

# CSP e-newsletter



*Safer communities*

## Community Safety Partnership e-newsletter summer 2021 edition

### Welcome

We are pleased to present the latest edition of the Blaby and Hinckley & Bosworth Community Safety Partnership (CSP) e-newsletter, which will keep you up to date with the work of the partnership and how it is helping to keep individuals and neighbourhoods safer in these unprecedented times.

The CSP brings together a collection of people and organisations that have a real commitment to do everything in their power to have a positive impact on reducing crime, the fear of crime and to work closely alongside local communities in bringing about a sense of safety for all.

The CSP has published a three year Community Safety Strategy which is available for download at <http://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk> and [www.blaby.gov.uk](http://www.blaby.gov.uk)

If you have your own community networks or magazines please feel free to pass on this newsletter or print articles from it.

Joint Chairs of the Community  
Safety Partnership



Cllr Les Phillimore



Cllr Michael Mullaney

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## Policing in a pandemic

Policing under the Covid pandemic has been a challenging and strange time as the role of the police officer has changed to also include enforcing the Covid legislation.

Explaining to people that they cannot visit their family or to children that they cannot play on the parks has been odd and sometimes tough especially as we are also bound by those same restrictions. We are grateful that the majority of the public have supported us and followed the guidelines in an attempt to halt the pandemic.

Although many people were working from home or furloughed, this was not an option for us and we have continued to do our best to serve our communities. It has been surreal to patrol roads free from traffic when normally there would be cars nose to tail as people go about their lives. We have also patrolled our towns and villages on Friday and Saturday nights which normally would be busy with people enjoying themselves after a week at work but under the lockdown have been eerily quiet.

As we start to see the restrictions lift, it is great to see things getting back to normal and people being able to get on with their lives. It is important though to remember that there are still rules in place that if broken could lead to a fine or potentially a court appearance so please continue to follow the latest rules.



### Hinckley Town Centre Policing:

Prior to Christmas we were actively involved in targeting shop lifters and pick pockets. We recognise that local shops have had a difficult enough time as it is with limited business over the last year and clearly people helping themselves to things without paying would be another expense they could do without! We increased our foot patrols in the town centre and also ran a dedicated operation on 4 different days.

Using both officers in uniform and undercover officers, patrols were completed around Castle Street and The Crescent resulting in a number of arrests. Whilst on patrol the team completed a number of stop and searches and seized several packages of drugs. These individuals have been dealt with out of court.

As we move out of the second lockdown we have ensured that a police presence in the town centre has continued to help local people feel safe as they go about their normal business and deter those intent on committing crime. Our partnership work with Hinckley CCTV control has been key to spotting and dealing with issues and our working relationship has gone from strength to strength over the last year.

### Local Concerns:

Road Safety issues and Anti-social behaviour (ASB) are regularly reported as the top issues impacting on our local community and your local beat teams have been out across the area targeting these issues.

## **E-scooters and Pit Bikes:**

Whilst we appreciate and understand that the majority of retailers are selling the E-scooters straight off the shelves, we must continue to remind you that these are motorised vehicles therefore require all the same relevant paperwork that a car does. Please continue to be mindful of those around you when using other non-motorised methods of transport. Scooters may be allowed on the paths, but they are not a priority over the pedestrians **THINK SPACE**

## **The return of Beat Surgeries:**

Officers across the beat have been back out engaging with the community in ways of Beat Surgeries. The town centre team have so far held 2 beat surgeries; 1 in the marketplace and 1 in the large Sainsbury's. The Greater Hinckley team have so far held a surgery in the Sansome Drive & Nutts Lane area of Hinckley and are further planning one to engage with business premises.

Beat Surgeries are a great way for the public to interact with the Police, it allows us to understand your perspectives on your Town.

## **Want to know more?**

If you want to know more about what your local police get up to we distribute a monthly Newsletter via Neighbourhood Link. We would love you to get involved and sign up in addition to signing up you can complete a survey which helps influence the priorities that the police target in your area, allowing you to have your say on what your local police should be doing.

To sign up and complete the survey please visit <https://www.neighbourhoodlink.co.uk/> or you can email your name, address and phone number to [james.cross@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:james.cross@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk)

## **What is it Neighbourhood Link and what's it all about?**

Well imagine the police arrive at a report of a burglary where a car has been seen to leave. What would the police want to do? Well we would want to be able to draw a circle on a map at the scene and immediately reach out to all those in this area who have CCTV to see if they have captured the vehicle and could perhaps provide us with further information leading to arrests. We may want to alert people living in that postcode or ward so that they can be aware in case the same people come back. Or quite simply we may have identified a tactic being used by criminals and want to share some safety advice to everyone in Leicestershire to stop you being a victim. All of this and much more is possible on Neighbourhood Link.

## Breathing Space

Hundreds of thousands of people struggling with debt problems will be supported through a new debt respite scheme from HM Treasury that launched in May.

