

Sutton Neighbourhood Watch – January 2026 Newsletter

As we begin 2026, we would like to wish you a happy and healthy New Year, and to thank you for your continued support of Sutton Neighbourhood Watch. Neighbourhood watch people are dedicated and passionate but extra help is always needed. As a new year is often a time of reflection, you may wish to think about working alongside us to keep our borough safe for example by filling one of our Ward Coordinator vacancies. Cheam has a well-established and dedicated committee but urgently needs a Ward Coordinator and Committee members so please contact us if you can help. Thank you. 🤝

This January edition brings together practical updates and local policing information to help you stay informed and protected as we move into the new year. It includes details of our newly operational SNHW phone line, key messages from the Metropolitan Police on the New Met for London Phase 2 approach in Sutton, an update on the Sutton Police Station management team, and examples of recent enforcement activity. We also highlight important resources on hate crime reporting and support, alongside detailed crime-prevention advice focused on vehicle theft.

♥ Co-op SNHW Partnership – a Reminder

Please support us by choosing us as your local Community Cause - <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/99128>

☎ SNHW Phone Line – Now Live

Sutton Neighbourhood Watch (SNHW) has a phone line for messages on **020 8770 6090**. The line is **not** for reporting crime, and the voicemail message advises callers to hang up and dial **999** for urgent incidents or immediate danger, and **101** for non-urgent crime reporting. For other SNHW enquiries, please leave a clear message after the tone, including your name, telephone number, email address and the reason for the call. Messages are regularly monitored and we will respond as soon as possible. 📞.

👮 Your New Met for London – Phase 2 in Sutton

As part of their New Met for London Strategy 2025-28 the police introduced their new communications system – Met Engage - which will be their main channel of communication. The police promise is to transform our policing into a service that truly delivers for us all. It's quick and easy to sign up to Met Engage and allows you to get to know your local officers, help shape how they police our local areas and have direct access to key information and advice. <https://www.metengage.co.uk/>

On 10 December, Superintendent Rich Lloyd-Ablitt announced the launch of Phase 2 of the New Met for London plan on Met Engage, building on work already underway, reporting that neighbourhood crime such as phone-snatching and shoplifting is down 14% across London; injuries from violence are at a five-year low; and more than 1,000 extra arrests a month are being made.

In Sutton, the Superintendent highlights a 12% reduction in retail crime, 100 fewer thefts and motor vehicle offences this year, and a 26% year-to-date reduction in robberies (98 offences this year versus 133 last year). Phase 2 will focus on precise community crime-fighting, stronger neighbourhood teams, and closer partnership working, and this of course includes SNHW.

Locally, residents told police their priorities included increased visibility on Sutton High Street (especially after school and in the night-time economy), dangerous riding and anti-social behaviour involving e-bikes and mopeds and tackling serious violence such as knife crime and gang activity.

The Met says it is responding with increased patrols and operations around Sutton High Street, targeting retail crime, anti-social behaviour, and drugs, including the use of Live Facial Recognition and drug dogs, alongside data-led deployments and joint work with partners.

Officers will also continue to focus on building trust and confidence through visible neighbourhood policing, improved service to victims, and sustained engagement with residents and local businesses. Performance against these priorities will be closely monitored as part of the wider three-year New Met for London programme.

More information: <https://www.met.police.uk/police-forces/metropolitan-police/areas/about-us/about-the-met/a-new-met-for-london/>

An update on the management team at Sutton Police Station

Inspector Paolo Resteghini is currently acting as Chief Inspector; the Safer Neighbourhoods Teams Inspectors are Tom Haji-Savva, Jennifer Sharpling and Acting Inspector Yolanda King.

Arrest: Prolific Offender

On 19 December 2025, officers from the Sutton Central Neighbourhoods Team on plain-clothes patrol in the town centre, were focusing on identifying offenders who target Christmas shoppers and stores. An adult male of interest to the police was intercepted and arrested for burglary (x1), shoplifting (x5), and breach of a court order (x1). He was taken to a South London police station and was expected to attend court the following day. Great work by officers.

Stop Hate Crime – Support and Reporting

Unfortunately, hate crime does exist in Sutton, so if you have been a victim of such crime, please report it. You can call 999 in an emergency or when a crime is in progress but for non-urgent assistance, please call 101 or report online:

<https://www.met.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>

For confidential support, the Stop Hate Crime 24-hour Help Line is 0800 138 1625 or you can report a crime anonymously by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Help and support is

also available from Victim Support on 0808 168 9111 or by visiting <https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/>

More information: <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/keeping-safe/personal-safety/hate-crime>



Crime Prevention Advice – Targeted Motor Vehicles

As you may be aware, criminal activity is getting more sophisticated, so we must do what we can to protect ourselves and our property. Police warn about a modern hacking technique where criminals gain physical access to a vehicle's internal network (the Controller Area Network, or CAN bus) and inject fake messages to bypass security systems such as the engine immobiliser. This can allow doors to be unlocked, and the engine started without the key fob, often in minutes.

Vehicles reported as particularly vulnerable include certain Toyota and Lexus models (including RAV4, C-HR, Land Cruiser, Prius, Highlander and GR Supra; and Lexus NX, RX, ES, LC/LC-C, LS, RC and UX/UXe), as well as some high-performance Dodge/Mopar vehicles, with access often gained via an external port such as the headlight assembly. Some Range Rover/Land Rover models have also been referenced, with access reportedly via the tailgate or rear light clusters on some vehicles. However, police note that any keyless model can be vulnerable.

Recommended steps include checking your vehicle is locked every time; keeping keys out of view at home and away from the front door; using a Faraday or other pouch to prevent electronic access to your keys (and checking it still works); parking in a garage or well-lit space where possible; using visible deterrents such as a steering wheel lock or wheel clamp; considering professionally fitted immobilisers/trackers, and securing number plates with tamper-resistant screws.

If you have information about vehicle crime or suspicious behaviour, you can report it anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Thank you for continuing to look out for each other 🌟.

More information: <https://www.metengage.co.uk/Alerts/A/361170/CRIME-PREVENTION-ADVICE-FOR-TARGETED-MOTOR-VEHICLES>

And finally, if there are any topics you would like us to cover in the newsletters, please get in touch. In the meantime, have a safe, healthy and happy start to 2026.