

# Good Neighbourhood FACTSHEET



## Everybody needs good neighbours

Being a good neighbour means being a considerate neighbour. It makes sense to be considerate to your neighbour as with their help you can significantly reduce your risk from crime and disorder.

Every year National Neighbourhood Watch Association runs a national good neighbour day. Good Neighbour Day aims to encourage people to think about their neighbours and realise the benefits of being a good one. It is also suggested that people try and do at least one good deed for their neighbour on Good Neighbour Day. This could be trimming back an overgrown hedge that is blocking their light or encroaching on their garden, asking your neighbour over for a cup of coffee, or offering to keep an eye on your neighbour's house while they are on holiday.

It is all worth thinking about, because if you make the effort to get on with your neighbours, then you are not only gaining good friends, but potentially their valuable help in keeping an eye out for you and your property.

## Neighbourhood Watch

If you do not have a scheme in your area you can consider starting one. Here is a brief checklist on how to do it:

- Ask your neighbours if they want to be involved in a NW scheme. This might be via a questionnaire or a public meeting. If your neighbours agree then contact your local police station who will help you set up the scheme.
- Set your aims and objectives - Decide what issues you want your Neighbourhood Watch to tackle. Each area has different issues to address. Local problems such as vandalism and graffiti are well within the scope of a well-organised Neighbourhood Watch scheme. You can also take action such as fitting more secure door and window locks in vulnerable homes. You could also lobby the local authority, for example, to improve street lighting or step up the security of a communal entrance.
- Appoint the co-ordinator - The co-ordinator of your Neighbourhood Watch is a key part of an effective scheme. Their role would include maintaining the Neighbourhood Watch in a specific area and acting as a link between the scheme, other co-ordinators and the local police. As well as the co-ordinator there is usually a committee who meet regularly to plan which problems to target and what action to take.
- Neighbourhood Watch activities - Once you have a co-ordinator in place and have set up the Neighbourhood Watch scheme in conjunction with the police, you can start your NW activities. At first this will probably be supplying stickers and crime prevention information provided by the police to scheme members. You can also encourage members to report suspicious activity and hold regular meetings to discuss current crime issues.
- **Joining NNWA** - Once you have set up your NW scheme you can register to become a member of NNWA. You will then receive regular newsletters and information about NW training and events in your area. Membership of NNWA is free. To join go to the website - [www.neighbourhoodwatch.net](http://www.neighbourhoodwatch.net)

**THIS FACTSHEET,  
INCLUDES  
INFORMATION ON:**

- **How you could help you and your neighbours get along**
- **How to protect yourself and your neighbours from crime**

*The Good Neighbour*

*factsheet is published by*

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**The Good Neighbour**

**factsheet is supported by**

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*Security. Contact the NNWA*

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*Neighbourhood Watch and other*

*aspects of crime prevention.*

[www.neighbourhoodwatch.net](http://www.neighbourhoodwatch.net)

## Protect those most at risk from Bogus Callers

Bogus callers are a real problem across the UK. Posing as officials from the council, service companies and health authority, or as salespeople, repair people and so on, they trick their way into people's homes, usually with the intent to steal.



Unfortunately, those at greatest risk from a bogus caller are the most vulnerable in our communities, such as the very elderly and those who live on their own. That is what makes bogus caller crime such a despicable offence.

You can help prevent bogus callers from operating in your area by looking out for potential victims and helping to protect them. If you have vulnerable elderly neighbours, particularly those who live on their own, go round and talk to them. You could set up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme and/or ask your local police station if they can provide someone to give a talk to elderly residents about the dangers of bogus callers. You can also make sure that vulnerable residents have a door chain fitted and that they check on the identity of any callers they do not know. Also let them know that they can ask you for help if they are in any doubt and keep an eye out yourself for strangers knocking at their door.

If we all looked out for our neighbours in this way we could greatly reduce the number of vulnerable people who become victims of this very distressing offence.

If you suspect bogus callers are operating in your area then contact your local police or contact Crimestoppers to report information on criminal activities – 0800 555 111.

## Prevent crime with consideration for your neighbours

Everyone wants to protect their home from the threat of burglary as best as they can. To this end many people install burglar alarms, CCTV and security lighting. However, when using this equipment it pays to be considerate of your neighbours.

For example, when installing security lighting, consider how bright the light is and where it is shining. Will it be shining into your neighbours home and keeping them awake? Security lights which use infra red sensors and come on only when movement is detected are recommended (provided this does not constantly switch on and off due to wildlife or pets passing). If you already have existing outside lighting you can buy sensors separately to convert them to into a security light. If you live in a terraced house or block of flats, you may be able to discuss security lighting with your neighbours and share the cost, and the benefits.

Burglar alarms can also cause a nuisance for your neighbours. Make sure you use your alarm responsibly and try to ensure that it does not go off unnecessarily. A common complaint from neighbours about noise nuisance is burglar alarms sounding at night. Furthermore if your alarm goes off all the time then people will take less notice of it if it goes off for real, as they will think it's another false alarm. It may be an idea to ask your neighbour to be a key holder for your alarm, if you trust them. Otherwise do your best to make sure alarm only goes off in a real emergency, and apologise to neighbours if you do set it off in the middle of the night.

With CCTV you should remember to respect your neighbour's privacy. Make sure that cameras are not pointing on to their property or into their home. If you have a motion detector camera, then check the range, to make sure it will not focus in on your neighbours home.

As with security lighting, CCTV is something that you and your neighbours can set up jointly, especially if you have a shared entrance.

## Top ten neighbourly tips

- ask your neighbours to keep an eye on your home if you are going away, and offer to do the same for them
- if you trust your neighbour, give them a key while you are on holiday so they can come in and draw the curtains for you, collect your post and perhaps even turn lights on and off. This will make your house look lived in and will make it less of a target for burglars – you can then do the same for your neighbour when they are away
- ask your neighbour to push your post through the door while you are away
- arrange for someone from your local police station to give a talk to elderly residents
- use your security equipment (CCTV, burglar and car alarms, security lighting etc.) responsibly so you do not disturb or infringe upon your neighbour
- keep an eye out for your elderly neighbours who are more at risk from Bogus Callers
- make an effort to get to know your neighbours – starting a Neighbourhood Watch scheme is a good way to do this
- if you see someone acting suspiciously in your neighbourhood, contact the local police
- if you witness a crime or know any information that may help the police then call Crimestoppers confidentially on 0800 555 111