Breathing Space will give those facing financial difficulties space to receive debt advice, or mental health crisis treatment, without pressure from creditors or mounting debts.

Under the scheme, people will be given legal protections from their creditors for 60 days, with most interest and penalty charges frozen, and enforcement action halted. They will also receive professional debt advice to design a plan which helps to get their finances back on track.

And recognising the link between problem debt and mental health issues, these protections will be available for people in mental health crisis treatment – for the full duration of their crisis treatment plus another 30 days.

People across England and Wales who are struggling to repay their debts could be eligible, and the Government expects 700,000 people to benefit in the first year of the scheme.

Joanna Elson CBE, chief executive of the Money Advice Trust, the charity that runs National Debtline and Business Debtline, said:

“We are pleased to be supporting the launch of the Breathing Space scheme, which is a major milestone in improving the help available to people struggling with debt. Breathing Space will provide a powerful incentive for people in debt to seek free debt advice – with vital protections from interest, charges and creditor action to give people the time and space they need to begin to deal with their financial difficulty.

Free debt advice has never been more important than in helping households to recover from the impact of Covid-19 – and Breathing Space will strengthen our ability to help people at this crucial time. We look forward to playing our role in making the scheme a success.”

Most debts will qualify for a breathing space, including credit and store cards; personal and payday loans; overdrafts; utility bills, rent and mortgages arrears; and government debts like tax and benefits.

Although interest and fees are frozen, a Breathing Space is not a payment holiday. People entering a Breathing Space will need to keep paying for any debts and ongoing liabilities they have – like their mortgage, rent and bills - whilst they work with a debt advisor to find a sustainable debt solution. If someone in a standard Breathing Space fails to comply with these obligations, then a debt adviser has the discretion to cancel their Breathing Space.

A breathing space can only be started by debt advice providers who are authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) to offer debt counselling, or a local authority where they provide debt advice to residents.

For more information, visit [www.gov.uk/government/news/new-scheme-to-give-people-in-problem-debt-breathing-space-launched](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-scheme-to-give-people-in-problem-debt-breathing-space-launched)

## Dying for a swim?

A staggering 700 people drown in open water and quarries each year. There are a number of quarries in the Hinckley and Bosworth and Blaby District areas.



Some quarry lakes may look inviting on a hot summer's day but there are a number of hidden dangers such as:

- Deep water
- Cold water
- Submerged machinery and car wrecks
- Hidden currents
- Submerged plants
- Dead animals
- Rubbish
- Pollution
- Dangerous algae

Did you know, even on hot days, just below the surface, water can be icy cold, with fatal effects on strength and stamina?

Please discuss the dangers with your children and stay safe.

**LEICESTERSHIRE**  
**FIRE and RESCUE SERVICE**

## Catalytic converter theft

**Leicestershire Police is encouraging vehicle owners to be extra vigilant due to a rise in catalytic converter thefts from cars.**

Thieves are targeting vehicles for the parts due to the value of the precious metals they contain, as precious metal prices go up the demand for parts that contain them goes up too, resulting in the risk of theft increasing.

The process of stealing a catalytic converter can be carried out in as little as 60 seconds with high power tools.

The theft of catalytic converters can happen anytime day or night via typical locations such as:

- Car parks - typically Supermarkets
- Driveways
- On street parking.



Thieves cut the catalytic converter from the exhaust pipe of a parked car and sell them on for profit.

Any vehicle can be subject to catalytic converter theft, however Toyota Auris, Toyota Prius, Honda Jazz and Honda Accord are known to be more vulnerable to this type of theft. We urge vehicle owners to take measures when parking and reduce the risk of theft.

To reduce the risk of theft of your car's catalytic converter:

- Park your car in a garage or somewhere that makes it difficult for anyone to access its underside
- Install CCTV that captures where you park
- Don't park your car in one place for long periods of time
- Secure your catalytic converter with extra bolts to make it more difficult to remove
- Try defensive parking against a wall or by another lower vehicle to make it more difficult to get under
- Have a mechanic weld the catalytic converter to the exhaust system
- Park your car in lit up areas or on busy areas
- When you book in for your next MOT, service, ask your local garage to fit the marking kit onto your vehicle for FREE!



**Leicestershire  
Police**  
Protecting our communities

## Keeping your home safe – ‘lock up and leave lights on’

During recent months Leicestershire Police, in partnership with police volunteers and local authorities, came together to help residents keep their homes safe. Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council and Blaby District Council supported the initiative and provided light timers and information to the public about how to secure their home. Extra patrols by Leicestershire Police were conducted in areas to target this offending.

Across the Neighbourhood Policing Area burglaries reduced by 51% and vehicle crime by 34% during the period of the initiative which equates to 138 fewer victims of crime.

Sergeant Ed Prowse, who organised the operation has commented, “I would like to say thank you to both Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and Blaby District Council who supported the Police in this operation. It is important to remember to continue to be vigilant and appropriately secure your homes and outbuildings. Advice can be found via the Police website. Please report any suspicious activity to the Police using 101 or 999 in an emergency.”

