



Keeping our communities  
safe and reassured



# South Staffordshire Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter February 2016

In South Staffordshire we are currently trying to re-invigorate our relationship with Neighbourhood Watch, as well launching a local Farm Watch. Locally I can see significant benefits from an effective Neighbourhood Watch, I am keen to ensure information is exchanged effectively and that we work together to reduce crime and improve community safety.

Inspector Giles Parsons



## Car thieves prefer keys

Car key burglary has increased in recent years as high value cars have improved security systems. Criminals now look to steal keys rather than force the ignition; often by accessing keys left in sight through letterboxes or by breaking in through insecure doors or windows.

It is important to take extra care to reduce the risk of becoming a victim by:

- keeping all keys out-of-sight and away from doors and windows
- using a garage and gating your driveway
- lock windows and doors if you go upstairs or outside.



## Vehicle stolen while left unattended for defrosting

With colder mornings and hard frosts fast approaching, police are urging drivers not to leave their vehicles unattended while defrosting them.

Between October and March there is often an upsurge in theft of vehicles from driveways. Thieves look out for those which have been left unattended with the engine running as the owner goes back into their property.

Some insurance companies will not pay out when vehicles are stolen in these circumstances.

Drivers are advised to stay with their vehicle as it defrosts and use a de-icing spray or a scraper to speed up the process.



We can be contacted at: [nw@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:nw@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk) or call 101 and ask to speak to a Community Engagement Officer.

## It's a scam

Courier fraud is when fraudsters call and trick you into handing your cards and PIN numbers to a courier on your doorstep. There are many variations, but it usually follows a method similar to this:

A fraudster telephones you claiming to be from your bank or the police. They tell you that your bank card details have been used fraudulently.



They suggest that you hang up and ring the bank/police back to ensure the call is genuine. **Don't be fooled**, they stay on the line. They then ask you to read out or key in your PIN.

They send a taxi/courier to collect your bank card. With this and your PIN, they spend your money.



**Please remember: your bank or the police will never ask for your PIN or bank card - don't give them to anybody**

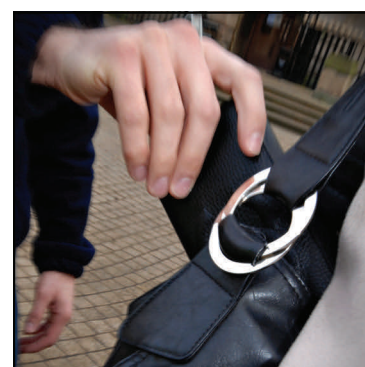
## How safe is your purse?

Take simple crime prevention measures to keep your handbag, purse, money and bank cards safe.

Never leave your purse or bag unattended on a trolley, pushchair or wheelchair as it can be stolen in a matter of seconds.

Be aware of who is around - particularly when withdrawing money from a cash machine. Shield your PIN number and put money into your purse or wallet immediately. Never keep PIN numbers with bank cards.

Avoid carrying large amounts of cash around with you and be careful not to let anyone see what's in your purse or wallet as you pay for goods.



You can also report crime by contacting the independent crime-fighting charity Crimestoppers anonymously on **0800 555 111** or through their Anonymous Online Form at [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org). No personal details are taken, information cannot be traced or recorded and you will not go to court.

