

Tendring Police

**April 2022**



PCSO Groves conducting speed checks in Tendring.

### Monthly message

Essex Police are starting to see an increase in calls for service as the weather improves and we see definite signs of returning to, the new, normality of COVID. Essex Police have made it easier than ever to contact us and find out useful information. The Essex Police website now has, a well-established, facility to report non-urgent incidents, including crimes, road traffic collisions and other matters. This means you can report at your convenience.

We have received a number of driving complaints from the community which is why you will see a focus on road safety within the magazine this month. Thankfully fatal collisions within Tendring are rare but when they occur the impact is devastating. One death or serious injury on the roads of Tendring is one too many. Thank you for your continued support in our efforts to keep you safe.

Last month also saw the conviction of four men from Tendring in relation to a kidnapping offence. Through some excellent work by officers, the vehicle carrying the defendants and the victim was found by police and stopped, the defendants were arrested and the victim was safely recovered. Through the dedication and hard work of a specialist team of detectives the four defendants have been convicted and are now serving a total of 30 years.

We will continue to do everything we can to keep you safe, thank you very much for your continued support.

Please stay safe and help us to keep Tendring safe.

T/CI Rob Bell

District Commander Tendring





On Wednesday 23 March, Officers from the Community Police attended the Domestic Abuse Charity Next Chapter's 'TRIBE' session to talk to children about safety.

The idea behind the session is to remove barriers and make children feel more comfortable around emergency services. Next Chapters Children and Young Person's Team said "The children really enjoyed it and were able to ask questions and learn more about the Police. They were able to try on Police vests, see the equipment and even sit in the Police car and feel like a Police Officer!!"

PC Nikki Heath, the Community Safety & Engagement Officer for Clacton said "Next Chapter do fantastic work in the Tendring Community, the Tribe project solely focuses on the families with young children giving them support. The Officers enjoyed carrying out the session and look forward to many more future visits supporting Next Chapter".

For more information on services and support available, please visit - <http://www.thenextchapter.org.uk/>



**Our Children & Young People (CYP)** service offers practical and emotional support, information, and education for CYP who are experiencing or have experienced domestic abuse.

Our specialist team support young people to explore their feelings and help them understand what they have been through, know they are not to blame, help them to stay safe and let them know where they can turn if they need more help.



On Wednesday 30 March, Officers from the Community Policing Team met with Robbie and Justine on their travels in Jaywick.

They were in the area offering eye care advice and support for people that suffer with diabetes and other conditions that effect eye health.

They are currently trialling this service and maybe in a carpark near you soon!

For more information, please visit <https://www.inhealth-intelligence.com/diabetic-eye.../>



On the 21 March, Officers from the Community Policing Team were on patrol in the area of Edith Road, Clacton when they came across this vehicle. On carryout out checks it was established the driver didn't have any insurance.

The vehicle was seized and the driver was reported for driving without insurance.





PCSO Brassey has been carrying out a monthly 'Street Meet Drop in Sessions' at the Clacton Library, Station Road, Clacton. Paul was there on Tuesday 29 March, where he was able to speak to several people visiting the Library.

All our street meets are advertised in this 'Local Update' and on our Facebook page at [#EPTrending](#).

Please come along if you have any questions about crime in the area or wish to make us aware of issues affecting the community.



Saturday 9 April, Officer Brassey conducted another advertised 'Officer Walk About' in Pier Avenue, Clacton where he was in company this time with Tendring District Councils antisocial behaviour Officer Dan Kingham.

The Officers spoke with residents, visitors and business owners regarding any issues or concerns they have in their community, as well as just having a friendly chat.





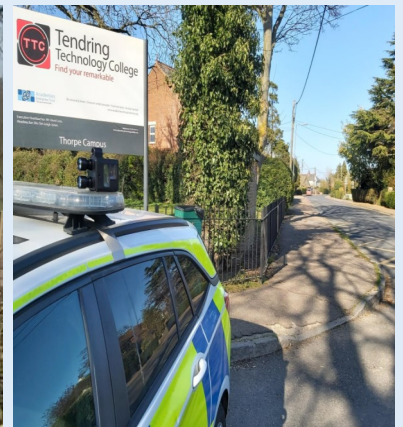
During the last weekend of March, Community Policing Team Officers conducted speed checks in Thorpe le Soken, after reports of speeding vehicles from the residents.

