



Whittlesey and District Neighbourhood Watch

Mulberry Close and Marne Road Newsletter August 2018

➤ Warning of Distraction Burglaries in the area

PCSO Shane Green has just emailed me to warn that we have had distraction burglaries in the area recently. Males are offering to cut trees down for people and money is going missing from people's houses, this appears to be the latest tactic/scam. I have put a leaflet on our Neighbourhood Watch Website at <https://whittleseynhw.org.uk> if you want to know more about distraction burglary and how to help you avoid becoming a victim.

➤ Burglary

A part of Neighbourhood Watch activities in Whittlesey is to visit burglary victims to offer support. My recent visits have been to victims where burglaries took place during the day and within a relatively short time of the victim leaving their home. Contrary to popular belief, that burglars usually creep into a home late at night, they are most likely to be active between 9am and 5pm. This is because they understand that most people will be going out during the day. It is therefore vital that you ensure all doors and windows are securely locked before leaving your home, and that all entry and exit points are secured with one or more high quality locks.

Burglars will often assess a house's security before attempting entry. By taking some simple measures you can make your home less attractive to a burglar. The checklist below will help you to assess the security of your home.

➤ Home Security Survey		
Most burglars are 'opportunists' and break into homes that are easy targets. Good security and basic precautions reduce the chance of your home being burgled. Below is a checklist of the most common entry points used by criminals. By reviewing the security in and around your home it will help you identify areas where additional burglary prevention may be required.		
Perimeter Security		
Are boundary fences/ walls / Hedges in good condition?	Y/N	Check for weak points or easy entry points
Are the front boundaries no more than 1 m and the rear 1.8 m high?		Low front boundaries give good visibility from surrounding houses, whilst high fences at the back provide good security.
Do you have locked side gates at all access points?		Secure side entrances with strong lockable gates to minimise ease of entry. This helps to prevent burglars being able to hide and be unobserved.
➤ External Lighting		
Is there outside security lighting, including covering the front of the property?	Y/N	Good lighting is essential for deterring burglars. Use low level dusk to dawn lighting which comes on during darkness.
Is the side and rear external lighting motion activated?		Motion activated lighting should be positioned out of arms reach so it can't easily be tampered with.



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➤ External Doors		
Do all external doors, including front and back, have robust deadlocks?		British Standard 3621 or PVC-u 3 multi-point locks or similar should be fitted.
Are the door frames in good condition and strong enough to resist forced entry?		Frames should be fixed securely and doors should be certified to British Standard PAS 24/ LPS 1175SR2/WCL I.
Is a security chain or door spy hole fitted?		Always use a chain and check the identity of unknown visitors.
Are patio doors fitted with robust locks?		Ensure an 'anti-lift' device with 5 locking points is fitted.
➤ Garages, Sheds and Outbuildings		
Are strong locks fitted to all entrances?		Use substantial padlocks to secure stored expensive tools and equipment.
Are the door hinges exposed or heavy duty?		Use heavy duty hinges or hinge bolts to make it more difficult to enter.
Are all windows secure and have an obscured view of inside?		Obscuring the view stops burglars from seeing any expensive equipment inside.
Do connecting doors between your garage and home have robust locks?		Any door connected to your home must be treated as any other external door is.
Are your tools and equipment locked away?		Tools can be used to break into your, home so secure them with a steel chain through a ground anchor and lock ladders to a wall mounted bracket.
➤ Windows		
Are windows and frames in good repair?		Frames should be fixed securely and new windows should conform to PAS24:2012.
Are locks fitted to all accessible windows?		Locks can be fitted to all window types, ensure they are fitted correctly.
If windows open more than 9" are window restrictors fitted?		This is particularly important for ground floor windows.
➤ Internal Security		
Do you have a burglar alarm installed?		Any installed alarm should meet BS4737 (professional) or 8S6707 (DIY).
Do you have contents insurance?		It should be sufficient for the total contents value, any specific high value items and areas, such as tools in shed.
Is your valuable property marked and registered?		Keep an inventory of all valuable items and permanently mark them, such as with a UV pen. Also register items on www.immobilise.com



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➤ [Join Mulberry Close and Marne Road Neighbourhood Watch](#)

Being in a Neighbourhood Watch scheme has been proven to reduce crime and can also reduce your house insurance premiums. If you would like to enrol as a member of our scheme it is free and will provide you with access to the latest police messages from eCops and other related organisations. To register online all you need to do is go to <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/> and enter your post code. This will show a list of the schemes in this area. Our scheme should be at the top of the list. Click on Mulberry Close and Marne Road and you will see the scheme details. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the box for Your Local Scheme? Apply to Join Scheme. Then enter your information.

➤ [Whittlesey and District Neighbourhood Watch Website](#)

Information for all residents in the Whittlesey and District Neighbourhood Watch area can be found on our web site at <https://www.whittleseynhw.org.uk> . We maintain close links with the local police and will post any items we receive from them on the site along with other information that we think might be helpful to you. All information on our site is carefully checked to ensure that it is as accurate as possible.

➤ [Useful Web Links](#)

- Whittlesey Neighbourhood Watch website <https://www.whittleseynhw.org.uk>
- Our Watch (National Neighbourhood Watch) <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/>
- Secured by Design
<http://www.securedbydesign.com/crime-prevention-advice/secure-your-home/>

If you wish to contact me with queries or to highlight concerns there is a contact form on our website or drop a note in our letter box at 10 Mulberry Close.

Regards

Robin Sutton

NHW Co-ordinator for Mulberry Close and Marne Road Area