

SUTTON

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



Working together to beat crime in:

Beddington ~ Belmont ~ Carshalton Central ~ Carshalton South & Clockhouse ~ Cheam

Hackbridge ~ North Cheam ~ South Beddington ~ St Helier East ~ St Helier West ~ Stonecot

Sutton Central ~ Sutton North ~ Sutton South ~ Sutton West & East Cheam ~ The Wrythe

Wallington North ~ Wallington South ~ Worcester Park North ~ Worcester Park South

Dear Reader,

As we conclude another productive year ✨, we extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to all those volunteering for neighbourhood watch in any capacity, and for your ongoing commitment as members to creating safer, stronger, and better-connected neighbourhoods across Sutton. With the festive season approaching, this is a period when risks traditionally rise - from personal thefts, increased drink and drug driving to a surge in winter-related scams - making our shared vigilance especially important.

This December edition therefore brings together timely updates to help you stay informed and protected 🔍. It emphasises the need to be aware and keep safe when out and about with friends or family; highlights the national drink and drug driving campaign - particularly relevant as Christmas celebrations and late-night travel increase - and a reminder to support us as your chosen Co-op Community Cause. This season also brings heightened scam activity, including Winter Fuel Payment scams, online shopping fraud, impersonation attempts, and dating scams. Whilst Christmas is a time of celebration for many, it can also represent a lonely and vulnerable time for others, so please keep an eye out for each other, the elderly or neighbours who may be alone.



♥ Co-op SNHW Partnership – a Reminder

Choose us as your
Co-op local cause
Go online coop.co.uk/membership



Please support us by choosing us as your local
Community Cause

- <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/99128>



Keeping Safe when out and about

Mobile phone and personal belongings thefts continue to be highlighted across London, particularly in busy pubs, cafés and night-time settings. Offenders often rely on quick distraction techniques, such as covering a phone, purse or wallet with a menu or leaflet before taking it or hovering unusually close to tables to obscure belongings. Being aware of these subtle behaviours makes it easier to spot risks before a theft occurs.

Report phone theft by ringing 101 or via Met

Engage <https://www.metengage.co.uk/Alerts/A/309880/Local-Priorities-Mobile-phone-theft-Message>

Spiking of drinks, by adding drugs to someone else's drink – it is easy to become distracted when out and about with family or friends for meals or drinks but please be aware to look after your drink to ensure it isn't spiked and keep an eye out for each other. Thankfully incidents of spiking remain low, but please see the further information below and report any incidents of spiking by ringing 999 if you or someone you know becomes really unwell.

Other types of Spiking include:

Needle Spiking - injecting drugs into someone else's body with a needle or auto-injector pen;

Vape Or Cigarette Spiking - giving someone drugs in a cigarette or e-cigarette;

Food Spiking - adding drugs to someone's food

<https://www.met.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/spiking-advice/spiking/what-is-spiking/#What>



Crimestoppers – National Drink & Drug Driving Campaign

CrimeStoppers.
0800 555111
100% anonymous. Always.

Crimestoppers has launched a national campaign running to 4 January 2026, urging communities to report drink and drug driving anonymously. The festive season brings an increase in impaired driving, contributing to approximately one in five fatal road collisions across the UK. In 2024, Crimestoppers recorded a 17% rise in reports of individuals regularly driving under the influence, receiving almost 53,000 reports - an average of 125 every day. The charity highlights the escalating number of drug-driving cases, with convictions rising by 13.5%. A recently reported case resulted in a local man being sentenced to 9 years and 9 months for causing the sad death of a pedestrian by dangerous driving and possession of cocaine. This problem is very real, especially at this time of year, and Crimestoppers offers a vital alternative for reporting anonymously. If you are aware of anyone drink or drug driving, please report online at: <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/keeping-safe/community-family/drink-and-drug-driving> or via 0800 555 111.

Winter Fuel Payment Scams



Winter Fuel Payments are issued automatically – those eligible to receive a payment do NOT need to apply. Despite this, Action Fraud received 2,790 scam reports between April and September 2025, with losses exceeding £27,000. Criminals often send fraudulent messages claiming action is required to “apply” or “confirm details”. These communications are always scams. If you receive such a message, delete it immediately. Never click on links or use contact details in unsolicited texts. Suspicious texts or those instant messages you may receive can be forwarded to 7726, free of charge. If you think you’ve responded to a scam message, please ensure you immediately contact your bank and report the incident to Action Fraud. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pensioners-warned-to-stay-alert-as-winter-fuel-payment-scams-surge-by-over-150>


Sutton Fraud Update

The latest Cyber Crime Summary (October 2025) highlights key fraud trends, with 117 offences reported and losses totalling more than £345,000 - an average of nearly £3,000 per victim. Door-to-door scams remain the highest-risk category for financial loss with fraudsters often posing as tradespeople, claiming urgent repair work is needed. They may use photos, staged evidence, or pressure tactics to secure immediate payments. Residents should verify identification, never allow unverified individuals inside, and avoid paying upfront as you may never see the so-called trader (or your money) again.