They also assisted litter pickers when they saw them tidying up the community in Beaumont cum moze.

They then popped in at the ICARP Project in Great Oakley where they were locating six colonies of bees into their new homes at the well-being centre.

iCARP - Investigating Countryside and Angling Research was formed in 2018, its purpose is to research the benefits of group outdoor activities in the reduction of mental health symptoms in military veterans and others – For more information, email [info@icarp.org.uk](mailto:info@icarp.org.uk)

A busy weekend had by all!





Officers from the Tendring Community Policing Team and the Special Constabulary have continued to conduct speed checks at various locations where the public have reported concerns about speeding motorists.

Kings Avenue, Holland on Sea was visited, where on this occasion Officers reported no one was exceeding the limit, but they will be returning to this location again soon.

Officers also attended Harwich Road, Little Clacton, where four vehicles were captured exceeding the limit with the highest recording of 43mph in a 30mph limit, all drivers will be reported and will receive fines in the post.





On Thursday 6 April, Officers from the Community Policing Team attended the 'Volunteer Afternoon Tea' at Sam's Hall, Rosemary Road, Clacton.

They were invited by the Community Voluntary Services Tendring (CVST) as a thank you for their support with the 'Winter Resilience Project 2021 / 2022'.

The Officers supported when resources allowed with the Winter Warmers' tour of Tendring, along with their Winter Safety Events.

PC Nikki Heath, Community Safety & Engagement Officer said "It was great we were able to support CVST with these community projects, they have helped thousands of people in the Tendring Community with this project alone. The afternoon tea was a lovely gesture which certainly brightened our day, thank you CVST!"



 **CVST**  
BRINGING UNITY TO OUR COMMUNITY



In April, Officers conducted speed checks along Burrs Road, Clacton in response to requests made to attend this location.

We continue to listen to your concerns of speeding and nuisance vehicles in Tendring, as part of our 'You Said, We Did'.

If you are experiencing persistent issues with speeding in your area, please report online at [www.essex.police.uk](http://www.essex.police.uk)



In April, Officers from the Community Policing Team carried out Street Meets. In Jaywick they were joined by the Essex County Fire & Rescue Service offering advice on crime prevention and home safety.

At their Brightlingsea meeting they had the pleasure of being joined by Councillor Jayne Chapman at the Parish Hall.





On 14 April, Sergeant Felton & PCSO Moss carried out extensive cycle patrols covering several miles around Clacton and Jaywick, due to the lovely weather the holiday parks and beaches were getting busy in the lead up to the Bank Holiday Easter weekend.

The Officers visited staff at The Resource Centre, where they helped with preparations for the delayed 'Bingo & Buffett' event for residents, with PCSO Moss giving a helping hand in the kitchen.

They stopped at the Jaywick Sands Community Forum, Men's shed and Pedal Power in Lotus Way, meeting up with the Tendring District Council Ambassadors who we work closely with to problem solve any issues or concerns brought to our attention as part of our partnership working.

When visiting the Martello Tower, they were treated to the view from the top as seen in one of the photographs.

Both Officers enjoyed speaking with residents and visitors, using their Police bicycles they can stop and chat with people along the way more easily!.





On Thursday 31 March, Officers from the Local Policing Team on 'C shift' were on patrol in Clacton when they became suspicious of a vehicle they had come across.

Upon Officers conducting vehicle checks it was revealed their suspicions were correct. The vehicle had no insurance and the driver didn't have a licence. The vehicle was seized, and the driver was reported for the offences.



On Sunday 17 April, Officers from 'A shift' at Harwich were not long into their shift when they became suspicious of a vehicle.

On conducting checks it was revealed that the driver only had a provisional licence with no one accompany them.

This driver has had their vehicle seized and will receive a fine and penalty points on their provisional licence.



On Tuesday 5 April, Officers from Harwich 'B shift' were on mobile patrol during their night shift in and around Harwich area, when they were made aware of a vehicle being driven on false number plates which had activated the Automatic Number Plate Recognition Camera (ANPR).

After a short time, Officers located the vehicle and upon further police checks it revealed that not only did this vehicle have false plates the driver was also disqualified. A total of six offences were identified, the vehicle was seized and the driver reported for all the offences.



