Sibbertoft Parish Council Meeting 5th December 2023

PLR update

POLICE AND FIRE PRECEPT CONSULTATION

Over the last few years, both Northamptonshire Police and Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service have benefitted from significant investments that have brought stability and strengthened the way both services look after the public.

Northamptonshire Police and Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service are on firm foundations but will face a challenge to sustain these improvements, next year and into the future.

Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Stephen Mold is asking local people how much they are prepared to pay towards their emergency services next year. Those views will be considered before the Commissioner takes his proposals on the level of Council Tax precepts to the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel in February 2024.

Read the details and respond to the survey

CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE FOR HOMES AND VEHICLES

The most basic home security measure is to simply lock up. This is overlooked more often than you think, and a surprising number of people leave windows open or forget to lock the door. Do not make it easy for burglars, take these simple precautions to reduce the risk of becoming a victim of crime.

Your home:

- Keep front and back doors locked at all times, even when you are at home.
- If you are out in the evening, make sure you leave a light on and close the curtains.
- If it is dark before you get home, use timer switches to turn on the lights.
- Light up your front door with dusk to dawn lighting and make sure it is visible from the street.
- Keep keys and valuables out of sight and reach from cat flaps, letterboxes and downstairs doors and windows.
- If you have a burglar alarm, use it.

Your vehicle:

- Always keep your vehicle locked and close the windows, even if you are only leaving the vehicle for a few moments.
- Always remove all items from your vehicle when parked, even an old coat may be enough to tempt a thief.
- Never leave keys in the ignition, not even at a garage when paying for petrol.
- Keep keys safe at all times, whether you are out or at home.

SPECIFIC WINTER CAR CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE
Protect your frost-covered vehicles from opportunist thieves.

- If you have a garage, always put your car away at night. This keeps the car frost-free as well as out of sight of would-be car thieves.
- If frost is forecast and you cannot garage your car, cover your windscreen to shorten the time it takes to clear the windscreen and have de-icing materials ready in advance.
- If you need to run your engine to defrost your car, stay with your car while it is defrosting. Thieves are known to target residential areas on cold and frosty mornings looking for cars where the owner has started the engine to defrost the windscreen and then returned inside, leaving the car unattended.
- Always remove keys from the ignition, even if you are only briefly leaving your car, for example, to open a garage door. It only takes a thief a few seconds to jump in and drive away.
- Please be aware that motor insurance policies may be invalid, or the cover reduced, if a car is stolen as a result of keys being left in the ignition.
- Allow longer the next morning to defrost your car if frost or snow has been forecast overnight.

More crime prevention advice is available at the following sites:

- www.northants.police.uk/crimeprevention
- Neighbourhood Watch www.ourwatch.org.uk/area/northamptonshire
- For approved security products visits www.securedbydesign.com or www.soldsecure.com
- For approved alarm installers www.ssaib.org or www.nsi.org.uk
- Register your valuables for free at www.immobilise.com
- For registering bikes and for bike marking products www.bikeregister.com

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE TALKING – CYBERCRIME SURVEY
Northamptonshire Talking has launched its latest Cybercrime Survey with its Cyberhood Watch partner, Avast. The survey provides information on the impact of online crime and scams. There's also the opportunity of winning M&S vouchers if you respond to the survey. The survey closes on **Friday 15 December** and can be found at the link below:
https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/YT2P3S5

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH DECEMBER NEWSLETTER
The newsletter can be accessed via this link.

Highlights of December's issue

- Contact to your neighbour this Christmas - small ways you can make a big difference to your neighbours and community during the festive season.
- SimpliSafe share their tips for protecting your home this Christmas.
- You can support Neighbourhood Watch for free while shopping, with EasyFundraising.
- Remember to check your smoke alarms this Christmas - the Home Office shares their message on fire safety.
- Avast's Five Golden Tips to shop online safely.
- Nominations are open until 17th December for the Movement for Good's charity awards - you could help us win!

DAY OF ACTION ON A14 TO IMPROVE ROAD SAFETY
On a day of police action on the A14 in November, 31 goods vehicles were intercepted by officers in marked police cars and on police motorcycles on both carriageways of the A14, before being escorted to the check site just off junction 3 at the Rothwell Truck Stop.

A third of the vehicles had at least one mechanical defect or were committing a traffic offence, including five vehicles carrying loads classed as dangerous goods.

Full details of the day of action can be found here.

WEEK OF POLICE ACTION ON THE M1
Using the National Highways' unmarked HGV to patrol between junctions 15 and 18, more than 140 traffic offences were detected during Northamptonshire Police's week of action to reduce fatalities and serious injuries caused by unsafe driving behaviour.

Officers in the HGV cab filmed evidence of unsafe driving behaviour and drivers seen committing an offence were then pulled over by a police car following a short distance behind.

Full details of the week-long campaign can be found here.

ADVICE TO DOG OWNERS: XL BULLY GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT
Northamptonshire Police is offering advice to dog owners following the government's announcement on the planned prohibition of the XL bully dog.

On October 31, 2023, the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) published official guidance regarding what an XL Bully dog is and how from December 31 this year, it will be against the law to:

- Sell an XL Bully dog
- Abandon an XL Bully dog
- Give away an XL Bully dog
- Have an XL Bully dog in a public place without a lead and muzzle

And, from February 1, 2024, it will be a criminal offence to own an XL Bully in England and Wales unless you have a Certificate of Exemption for your dog.

Owners wishing to keep their dog after the ban must apply for a Certificate of Exemption by 31 January 2024.

DEFRA will provide more information soon on how to apply for an exemption and Northamptonshire Police will share this information.

Official definition of an XL Bully dog

Prepare for the ban on XL Bully dogs