Burglars are often opportunistic thieves who prey on houses and flats. They seek out any opening that they can take advantage of, specifically doors and windows that are left open or unlocked or are easy to force. Anything of value that they might spot through a window will only spur them on. But it really doesn't take much to deter these thieves – just smart thinking.

### Burglar facts

- Burglars target homes that they think will contain valuables. A sure giveaway is leaving packaging from expensive items outside your front door.
- Burglars often look for homes with windows or doors left open or with vulnerable features that they can exploit.
- Burglars are aware of the times when someone is expected to be away from their house such as during the school run or holidays.
- Burglars typically do not want to be seen or heard and if they feel that they would be noticed by a neighbour or passer by then they are more likely to feel exposed and may move on to find somewhere else to burgle.
- Burglars often choose a home because they've spotted a specific vehicle, motorcycle or bicycle they want to steal – and the keys are more than likely to be inside the residence.
- Sheds and garages are often vulnerable as they are not that secure and contain tools which the burglar can use to assist them to gain entry to a home.
- It's a fact that many burglars return to homes that they've previously burgled because the homeowner failed to upgrade security following the first burglary. They sometimes return to an area to try to burgle a nearby home that they spotted while committing a previous break in. Even more reason for you to ensure you keep your home as safe as houses.

For more information contact:

<https://www.leics.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/residential-burglary/>

## Irresponsible behaviour ‘will not be tolerated’

As Covid restrictions have been lifted there has been a noticeable increase in young people out and about across the Hinckley and Blaby parks.

Whilst the councils welcome young people returning to use the parks we would ask that they do so in a responsible and Covid secure way.

Unfortunately there have been a number of unacceptable incidents of anti-social behaviour and nuisance reported to both the Police and council recently and are both working with those young people identified as being responsible for the incidents of anti-social behaviour.

Executive member for Hinckley & Bosworth Community Safety, Councillor Michael Mullaney said: “We are aware that it is a minority of young people who have been involved in deliberate anti-social behaviour and appreciate that the past year has been incredibly hard but this type of behaviour will not be tolerated and we will do all we can to support the Police in these matters.

“The Streetvibe Young People’s Services team are regularly out in Hinckley town centre engaging with young people working with them to ensure they are safe, understand current guidelines and promote positive behaviour in the community.

“Alongside this and now coronavirus restrictions are being lifted, the Leicester City Football Club Community Trust and the Police ‘Premier Kicks’ team are re-instating their regular coaching sessions for young people and is a crucial tool in breaking down barriers between young people and the Police.”



If you are concerned about anti-social behaviour across the Hinckley borough please report it on 01455 238141 or call the Police. For further information visit [www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/antisocialbehaviour](http://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/antisocialbehaviour)

For Blaby District report on 0116 275 0555 or visit [www.blaby.gov.uk/asb](http://www.blaby.gov.uk/asb)



## Children's Support Service

Hand sanitiser and face masks at the ready, the Blaby District and Hinckley and Bosworth Children's Support Workers have been back in schools across the district since April 12<sup>th</sup>, offering covid safe support sessions to children and young people.

Blaby Children's Worker, Rachel, tells us what they've been up to.

"We've been offering one to one support to children and young people that have been effected by domestic abuse, anti-social behaviour or poor parental mental health.

"After a long absence, it's so good to be back doing what we love and ensuring that our district's children have access to this great support.



"Prior to being back in schools, and together with the Children's Support Service in Hinckley and Bosworth, we tried our hand at extending our skills.

"Myself and the other Children's Workers, produced some video support sessions, along with some practical resource boxes (pictured) that could be emailed and delivered to families on our waiting list.

"This was to ensure they could have access to some support whilst we weren't able to be in schools. They were received very well and are still be used as an offer of support whilst we continue to work through our waiting list."

Councillor Les Phillimore, joint Chair of the Community Safety Partnership, said: "The Children's Support Service is such a critical service in the district, and the team have been working hard, especially during the pandemic to ensure our children get the support they need.

"The innovation to have video support and resource boxes delivered was fantastic, and we are glad to be back in schools where this support can be delivered safely in a structured environment."

The newly updated Children's Support Service webpage now includes a new online form to refer into the service and can be found through the link, below:"

<https://www.blaby.gov.uk/leisure-health-and-community/support-and-advice-for-residents/childrens-support-service>

# SCAMS

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council & Blaby District Council have made a pledge and are Friends Against Scams Organisations.

From the 14<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> June they helped to raise awareness on social media about how people and businesses can identify scams, what action to take and how to report them.



There are lots of scams around and sadly fraudsters don't care about who they take advantage of - and the fear around the Covid19 pandemic is no exception.