At the end of March, PC Perry (Children & Young Persons Officer) and PC Frost had the pleasure of attending All Saints Primary School in Harwich.

The staff have thanked the Officers for coming to the school to talk about what they do, they said "The children were very excited and enjoyed every minute looking around the police car and holding the handcuffs, they especially enjoyed hearing the sirens with the blue lights flashing!".

It was great to meet you all!



Officers from the Harwich Community Policing Team conducted speed checks in Harwich Road, Wix and The Street, Tendring, after receiving requests to monitor this area by residents.

The drivers recorded exceeding the speed limit in each area will be receiving fines in the post.

If you are experiencing persistent issues with speeding in your area, please report online at [www.essex.police.uk](http://www.essex.police.uk)





During the last month, PCSO's from the Harwich Community Policing Team attended the friendship group in Lawford, offering advice on crime prevention whilst having a catch up over a cuppa.



At the end of March, Officers from the Harwich Community Policing Team conducted foot and mobile patrols around the Lawford area. They conducted speed checks using the Trucam camera in Long Road, junction with Colchester Road.

All those recorded exceeding the speed limit will be receiving fines in the post.

If you are experiencing persistent issues with speeding in your area, please report online at [www.essex.police.uk](http://www.essex.police.uk)

You can also submit footage of poor and dangerous driving to the Extra Eyes portal.

This can be found at <https://saferessexroads.org/extraeyes/extra-eyes-what-next/>





On Saturday 2 April, The Police Community Support Officers in Harwich attended market day in the High Street, Manningtree. PCSO Smith said "It's a great opportunity to catch up with the residents, businesses and visitors to the town, we carried out a mini street meet offering crime prevention advice, whilst conducting foot patrol throughout the town".



On Wednesday 6 April, Officers from the Harwich Community Policing Team were in company with The Community Speed Watch (CSW). They were monitoring the drivers speed in Ramsey Road, Main Road in Harwich and Steam Mill Road in Bradfield and Harwich Road in Wix.





On Sunday 3 April, Officers from the Harwich Community Policing Team, along with the Harwich Police Cadets were deployed to assist with marshalling and supporting the runners of the Mayflower 400 Harwich Marathon.

A great experience for the cadets to be able to work alongside the Policing Team and support the local community.

Well done to all the runners on a great achievement and thank you to those who encouraged and supported along the way!





Tuesday 12 April, Officers from the Harwich Community Policing Team carried out a knife sweep as part of [#opsceptre](#) along the Hangings and surrounding areas, they joined staff from CGN Restaurants McDonald's in Harwich who were on their weekly litter pick.

Matt Ladkin, Head of Safety, Security and Community said "We collected a total of 39.2kgs of rubbish on this occasion, it was great to join forces with Tendring Police again, as whilst they were sweeping for knives they assisted with the collection of litter left lying around the area. They were pleased to report no knives were found on this occasion. The project is only possible with the help of the Community, thank you!"





At the end of March, the Harwich Police Cadets had a training evening, where they all completed first-aid and defibrillator training, thank you to Lee Watts from [#Firstaid4all](#) who carried out the training for the cadets and their leader team.

The Cadets had a great evening watching and learning a skill that could one day prove to be invaluable to have!





# Frinton & Walton PCSO's

On Saturday 2 April, Officers attended the Spring Fayre at The Columbine Centre in Walton, they were joined by Essex County Fire and Rescue Service and spent time meeting residents, local businesses, stall holders and even the Walton Carnival Queen's!

Officers were able to provide crime prevention advice and home safety, they also enjoyed chatting with everyone attending the event - Thank you to the organisers and everyone who came along to support a fun day out!





# Frinton & Walton PCSO's

During the last month, PCSO's from Frinton & Walton have continued to conduct street meets in the area, they have recently attended Costa Coffee in Frinton and The Naze Wildlife Discovery Centre, Walton.

We are always looking for new locations, please let us know if you have somewhere you would like us to visit with a 'Street Meet' in Tendring or a local community group.

Any suggestions can be sent to our dedicated email address [tendringcpt@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:tendringcpt@essex.pnn.police.uk).



On Friday 1 April, PCSO's from the Walton and Frinton Policing Team conducted a Street Meet in the evening at the 'Beside the Seaside Café' a request made as part of our 'You Said, We Did'. The Officers spoke with several residents during their visit, where concerns were raised about antisocial behaviour and speeding motorists, the Officers will be acting on the information given to them at this meeting.





