



## Swavesey Neighborhood Watch

April 2016 Update

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Dear Swavesey,

Firstly, please accept my apologies for lack of broad updates from me in the last few months. In true Murphy's Law fashion, my workload increased almost to the week that I took this role on, and this role has been more demanding than first thought. That said, I hope to now fill that void regarding communications and local awareness.

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 are starting a push across Cambs to include and use the NHW more than they have done recently; they have acknowledged a lack of recent communications, combined with the loss of our area coordinator, but senior management is now very enthusiastic about the benefits the NHW can provide so our relationship can only blossom from here.

You can assist me in this role by registering for updates from the [www.cambsnhw.org.uk](http://www.cambsnhw.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. You can pick which updates you receive – 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.

I attended the Police Panel at the end of February where a number of topics were discussed, in summary:

- OP HUNTER is a new, uniformed, crime prevention and detection strategy, in place now.
- Parking & speeding in villages across the county is source of concern but police action limited by priority/resources.
- A Special Constable programme is being reinvigorated but results will be slow, they are actively recruiting into this if you or members of you family are interested in applying.
- Specific to Swavesey – the move of the Post Office has changed traffic flow in the village (along with the temporary road works). Awkward parking as opposed to excess traffic has been subsequently reported.
- The 101 Non-Emergency helpline number has been undermanned but recruitment has increased, as has training for those answering the helpline. The main concern of long waiting times will hopefully be addressed by the new Queue Buster system, which gives you the option of a call back, keeping your place in the queue.
- 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

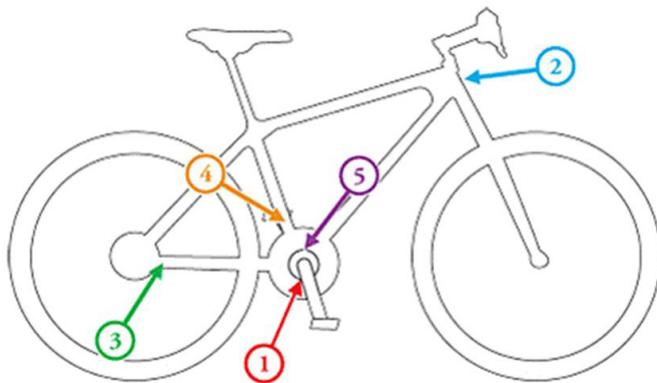
the prioritisation of resources accordingly. There will never be enough resources to meet all of their obligations, but Cambridgeshire Police, despite low funding levels, have maintained a higher proportion of police on the beat through cost saving and other efficiency measures.

- The elections for the Police Commissioner are in May, you should have received your polling card by now. More information can be found [HERE](#).

In Swavesey, we have recently had a number of burglaries from out buildings and sheds, including a trailer. This is unfortunately a trend across Cambs. 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.

Antisocial behaviour in the village is still an issue in some very specific areas of the village – we can do our part in tackling this and assisting those affected by passing on any relevant information to me or direct to the police via 101 or 999 if a crime is underway. What may just be a one off event witnessed by you could form part of a wider problem currently being tracked by the authorities. A good example of this is Anglian Windows who have repeatedly resorted to bullying tactics, often against the more vulnerable members of our community. In some cases violence has ensued. If you see these sorts of pressured sales tactics, please do report them and assist your neighbours where possible.

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

Many thanks,

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