



Protecting Young People

The new academic year will see many children and young people facing new situations and challenges. Those starting school for the first time should be in a well-protected environment where problems and issues can be easily identified and addressed but this will be less so for those moving up to secondary school and even less for those starting college and university.

The vast majority make the transition successfully but this does not stop parents worrying about the possible risks their children may be facing.

The *Fearless* scheme introduces young people to the services offered by *Crimestoppers* in a way that they can understand. It has its own specially designed app and website that contains a wealth of information about crime, drugs and similar problems that can affect them. It gives guidance about how they can pass on information that might be worrying them completely anonymously by calling **0800 555 111** or filling out a simple form on-line.

www.fearless.org

The *National Union of Students (NUS)* has a lot of useful advice about personal safety for those going into further or higher education on its website:

www.nus.org.uk/en/advice/student-safety

Bullying

Bullying is an issue for all age groups and can have a serious effect on victims if it is not tackled early. Fortunately, there is a lot of support and advice available for parents and young people to help them deal with the problem.

There is no legal definition of bullying but it is usually defined as behaviour that is:

- repeated
- intended to hurt somebody physically or emotionally
- often aimed at certain groups because of their race, religion, gender, sexual orientation etc.

It can take many forms including:

- physical assault
- teasing
- making threats
- name calling
- cyber-bullying by mobile phone or online, such as email, social networking and instant messaging
- some bullying might be a criminal offence that can be reported to the Police

Go to the official Government website where you will find lots of information and up-to-date links to reputable anti-bullying organisations who can help:

www.gov.uk/bullying-at-school



Birstall Parish Council has named its former office building on Sibson Road in memory of Councillor Robert Dickinson who died in 2017 after a short and unexpected illness.

Rob was a Parish Councillor and its representative member on our Neighbourhood Watch Committee for many years. He was a strong supporter of the Watch and took an active part in its operation.

He had a very strong commitment to our local community that is evident in the time and effort he put into serving it in various capacities.

Street Parking

We have been contacted by several Members concerned about poor parking in Birstall. The problem is not confined to any one area and appears to affect most of the village in one way or another. Concerns range from inconsiderate parking, such as blocking driveways, to potentially dangerous parking, such as on zigzag lines outside schools. The issues are, however, not the easiest to address.

The majority of the streets in the village are not subject to yellow line or other restrictions and anyone is allowed to use a parking space on a first-come-first-served basis, even if it is directly outside your house. This can be frustrating, especially if spaces are scarce, and can sometimes lead to heated disputes.

Members' experience suggests that where a vehicle is parked inconsiderately, rather than dangerously, we cannot expect an immediate emergency response from the authorities.

Parking enforcement was once the sole concern of the Police but responsibility has been transferred, in our case, to Leicestershire County Council. If you have an issue you should first refer it there. However, the Police still have powers to deal with dangerous parking.

There is more information and advice about parking issues on these websites:

www.leicestershire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/cars-and-parking

www.leics.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/asb/asb/antisocial-behaviour/nuisance-parking

www.highwaycodeuk.co.uk/waiting-and-parking

Saturday Advice Shop

21st September 2019

10 a.m. to 12 noon

Robert Dickinson Building

10 Sibson Road

(Opposite the Garden Centre)

Fence Spikes are a legal and effective way of discouraging burglars from climbing over fences and gates

18 inch (45 cm) lengths

£1 each



We need Help with Distributing this Newsletter

We have around a hundred-and-sixty volunteer Coordinators who deliver this Newsletter to nearly four thousand households every month. However, we have to get the Newsletters to them first, so we also have fifteen Distributors who deliver them to the Coordinators.

We currently need a volunteer to take on this task for the Goscote Hall Road/Park Road/Johnson Road area.

The eleven addressed envelopes are delivered around the beginning of each month and have to be

distributed within a few days. It takes about half-an-hour at the most.

Obviously, at holiday times and the like we can arrange for somebody else to do it, if you tell us in advance.

If you are able to help or would just like to know more without any obligation, please send us an email to:

watch@villagewatch.co.uk

or leave your contact details on **0756 2422 756** and we will call you back.

Beat News

The most recent *Beat News* is published in full on the *Police News* pages of our website – www.villagewatch.co.uk

The reports are also printed each month in the *Birstall Post*.

Here is a summary of the July *Beat News* from PC Dave Jaekels:

- There were forty-one crimes reported in July, a drop from forty-nine in June.
- The highest crime category was ten offences of theft of fuel from the petrol station.
- There were four offences of theft from cars; a drop from five in the previous month.
- The number of house burglaries reported was two plus one non-dwelling.
- There were four reports of other theft.
- The number of reported assaults dropped from nine to seven.
- Three drug offences were reported.
- Two vehicles were reported stolen.
- There were four reports of criminal damage, including two of cars.

Further information can be found at:

www.police.uk/leicestershire/NL60

Crime Prevention Advice

This month, another 'cannabis factory' has been discovered in the village. These 'factories' are usually houses that have been converted to allow cannabis to be grown inside them. The electricity supply is often tampered with making them a fire risk. Things to look out for are:

1. Windows and curtains that are always closed and have condensation on the inside.
2. Unkempt gardens suggesting the house is not being looked after or lived in.
3. People visiting very late at night or very early in the morning and only staying for short periods.
4. 'Humming' sounds coming from the property, suggesting fans are being used.
5. A smell of cannabis in the area.

There may be a legal explanation for any of these, of course, but if you do have any concerns about a property in your area, let us know by calling 101 or contacting us via our website so that we can do some checks.

Neighbourhood Update

This month the beat team have continued to patrol the areas where we suspect drug dealing to be taking place and we have also visited several members of the public who have had the misfortune of having rogue traders call at their homes. Information has been passed onto Trading Standards in relation to these rogue traders - please ensure that you do not agree to have work done by people who 'cold call' as often the work is sub-standard, over-priced and the traders do not have the necessary insurance or equipment to do the work safely.

Sign up for Email News

We regularly post local crime-related news on our website. You can receive emails alerting you to all new postings.

Please go to our Home Page at:
www.villagewatch.co.uk

Enter your email address in the lower left-hand corner and click **[Subscribe]**.

Most modern phones and devices will work best if you choose the 'html' format.

Police Beat Surgery

You can meet one of our local Police Officers to discuss, in confidence, any issues that concern you on:

Saturday, 21st September in the NHW Advice Shop at the Robert Dickinson Building, 10 Sibson Road, between 10 a.m. and 12 noon

(Times are always subject to Officers not being required elsewhere in an emergency.)

**A CRIME DOES NOT
OFFICIALLY EXIST AND
WILL NOT BE
RECORDED UNTIL IT IS
REPORTED TO THE
POLICE**

Contacting Birstall and Wanlip Neighbourhood Watch

Email: watch@villagewatch.co.uk

Phone: **0756 2422 756**

*Calls go to our answering service but we always do our best to reply within 24 hours
Please remember to leave your number*

Write: **c/o Birstall Parish Council
Council Office, Birstall Road,
Birstall, Leicester, LE4 4DH**

*We also have a post box on the counter
in the Council Office*

Thank you to Birstall Parish Council for continuing to support the Watch – www.birstallparishcouncil.org.uk