Here are just a couple of examples:

- Text messages about Covid 19 vaccines. The NHS will NEVER require you to any give financial details. The vaccine through NHS is a free service, there are no charges.  
#DontBeDuped
- Parcel delivery scams. Cybercriminals are posting fake 'missed delivery' notices through letter boxes claiming that they have been unable to deliver parcels, packages or letters, sending out phishing emails, making phone calls and sending text messages. They claim to be from a delivery company predominantly DPD and Royal Mail but bear in mind it could claim to be from any other well-known delivery service saying that you have a missed delivery and need to pay a small fee to reschedule delivery. Customers have been tricked into clicking on links which will take them to a fake website. Any information entered at this point, is used by the criminal to commit fraud.

**Generally, missed deliveries will result in an actual card through your letterbox and not ask you to make payments online.**

People are being duped out of large sums of money after being contacted by bogus police officers with some victims suffering losses of more than £135,000.

During the incidents the victims have received a call from someone claiming to be a police officer who's investigating counterfeit currency or fraudulent use of the victim's bank card.

Over a period of time the suspects gain the victim's trust and subsequently tell the victim to withdraw a large sum of money and purchase gold so they can check the money isn't counterfeit. A courier is then sent to the victim's home address to collect the gold.

**Police never contact people in this way, they should disconnect the call straight away and report the incident to the police using another telephone as on some occasions calls can remain connected.**

## **Advice:**

- NEVER click on links in texts or emails. Go directly to the official website by typing the address directly into the web browser or using a reliable search engine.
- Never contact the company using a phone number contained within the message. Find the genuine customer support number online.
- Remain vigilant and check delivery notifications carefully to ensure they are genuine. Signs that the message may be fake include:  
Generic greetings, such as Dear Sir/Madam.  
Poor spelling and grammar.  
Obscure addressing. The 'from' field for an email may be incorrectly spelt or appear as a strange variation of the company's name. Text messages may also show a generic mobile number rather than a company name, which you would expect to see.
- Always question claims that you are due goods or services that you haven't ordered or are unaware of, especially if you have to pay any fees upfront.

Cllr Mullaney, portfolio holder for Community Safety said: "This is an extremely difficult time for everyone and unfortunately scammers have used this as a way of taking advantage of the situation and stealing from people, in particular the elderly and vulnerable. Remain vigilant and if something doesn't feel quite right seek help and report it".

**Find useful hits and tips to help protect yourself from fraud at [www.takefive-stopfraud.org.uk](http://www.takefive-stopfraud.org.uk)**

**Reporting - Please report all Fraud and Cybercrime to Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040 or [www.actionfraud.police.uk/](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/)**

**Forward suspicious emails to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk).**

**Report SMS scams by forwarding the original message to 7726 (spells SPAM on the keypad).**

**To keep up to date with the latest scams information and advice follow the Leicestershire Trading Services Facebook page on: [www.facebook.com/leicstradingstandards](https://www.facebook.com/leicstradingstandards)**

## Spotlight on Market Bosworth Fire and Rescue Station

Welcome from the On Call team at Market Bosworth Fire and rescue station. My name is Paul Wragg, I am the Watch Manager at Market Bosworth, which means I am responsible for the day to day running of the station along with my two Crew Managers and team of Firefighters. We currently have a team of 16 staff with two new members of staff having joined us in May. As a community I feel we are extremely lucky to have a local fire station ready to respond to emergencies in our local area.

So what does being an On Call Firefighter mean? On Call means that we respond to pagers from home, work or whilst out and about in the area. Most of us have full time occupation also and provide fire cover alongside these roles. We must be able to attend the station within 6 minutes of the pagers sounding to quickly mobilise the fire engine to whatever incident is unfolding.

We attend a wide variety of call outs such as road traffic collisions, as well as using specialist cutting tools and we can render medical assistance before the arrival of an ambulance. Did you know we carry a wide range of trauma equipment to make a casualty comfortable at the incident until a paramedic arrives? We can also make the scene safe for other road users by closing the road if required. We also have a duty to protect the environment, for example by making a vehicle safe from fire or leaking fuels and fluids, many of which may enter the water course or drainage system after a car accident. We also attend property fires, fires on open ground, water rescues, flooding, and gaining entry for medical cases on behalf of other blue light services or family members. This could be a person that is locked in their property and may have taken ill unable to get to the door. Of course we still do the old cliché of rescuing a 'cat up a tree' but this is now on request of the RSPCA only.

I have just listed a few incidents we may be called upon to attend, there are many more, for some reason there is a popular misconception that you have to pay for us to attend an emergency incident, this is not the case!

The role of a modern fire fighter has diversified massively over the last few years and one of our core functions is now community safety and education. You may have seen us pre COVID 19 at community events across the area, we really miss these and cannot wait to get back out there when things are safer to interact with you all again.

We complete a number of free home safety checks with some of the area's most vulnerable and elderly residents, we also attend local business's that may pose a risk to our firefighters to gather information that will assist in resolving incidents effectively.