Other prominent fraud types include online shopping scams, which affect hundreds of thousands of people each year. Fraudsters create convincing fake websites, run deceptive advertisements, and use social media posts to lure victims into paying for items that never arrive. Other scams are dating fraud, and social media account compromise, when an unauthorised person gains access to a user's account. To help protect yourself, police advise using strong passwords, enabling two-factor authentication, avoiding bank transfers, manually typing website addresses, and checking legitimacy using tools such as <https://www.getsafeonline.org/>

Be wary of “free trial” offers or unexpected delivery-fee messages – if an offer appears too good to be true, it usually is. Always ensure you update devices and regularly back up data. One of the largest retailers, Amazon, has issued warnings about impersonation scams which occur when a fraudster pretends to be a trusted company or organisation to obtain personal or financial information. Common tactics include fake delivery messages, fraudulent account alerts, and misleading adverts. Always use official apps and websites for all account and shopping activity; enable two-step verification to protect your accounts; be cautious of unsolicited contact creating false urgency, never share passwords or payment details via unofficial channels.

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/phishing-scams/spot-scams>

If you believe you’ve been targeted, contact your bank immediately, then report the incident to Action Fraud. Always report scams, fraud and cyber-crime to Action Fraud, either online at <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/> or by calling 0300 123 2040. 



Good News Stories

On Wednesday 15 October, when PC Josh Swonnell was on his way to Asda in Sutton, to deal with a shoplifting incident, he saw Joseph Thompson who was wanted for 8 shoplifting crimes locally. Mr Thompson was arrested, taken to custody and charged with all 8 shoplifting offences. Following the arrest, the police worked hard to collate all the CCTV evidence and statements, extending their shift to do so. A Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) was prepared and at court the following morning Mr Thompson was issued with the CBO to prevent further offences. A further hearing is scheduled for 14 January so Mr Thompson was issued with court bail with a proviso that he should not attend Sutton High Street.

On Monday 20 October, PC Salvage and PC Geary were on plain clothes patrol around Woodcote Road, Wallington, when they sighted Samuel Harper (also known as Sam Scowen) with a large bag and loitering outside Sainsbury's, Stafford Road, Wallington. He was in possession of a bag full of bottles of alcohol with security tags and expensive toiletries. Mr Harper was unable to explain where the items were from, and he was invited for a Caution +3 voluntary interview the following day. In the meantime, CID made PC Salvage and PC Geary aware that Mr Harper was also the main suspect for burglaries. On arrival at the Caution +3 interview, he was arrested for Handling Stolen Goods and 5x Burglaries and he was charged and remanded.

PC Davenport, PC Geary, PC Salvage and PC Rogel Hompanera were on plain clothes patrol when they spotted Alex Day and Michael Taylor in the Sainsbury's car park on Stafford Road, Wallington, with several empty bags and noticed that Mr Day had his face covered. The suspects were spotted by PCs Geary and Salvage leaving Woodcote Road so deduced they were likely to be going to Carshalton High Street with the clear intention to steal. They were spotted entering Sainsbury's in Carshalton, with face coverings. The police were aware these two individuals had been issued with Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBOs) not to enter any Sainsbury's in Sutton. Both men have been detained under Section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) as £121 worth of stolen goods had been found. PCs Davenport and Rogel Hompanera returned the goods to Sainsbury's and PCs Geary and Salvage arrested both for breach of CBO and

shoplifting. Both men have since been found guilty at court and were sentenced with other outstanding offences in November.



A full list of our Committee and Ward Coordinators, including vacancies, can be viewed at: www.SuttonNeighbourhoodWatch.co.uk/about-us/whos-who/

As our effectiveness in making Sutton a better place to live by combatting crime and antisocial behaviour, is proportionate to our membership, can you encourage your friends and neighbours to join please. They can easily do so at our website: www.SuttonNeighbourhoodWatch.co.uk/register/. Thank you

Wishing you all a safe and happy Christmas season and New Year



Keep well, keep safe

Anna

on behalf of your committee

Sutton Neighbourhood Watch

www.SuttonNeighbourhoodWatch.co.uk

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