During April, Officers from the Community Policing Team conducted speed checks with the Trucam along Walton Road in Kirby Le Soken, Little Clacton Road and Main Road in Great Holland.

Drivers recorded exceeding the speed limit in each area will be reported and receive letters in the post.

We have listened to your concerns of speeding and nuisance vehicles in these areas, this is part of our 'You Said, We Did'. Officers will continue to monitor these and other areas around Tendring.

If you are experiencing persistent issues with speeding in your area, please report online at [www.essex.police.uk](http://www.essex.police.uk)

You can also submit footage of poor and dangerous driving to the Extra Eyes portal. This can be found at <https://saferessexroads.org/extraeyes/extra-eyes-what-next/>





ARE YOU READY?

## WALTON YOUTH CLUB

Tuesdays from 5-6:30pm  
For ages 11-19

YMCA RED TRIANGLE CLUB,  
PORTOBELLO ROAD, WALTON-ON-  
THE-NAZE, CO14 8PD

## SUMMER TERM 2022 HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT THIS TERM!

### April

19th - Origami Day  
26th - Just Dance!

### July

5th - Art Week  
12th - Emoji Day  
19th - Summer Fun

### May

3rd - Story Challenge  
10th - Mental Health Awareness Week  
17th - Quiz-tacular!  
24th - Table Tennis Tournament  
31st - HALF TERM

### June

7th - Board Games Day  
14th - Virtual Reality Day  
21st - The Walton Silly-Olympics  
28th - Film Day

WANT TO FIND OUT MORE? OR ARE YOU AN ADULT  
WHO WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER? CONTACT PAUL  
PHILLIPS AT 07789 187 720 OR EMAIL AT  
PAUL.PHILLIPS@ESSEX.GOV.UK

### Walton Youth Club, dates for the Summer Term 2022

The Essex Youth Service launched the Walton Youth Club in March, it's a weekly club for ages 11-19, that runs during term times between 5pm to 6.30pm.

It's held at the YMCA Red Triangle Club, Portobello Road, Walton on Naze, CO14 8PD.

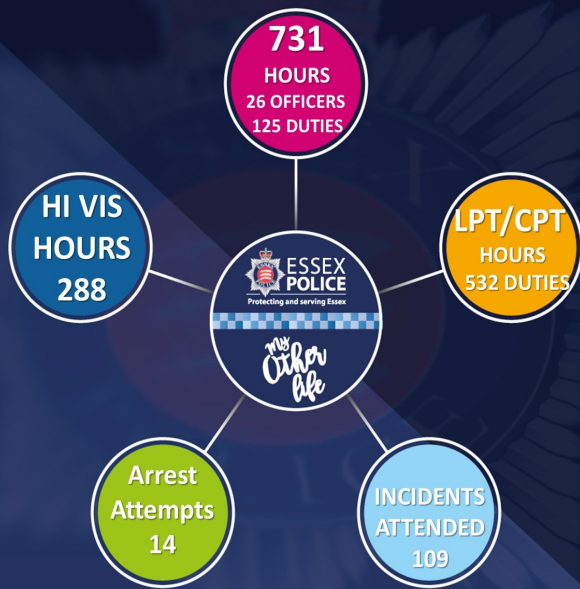
There will be a range of games & activities for young people to do each week, please see activities arranged so far for April, May, June & July 2022.

Volunteers are needed - If you are an adult and would like to find out more about volunteering please contact Paul Phillips on Tel 07789187720 or [email paul.phillips@essex.gov.uk](mailto:paul.phillips@essex.gov.uk)





## TENDRING SPECIALS – MARCH 2022



Arrests /Assisted: 7 / 15

Domestic Incidents: 15

Weapon related incidents: 3

Mental Health incidents: 15

Traffic Related: 29

### TOP 4 OPERATIONAL HOURS

SC J BUSH 115:10

SC A SMYTH 68:06

S/SGT S JOHNSON 53:12

SC J PLANT 49:36

Tendring Special Constables have put in an incredible number of hours this month supporting the community they live in. The above infographic really tells a story, true community heroes!



From serving customers, to serving your community.

Meet PC Wealls, Harwich's newest officer and a former supermarket employee who is using her transferable skills to protect and serve Essex.