A major concern for us is that recently we have seen a rise in arson attacks in the area, on open



Watch Manager, Paul Wragg, with his two sons

land, woodland and play areas. A majority of these incidents are not being reported to the fire service, we cannot stress enough the importance to call us out immediately on 999 to attend a fire no matter how small it may seem or if you feel it's already extinguished. Fire can spread quickly, especially with the summer approaching and dry ground. We can ensure the fire is fully extinguished, carryout any relevant investigations and pass on CCTV footage to our colleagues at Leicestershire Police as often an arsonist will remain near the scene to watch the event unfold.

## Domestic Abuse Outreach Service

This is a particularly worrying time for everyone and particularly so for children and adults living with domestic abuse. According to data from the recent Crime Survey for England and Wales during the first COVID lockdown the national 24 hour domestic abuse helpline saw an increase of 700% for visits to their website and Women's Aid saw significant increases of victim contacts for their domestic abuse support services. The helpline for perpetrators of domestic abuse seeking help to change their behaviour also received 25% more calls after the start of the lockdown.

The councils in both areas have continued to provide a dedicated Domestic Abuse Outreach Service during this difficult period with contact being both virtual and safely in person. The service supported 206 people during 2020. The service offers free confidential advice, support and advocacy, and signposting to appropriate partner agencies such as local solicitor services for legal advice. It also offers free therapeutic groups and a dedicated Children's Service, which supports children who have experienced domestic abuse in the home.

New perpetrator programmes are also being rolled out across Leicestershire to tackle domestic abuse due to a successful bid to the Home Office to expand specialist provision for perpetrators of domestic abuse to help change their violent behaviour. A partnership of agencies, led by then Leicestershire Police and Crime Commissioner Lord Willy Bach, applied for funding to roll out domestic abuse perpetrator provision across the county in 2020-21. It is hoped the new programme will help more than 150 perpetrators of domestic abuse while supporting more than 150 partners or ex-partners across the LLR area. Based on existing outcome levels of 75%, it is anticipated 118 of these cases will see a sustained reduction in abuse.

Cllr Michael Mullaney said, "There have been a number of negative effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. One of these has sadly been an increasing number of domestic abuse cases. It's vital we do all we can to help ensure people are safe in their homes. Our domestic abuse outreach team have been working throughout the pandemic, as have numerous agencies and voluntary groups across the country, to ensure that as many people as possible access the help they may need. We will continue to do all we can to make sure that our residents know that that support is out there and to support anyone accessing our domestic abuse support service'

'I'm glad to see that Blaby and Hinckley and Bosworth and the rest of Leicestershire has been successful in bidding for funding to help tackle the problem of domestic abuse and that Blaby and Hinckley and Bosworth and other authorities are also contributing funding towards it . At present Leicester City runs a scheme to help perpetrators of domestic abuse to alter their behaviour. I'm glad this extra funding will ensure that this scheme can now be rolled out in Blaby and Hinckley and Bosworth and the rest of Leicestershire. Experience of this scheme shows that it leads to a long term reduction in abuse in three quarters of the cases covered by it. This means fewer people in our district and borough having to face the nightmare of domestic abuse"

For more information please visit [www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk](http://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk) or contact the HBBC Outreach service on 07966202181. In Blaby District visit [www.blaby.gov.uk/domesticabuse](http://www.blaby.gov.uk/domesticabuse) or call 0116 272 7637. There is also a dedicated countywide service that offers domestic abuse support services called UAVA and they can be accessed via their helpline on 0808 80 200 28, for more information visit [www.uava.org.uk](http://www.uava.org.uk). If you are in immediate danger contact the police on 999 and if you can't talk press 55.

Across the Community Safety Partnership, we have always been passionate about providing the highest level of support to victims of domestic abuse.

We are very pleased about the changes that the new Domestic Abuse Act 2021 has introduced. The Act gives police, local authorities and the courts wider powers and greater accountability concerning protecting domestic abuse victims. Some of the key changes are below:

**Statutory Definition:** Prior to the new Act, there was no statutory definition of 'Domestic Abuse'. The Act now defines domestic abuse as:

'Behaviour which is abusive by one person towards another person'. The persons have to be aged over 16 and 'personally connected', for example individuals who are either married, civil partners, couples engaged to be married or have agreed to enter into a civil partnership, those who have been in an intimate personal relationship with one another or those who have a child or children to whom they each have parental responsibility or they are relatives.

Behaviour is to be regarded as 'abusive' if it consists of any of the following:

- Physical or sexual abuse
- Violent or threatening behaviour
- Controlling or coercive behaviour
- Economic abuse - any behaviour that has a substantial adverse effect on the individual's ability to acquire, use or maintain money or other property; or obtain goods or services
- Psychological, emotional or other abuse

It does not matter whether the behaviour consists of a single incident or a course of conduct. The fact that the Act recognises and places in statute that domestic abuse is not just a matter of violence, but can take various forms including economic abuse, is a huge step forward.

