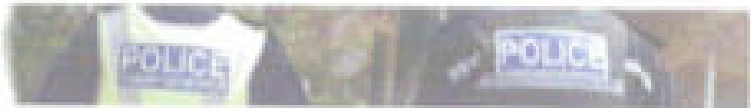
- a passive infra-red detector within the shed to detect movement and body heat.
- a door contact system.

Both systems will operate a sounder if the shed is accessed without the correct de-activation. They are available with battery or mains power supply and can be purchased from your local locksmiths, D-I-Y or discount store.

The major problem with vulnerable garden sheds is that they provide burglars with an arsenal of house breaking implements, e.g. the versatile garden spade: because of the blade size and the leverage that can be exerted, few door or window locks can withstand a prolonged attack from this implement.

If the shed is too fragile to secure adequately, the spade should either be bolted or padlocked to a heavy bench or frame, or, better still, kept in a more secure place such as a locked garage. Alternatively, your tools can be secured by chaining them together. Consider the use of a strong lockable box or cage within the shed in which you can store not only your garden tools but also insecticides and weed killers or other items which may be harmful to

Property Marking



The main Crime Prevention purpose of marking your property is to make it less attractive to thieves to steal as they know that if they are caught in possession by the Police and they quickly establish it is stolen property they are in trouble! In addition the traceable property may be more difficult to "cash in" with another criminal or to a purchaser. It also greatly enhances the chances of you being re-united with the item which is also important.

Although etching/punching your Postcode and house number or name/company name on property can be very effective it is not always a practical option of property marking. BBNWA offer a good discount to residents in NW covered areas on the purchase of a protective marking product called SMARTWATER, a special discount code enables residents to purchase the product directly at a considerably discounted price. Our office will give both code and how to purchase details to anyone requesting it who is in a NW covered road only.

Electronic marking

If you have a Mobile Phone stolen or lose it, the police will check on www.immobilise.com if they find it in the possession of a criminal or in the street. It is a free service and takes a few minutes on line to register your phones details. Similarly a bicycle frame number can also be registered at www.immobilise.com. Warning stickers are available from the company. Go to www.securedbydesign.com click on licensed companies then property identification to assess your choices.

UV pen marking

UV pen marking still has a role to play in Crime Prevention however, only after the above methods have been considered.

The principle here is that you mark your postcode followed by the house number or name on property with an UV pen which is invisible to the naked eye. Again you display stickers usually supplied with the pen to illustrate that you have done this. Police have access to UV lights which show up postcodes etc when shone on your UV mark of your postcode. Pens cost a pound or can be available free from us, although markings often wear off.

Photography

Taking photographs of property as detailed as possible is recommended for reconciliation/prosecution of offender purposes, particularly if it is not property marked.

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BBNWA Registration Form

Bexley Borough Neighbourhood Watch Association
Bexleyheath Police Station, 2 Arnsberg Way Bexleyheath DA7 4QS
Tel. No.020 8284 5537 Email: bexwatch-office@btconnect.com



Watch Registration Document & coordinator details.

Road Name Approx No of households

Whole / Part of Road - specify Ward

Coordinator details

Title Surname Forename

Date of Birth / /

Address Postcode

Telephone No: Home Mobile

Email address

Signature Date

Joint Coordinator details

Title Surname Forename

Date of Birth / /

Address Postcode

Telephone No: Home Mobile

Email address

Signature Date

By signing you authorise BBNWA to use your data to maintain our register of members and to communicate with you.
We will pass your name, address and telephone number but not email address to police and your fellow street coordinators so that they can communicate with you regarding Neighbourhood Watch matters.

We will not pass your details to any other party without your express permission.

Office Action

Handbook created

☐

Signs ordered

☐

Police informed

Co Coordinators informed.

☐

Street email:

Visit Map updated

☐

Notes

Updated Website

☐

Added Mail Chimp

☐

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