She's keen to show that working in retail has some great benefits to helping you become a police officer because "if you have the key values that a police officer needs, then this is the role for you".

We value your skills. If you [#FitTheBill](https://www.essex.police.uk/.../harwichs-newest-officer) like PC Wealls, apply today and read more about her journey here: <https://www.essex.police.uk/.../harwichs-newest-officer>

**We will be joining the Essex County Fire & Rescue Service for a Community Meeting on Tuesday 26 April between 10.30 to 13.00hrs at Frinton Golf Club, 1 Esplanade, Frinton on Sea.**

**The Fire Service will be offering advice on home fire safety, offering free home visits to any Essex resident. If you do not have working smoke alarms or would just like more information about how to live safely and securely at home, you can book one of their free visits whilst there.**

**Please come along if you have any questions about crime in the area or wish to make us aware of issues affecting the community!**





# You Said We Did

## District Statistics for Tendring – March 2022

District Commander: A/Chief Inspector Rob Bell



### Your Priorities

#### You Said:

We received reports of young people acting antisocially in the Town Centre which was causing problems for local businesses, residents and visitors too.

#### We Did:

We have increased our patrols of the Town Centre and have been speaking with local business owners to better understand the situation. We are working with the Antisocial Behaviour Officer from Tendring District Council to work towards resolving the issue.



### YOU SAID

- You raised your concerns with us about people collecting children from a nursery on Mayes Lane in Ramsey, not having the correct car seats or safety restraints.
- You reported concerns with speeding motorists in several locations around Wix, Bradfield and Harwich.

### WE DID

- We patrolled the area during drop off and pick up times and provided advice to drivers about ensuring they have the correct seating and safety restraints. We explained the importance of the safety measures and that drivers can be fined and given points on their licence for not having the correct safety measures in their car for infant or child passengers.
- Our Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) liaised with our Community Speed Watch Team and deployed the use of Trucam, to check the speed of motorists travelling on these roads.



## #YouSaidWeDid

Officers from the Harwich Community Policing Team have continued to carry out speed checks in locations you have requested.

Officers have been monitoring Harwich Road, Great Oakley and Lower Marine Parade, Wick Lane, Wellington Road and the A120 in Harwich.

Four drivers were captured driving over 40 mph on a 30mph limit on Harwich Road, Great Oakley. The other locations we are pleased to report no vehicles exceeded the limit.

We will continue to listen to your concerns of speeding and nuisance vehicles as part of our 'You Said, We Did'. Officers will endeavour to monitor these and other areas around Tendring.





# Community Street Meets

*The Tendring Community Street Meets during April / May 2022*

*Please come along if you have a questions about crime in the area or wish to make us aware of issues affecting the community. All Welcome, no appointment needed!*

*Please also see the dates & locations advertised on our Facebook Page [#EPTendring](#)*



Tuesday 26 April – 10.30 to 13.00 – Frinton Golf Club, 1 Esplanade, Frinton on Sea.

Wednesday 27 April—11.00 to 12.00—Holland Library, Public Hall, Frinton Road, Holland.

Tuesday 3 May – 11.00 to 12.00 – Clacton Garden Centre, St Johns Road, Clacton on Sea.

Saturday 7 May – 10.30 to 11.30 – Outside Ardleigh Village Hall, Station Road, Ardleigh.

Sunday 8 May – 10.30 to 11.30 – Outside Parkeston Railway Club, Hamilton Street, Parkeston.

Monday 9 May – 10.30 to 11.30 – The Dovercourt & Harwich Hub, Main Road, Dovercourt.

Thursday 21 May – 10.00 to 11.00 – The Naze Discovery Centre, Old Hall Lane, Walton on Naze.

Thursday 21 May – 15.00 to 16.00 – Manningtree Library, High Street Manningtree.

Monday 23 May – 11.00 to 12.00 – Holland Library, Public Hall, Frinton Road, Holland on Sea.

Tuesday 31 May – 11.00 to 12.00 – The Seafront Shelter opposite the Kingscliff Hotel, Kings Parade, Holland on Sea.