**A new offence for Non-fatal strangulation:** This is a very widely used form of control, particularly against female victims of domestic abuse.

Threats to share content that amounts to revenge porn will be made a criminal offence.

It will grant extended powers to the police and courts:

Police can grant Domestic Violence Protection Notices (DVPN), and Courts can grant Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPO). These give a victim of domestic abuse immediate legal protection. For example, it could include conditions not to contact the individual being protected or enter or go near a premises where they are residing.

It will prohibit abusers from cross-examining their victims in Family Court proceedings.

We welcome these changes, but recognise that for various reasons, survivors of domestic abuse may still be reluctant to come forwards and ask for help. We know that sadly there are still many people in Blaby District suffering in silence, feeling unable to leave due to a multitude of barriers. If you or anyone you know is in this situation, please get in touch with the domestic abuse outreach worker at Blaby District Council on 0116 2727637 or 07900226875. We can discuss your options in confidence, without any judgement and with the utmost sensitivity.

## Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour

Since the easing of lockdown restrictions, the whole country has seen a surge in anti-social behaviour from young people in parks and town centres, and Blaby District has seen its fair share of problems. Large groups of young people gathering on Northfield and Oakfield Parks, drinking alcohol, littering and being abusive, spilling out into Blaby town centre, causing alarm and distress to local residents.

Deputy NPA Commander Sgt Goldsmith updates us on the great work that Blaby Police are doing to tackle these issues.

- The local beat teams are having an expansion in terms of PC/PCSOs in order to tackle anti-social behaviour and add a proactive element to policing. The beat team covering Blaby, Glen Parva, Cosby and Whetstone will soon double in size with a new PC and PCSO joining the team. The beat team covering the Fosse Villages will also boost their numbers with the addition of a further PCSO.
- Our licensing team will be working alongside Trading Standards in the near future for a test purchasing operation in relation to the sale of alcohol to under 18's across shops in Blaby District. Alcohol and young people are linked to anti-social behaviour so it is hoped this proactive operation will reduce the amount of illegal sales of alcohol to under 18's and drive down anti-social behaviour figures.
- Op Sceptre took place between 26<sup>th</sup> April and 2<sup>nd</sup> May which is a national campaign to drive down knife crime and knife related offences. As part of this week of action, local officers completed the following:
  1. Amnesty bins at local stations.
  2. Social media activity throughout the week to raise awareness.
  3. Schools inputs.
  4. Knife sweep of local parks.
  5. Visits to our habitual knife carriers on area.

During this week we also dealt with a knife related robbery involving school children, in which police quickly identified a suspect, recovered a weapon, obtained a positive outcome and ensured all parties involved were safeguarded and educated of the dangers.

Both the IMPACT team from Leicestershire County Council and Streetvibe Young People's Service have been working in partnership with Blaby District Council to deliver detached youth work sessions in the parks identified as having issues with large groups and anti-social behaviour.

Positive engagement has seen a range of topics discussed with young people including current covid regulations in open spaces, personal safety and the types of behaviour which can have a negative impact on local residents and the wider community.

Joint Chair of the Community Safety Partnership, Cllr Les Phillimore, said: "Residents across the district, and in Blaby Parish, have been rightly concerned about the alarming rise in ASB since restrictions were eased. Blaby Police and our own teams have worked tirelessly to mitigate this impact on local people.

"As the summer months continue and lockdown continues to ease our collaborative efforts to work with, and support Blaby Police will carry on. It is our priority to make residents feel safe in their local community."

## Protect your pooch

**Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council & Blaby District Council are supporting the Protect Your Pooch campaign which was launched recently by Neighbourhood Watch.**

In response to the increased fear of pet theft, the campaign is promoted on social media to encourage people to keep their pets secure, in sight and searchable and to help make pet theft a specific criminal offence.

Find out more on [www.ourwatch.org.uk/protectyourpooch](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk/protectyourpooch)

**Blaby Police also posted their own social media message to reassure concerned residents:**

Your local police are aware of concerns raised regarding the theft of dogs. We can confirm that since the start of 2021 there has been one reported theft of dog in Blaby District. Whilst one dog is one too many, we can confirm that we have not seen any incidents of public dog snatches or dogs taken as a result of residential burglaries. It is hoped this information provides some reassurance to you all.

Local police will continue to patrol parks and open green spaces to further encourage this reassurance.

Below are a number of steps dog owners can take to protect themselves and their pets:

- Keep an ID tag on your dog at all times.
- Make sure your dog is micro-chipped and their details are updated so that they can be returned if they are stolen and subsequently found. Ask your vet to check your dog's microchip every year to ensure your details are accurate and up-to-date.
- Keep all documentation relating to your dog(s) in a safe place. Take lots of photographs of your dog from different angles, paying particular attention to any distinguishing markings on your dog. This is to prove ownership if it's stolen.
- Never leave your dog in the garden unattended and make sure fences and gates are secure and in good repair.
- Avoid leaving dogs in an outside kennel if possible. If not possible then make sure the kennels are alarmed.
- Never leave a dog tied-up and unattended such as outside a shop and avoid leaving your dog unattended in a car.
- When out, always know where your dog is. Remain vigilant and be mindful of anyone who may be trying to distract your attention from your dog or to attract your dog's attention away from you.

