



## Swavesey Neighborhood Watch

November 2016 Update

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Dear Swavesey,

Firstly, please accept my apologies for lack of broad updates from me recently - in true Murphy's Law fashion, my workload increased almost to the week that I took this role on, but I have recently started a new job with more flexible hours and closer to home. I hope to now fill that void regarding communications and local awareness, and signpost you to where this information is available.

A new email address '[nhw@swavesey.org.uk](mailto:nhw@swavesey.org.uk)' has been set up which, other than calling my mobile (at the top of the page), is probably the fastest way to get hold of me.

My plan is to inform the street coordinators of any local trends, or wider area issues that get passed down to me. The police started a push at the Police Panel in February but output has been limited so far. At the most recent Panel last month, a new method called 'Evidence Based Policing' was introduced. In summary, they will focus their manpower to achieve the biggest results. This means that low crime areas will get a reduction in the support they currently receive. In Swavesey's case, Station Road is considered one of their 'Crime Hotspots' so in fact this new style may work in our favour, bringing more police resources into our village.

You can assist me in this role by registering for updates from the [ourwatch.org.uk](http://ourwatch.org.uk) website. Choose your street's NHW coordinator from the map – if it is not obvious who this is, please let me know and I will put you in touch; there is also a village wide scheme if your street is not currently represented (centered on CB24 4RJ). **You can choose which updates you receive**, (it is these that have been previously been sent via email across the village) – I get all of them, but I would suggest the minimum you should sign up for is the alert from the local police about crime in our area. I am keen not to clog inboxes and repeat info, however, I will send an update similar to this on a monthly basis, highlighting specific Swavesey crime, and what we can do to assist in preventing it and catching those responsible.

Also of use to those on Facebook is the new [Swavesey Village Life](#) group – it is being reserved for useful info specific to Swavesey, including safety updates, so I would encourage its use. If you would prefer a stand alone NHW Facebook group, please let me know; I personally feel the Village Life group is suitable for my/our needs but let me know if you feel differently. It is worth mentioning there are only 600 members, but there are over 1000 homes in Swavesey so email communications are still an effective way of village wide contact, through your NHW Street Coordinator.

The lack of updates from me has been mentioned, and I do apologise about this, but, I am engaging with and working with the individuals who have contacted me regarding their specific crime related issues. None of them correspond to a wider trend so I tend to 'solve' and move on. Also, some are not suitable for dissemination. I, we, the NHW only receive information from our fellow village members. The position of NHW Area Coordinator has been gapped for over a year, which gave useful insight into the wider area and a deeper link into the police servicing our area. The police publish 24hr summaries of the crimes in the local area, and release information about Police Panels, Crime Initiatives and any other events of note, via the e-cops / NHW website (link above). The website [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk) also has interesting statistics and an easy to read map but

the information is not fresh, it is only updated every few months. There is no additional source of data, and the alert system is not hierarchical, so unless the crime is reported up manually through your Street Coordinators to me, it cannot be spread to the wider community. Hopefully with these monthly updates, confidence in the overall system will be restored, or at least start a conversation about the best way to help security in the village, which is everyone's ambition.

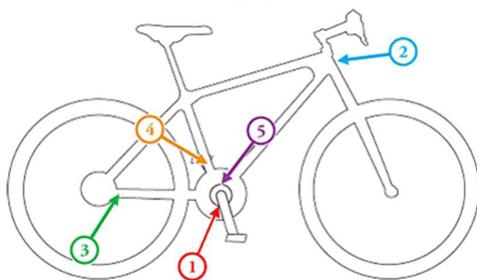
#### Points from Police Panels:

- Parking & speeding in villages across the county is source of concern but police action limited by priority/resources, under the title 'Evidence Based Policing'.
- A Special Constable programme is being reinvigorated but results will be slow, they are actively recruiting into this if you or members of your family are interested in applying.
- The 101 Non-Emergency helpline number has been undermanned but recruitment has increased, as has training for those answering the helpline. Long waiting times should be reduced with the Queue Buster system, which gives you the option of a call back, keeping your place in the queue. If this is not operating effectively, please let me know with details of your call / wait length etc.
- It was noted that Cambridgeshire is, relative to other nearby counties, a safe place to live and work. Reporting and auditing of crime has been very good locally, and this has enabled the prioritisation of resources accordingly. There will never be enough resources to meet all of their obligations, but Cambridgeshire Police, despite low funding levels, have maintained a higher proportion of police on the beat through cost saving and other efficiency measures.

In Swavesey, we often suffer a number of burglaries from out buildings and sheds. This is unfortunately a trend across Cambs, mainly from transitory crime groups using the A14 for their crime commute. Current police advice can be found on the <http://www.cambs.police.uk> website, focusing on the size and type of lock / bolts available.

Also identified is the recurring problem for thefts of bikes from the guided busway. Many bikes are recovered across the country but victims rarely have the bike serial number (stamped by the manufacturer on the bike) to facilitate its return.

#### Locating your bike's serial number



1. Underside of crank
2. Headset
3. Rear stays
4. Seat down tube, next to crank
5. Top of crank

**It is important to find and keep this number somewhere safe.** Also, your choice of lock is vital; a cheap lock can be cut or picked almost instantly. Some say that your lock should cost around 10% of the cost of your bike and having two types of locks often prevents theft as the criminals are only equipped for one type only.

Finally, a big thank you to all your street coordinators out there who are keeping the network going. Without their efforts and knowledge, Swavesey would not have this network, helping each and every one of us everyday, often without us knowing it.

Many thanks,

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