Please remember, you can report any incidents to us online at [www.leics.police.uk](http://www.leics.police.uk) or by calling 101. You can also pass information on anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Always call 999 in an emergency.





# PROTECT YOUR POOCH

Dog theft is on the rise and we are urging the public to keep their dogs **SECURE**, **IN SIGHT** and **SEARCHABLE**, and to help make pet theft a **SPECIFIC OFFENCE**.

Keep them:

**1. SECURE** (pets are easily stolen from unsecured gardens if left unattended)

**2. IN SIGHT** (when out and about keep them close and practice good recall)

**3. SEARCHABLE** (to support quicker recovery if they go missing keep them microchipped, tagged and up to date photos)

AND HELP MAKE PET THEFT  
**A SPECIFIC OFFENCE**

Find out more on all of the  
above and more at  
[ourwatch.org.uk/ProtectYourPooch](https://ourwatch.org.uk/ProtectYourPooch)



## Ask for Angela

For several years Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council have promoted the 'ASK FOR ANGELA CAMPAIGN' and following recent coverage in the news about women's safety in public spaces, the Borough Council have been updating the campaign and communicating with venues who are interested in taking part.

More than 40 venues have already signed up to the campaign which enables people who might feel uneasy on a date in pubs and clubs to discreetly approach staff and request assistance.

The 'Ask for Angela' initiative aims to provide customers with a way to remove themselves from an uncomfortable situation while on a date. The "Ask for Angela" phrase can be used to gain assistance from staff members in order to be separated from the company of someone with whom they feel uncomfortable or unsafe due to that person's actions, words or behaviour.

By "asking for Angela", an individual is alerting staff that they require help. They will be taken aside, or to a safer location, so they can speak in confidence to that staff member about what assistance they need. Options available to staff include: offering to call a taxi for the individual; providing a safe place for them to contact their friends or family; or requesting that the individual causing the distress leaves the venue.

More information and details on venues taking part in the scheme can be found on <https://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/angela> or contact the community safety team at Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council on 01455 255746 if your venue would like to be included in the campaign.



## Nitrous Oxide Canisters

Recently, there has been an increase in the amount of nitrous oxide canisters being discarded in parks, industrial estates and on streets.

Also commonly known as 'laughing gas', nitrous oxide is a colourless gas that is commonly used for sedation and pain relief. It is also used in the catering industry as a mixing and foaming agent and in household's people use the smaller canisters to make foaming milk for a latte! However more recently people are choosing to inhale it usually via a balloon to make them feel intoxicated or high!

The disposal of these canisters in the street is littering and carries a fine of £150 and the Psychoactive Substances Act came into effect in 2016 which makes it illegal to supply or import nitrous oxide for human consumption.

Cllr Mullaney, portfolio holder for Community Safety said: "Using nitrous oxide can cause you to become very ill and in some cases can be fatal. Cleaning up of the canisters is not only time consuming and costly but the Hinckley & Bosworth Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) which was renewed last autumn for a further three years makes it an offence for anyone to consume any psychoactive substance on any public land within the Hinckley & Bosworth area. The PSPO is just a small part of the work, which is going on all the time to make the borough a safe place where people will want to live, work and visit."

Inhaling nitrous oxide can result in a lack of oxygen to the brain with a person falling unconscious and even dying through suffocation or heart problems. This risk is likely to be greater if the gas is consumed in an enclosed space or if a lot is used at the same time.

Regular or heavy use of nitrous oxide has been linked to a deficiency in vitamin B12. This can lead to nerve damage which causes pain and tingling in the toes and fingers. Studies have also linked heavy use of the gas to some forms of anaemia, which affects your red blood cells and leads to tiredness and weakness.

For more Information visit:  
<https://www.talktofrank.com/>



For support contact Turning Point on 0330 303 6000 or visit [www.turning-point.co.uk](http://www.turning-point.co.uk) who provide substance misuse services i.e. drugs and alcohol to young people and adults. They have a wide range of treatment options to meet people's needs, have a dedicated young people's team for those under the age of 18 and support families and carers of those people using drugs and alcohol.

To report disposed canisters in public areas contact Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council on 01455 248141 or email [streetscene@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk](mailto:streetscene@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk) or Blaby District Council on 0116 272 7555, [environmental.health@blaby.gov.uk](mailto:environmental.health@blaby.gov.uk)

Your local fire stations have been busy conducting Home Safety Checks in the local community. These checks are free of charge and provide you with information on maintaining safety within your homes.

Due to the COVID pandemic we have been mainly communicating via telephone but were still able to give advice on how to prevent fires in your home. Consideration is given to areas such as Electrics, Cigarettes, Candles, Cooking and more.

We also talk about the importance of Smoke alarms and Carbon Monoxide detectors - where they should be located and how to test them.

We give you vital information about what to do in the event of fire in your home and how being prepared can save lives.

Recently we have seen a rise in accidental house fires within our local community, thankfully nobody has been hurt at any of the incidents and all of the properties had Smoke alarms fitted. This highlights the importance of these early warning devices.

### **What is a home fire safety check?**

This is a service which offers you advice on how to prevent fires and what to do in the event of a fire. It is carried out by Leicestershire Fire & Rescue Service and its partners and takes place at your home, lasting approximately 30 minutes. As part of this service, smoke alarms may be fitted and subsequent maintenance and replacement of these becomes the responsibility of the homeowner. Smoke alarms are not provided as a matter of course.

### **Who is eligible?**

We only target our visits at people and places where we know there is a higher risk of fire. The information supplied in the application process will help us to determine your risk, so please complete the form as completely and accurately as possible. The check is not appropriate for people who live in accommodation where they are looked after, such as care homes. If this is the case, then a fire safety talk will be more suitable and this can be arranged by completing the community safety events form via our website - <https://lfrs.egressforms.com/Form/RequestVisit>

### **Why request a visit?**

If you are concerned that your home may be at risk of fire or know someone who you think needs our help and you would like to arrange a Home Fire Safety Check, please contact us via our website - <https://lfrs.egressforms.com/Form/HomeFireSafetyCheck>

### **Pop-Up Fire Station**

On August 21<sup>st</sup> we will be attending Broughton Astley Carnival to do a 'Pop-Up Fire Station', this will consist of a Fire Engine from Lutterworth Station, vehicles from Southern Technical Rescue Station (including our Heavy Rescue vehicle, Boat and Rope Rescue vehicle) and assistance from Community Safety Educators. This will be a fantastic opportunity for us to meet residents of Broughton Astley and surrounding communities and offer fire safety advice, the opportunity of a free home fire safety checks and an opportunity for families to just come and look around some of the equipment we carry on our vehicles.

## Youth workers provide messages of safety

Streetvibe Young People's Services are a specialist organisation which work in the community with young people.

Commissioned by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council and Blaby District Council, Streetvibe are out and about providing detached youth work in areas where young people are congregating on the streets, in shopping areas or in parks.

The work focuses primarily on safeguarding in light of COVID guidelines and exploring why young people are out, if they are aware of the current guidelines and if they have any worries or concerns.



Working with young people aged between 13-24 years, Streetvibe also deliver a range of support and signposting as well as making sure they are aware of the COVID 19 restrictions. The team are currently out twice a week in Hinckley town centre and Friday evenings in Blaby, engaging and interacting with young people as well as providing 1-1 mentoring.

Streetvibe are also exploring innovative pieces of work and one of the proposed projects involves using an interactive wellbeing card that will give young people instant access to support services on issues affecting them. The cards will hold up to date information on a range of topics such as the current COVID guidelines, mental health support services, domestic violence support and much more.

Laura Hill, Streetvibe Manager, said: "This is an exciting project which we are working on and the cards will be easy to use by just scanning them on mobile phones. This will give young people instant access to organisations and information to help them during this difficult time. Please remember to ask our teenagers if they are okay. Especially at a time when the mental health of families is compromised".

Cllr Michael Mullaney, Portfolio holder for Community Safety stated that: "Streetvibe and Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council want to make sure that young people are supported throughout the pandemic and listened to as well. It's important that they have accurate and up to date information in line with the Government's guidelines".

# KEEP SAFE PLACES

## Helping people feel safe when out and about in Blaby & Hinckley & Bosworth

**Keep Safe Place** is somewhere a person can go to when they feel unsafe, vulnerable or upset.

Staff at Keep Safe Places are able to:

- Offer reassurance.
- Offer the person a place to calm down.
- Offer support with making a call or to make a call on their behalf, to either a relative, friend, carer or relevant service.
- Make an emergency call on the person's behalf to the Police or for an Ambulance.



The scheme is run by Blaby & Hinckley & Bosworth Community Safety Partnership and participating shops and businesses display a 'Keep Safe Place' sticker (shown above) in their windows to indicate that they are part of the scheme.

### Keep Safe Card

You can get a Keep Safe Card from police stations and council offices which you can write all your important information on, such as:

- your name
- contact details of someone that can be called if you're in an emergency
- your medical conditions
- details of any medication that you are taking

You should carry your Keep Safe Card with you when you're out. If you need help the emergency services or Keep Safe Place will check to see if you have a card.

There are a number of venues across both Blaby and Hinckley & Bosworth taking part in the scheme. A full list can be found at: [www.leicestershire.gov.uk/find-a-keep-safe-place](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/find-a-keep-safe-place)

Or for more information contact your Community Safety team. Blaby 0116 272 7725 or Hinckley & Bosworth 01455 255746