***You can live chat our Control Room contact takers from our website between 7am and 11pm with your non-emergency questions and enquiries.***

***Type your message to us in real time on your smartphone, tablet or laptop. It's quick, easy and you can get a transcript at the end if you need a record.***

**[www.essex.police.uk](http://www.essex.police.uk)**

A graphic for the live chat service. It features a dark background with a blue circular button on the right that says 'LIVE CHAT' and 'available every day 7am to 11pm'. To the left, there are two user testimonials in speech bubbles. The first is from Ben C., who says 'used it about a week ago. woman I spoke to was very helpful.' and has a 'Like' button and a '1' icon. The second is from Anne W., who says 'Recently used this service. Very easy to use and report crimes' and has a 'Like' button and a '2' icon. At the bottom right is the website address 'www.essex.police.uk'.





# Witness Appeal

We are appealing for information after an aggravated burglary in **Jaywick**.

We were called to reports that several people had forced their way into an address on Talbot Avenue at around 4.45pm on Sunday 3 April.

A man inside the property was injured during the ensuing altercation inside the house.



Those who had forced entry – believed to be a man and two women – then left in a white van in the direction of Seawick Holiday Park.

We believe that this was a targeted incident, but we need anyone who saw or heard anything to get in touch.

If you have any information you can submit a report online at <https://www.essex.police.uk> or use the 'Live Chat' button to speak to an online operator between 7am-11pm.

Please quote the crime reference number **42/84010/22**.

You can also call us on 101 or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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We are appealing for witnesses following an assault in **Walton**.

A man reported being assaulted inside a restaurant in the High Street at around 9pm on Wednesday 23 March.

The victim, a man, 30s, fled the scene and was located nearby.

He sustained a serious facial injury.

A 39-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of GBH and bailed until Wednesday 20 April.

We need anyone who saw anything or has any CCTV, dash cam, or doorbell footage to contact us.

If you have any information you can submit a report online at <https://www.essex.police.uk> or use the 'Live Chat' button to speak to an online operator between 7am-11pm.

Please quote crime reference **42/74149/22**.

You can also call us on 101 or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.





# Witness Appeal

We are investigating a robbery in **Clacton** and are appealing for any witnesses to come forward.

A man in his 40s was attacked in Knox Road by two people while he was taking receipt of a delivery at 3.30pm on 3 April.

Fortunately, he wasn't seriously injured.

His two attackers are both described as wearing black tracksuits and had face/head coverings.

We need anyone who saw anything or has any CCTV, dash cam, or doorbell footage to contact us.

If you have any information you can submit a report online at <https://www.essex.police.uk> or use the 'Live Chat' button to speak to an online operator between 7am-11pm.

Please quote the crime reference number **42/83883/22**.

You can also call us on 101 or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.



We are appealing for witnesses following an assault near to Burcarts Hardware Store, Old Road, **Clacton**. On Sunday 20 March at about 6pm the victim, a man in his late 20's was grabbed by the suspect and put in a head-lock and pulled to the ground. The suspect is described as a white male, about 6ft tall of slim build, wearing a full black tracksuit.

If you saw anything, have any CCTV, dash cam or doorbell footage please contact us.

If you have any information you can submit a report online at <https://www.essex.police.uk> or use the 'Live Chat' button to speak to an online operator between 7am-11pm.

Please quote crime reference number **42/71829/22**.

You can also call us on 101 or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

**CrimeStoppers.**  
**0800 555 111**  
100% anonymous. Always.





## Everyone deserves to have fun and feel safe

A night out with friends is a chance to have a great time and make memories, so don't let it turn into a night you want to forget. With a few simple precautions and by looking out for each other, you can make sure your night of living it up doesn't go downhill. Plan ahead how to get home, know your limits, stick with friends and don't leave drinks unattended... these are just some things that can **#SeeYouSafer** on all your nights out in Essex.

If you're out with a friend, or friends, keep an eye out for them.

If they appear to be more drunk than you'd expect, dizzy or slurring their words, take control and make sure they're okay. If you're concerned, make sure they either get medical help or get home safely.

For more advice on how to keep yourself safe visit <https://www.essex.police.uk/.../protect-yourself-from-crime/>

Or visit website - [www.seeyousafer.co.uk](http://www.seeyousafer.co.uk)





## How protecting your garden makes your home safer.

It may not seem obvious but protecting your garden and outbuildings like sheds not only keeps bikes and other valuables safe, but can also stop burglars accessing tools to get into your home.

**1.** Low front boundary; keep hedges and walls at the front of your house low (under one metre) so burglars have nowhere to hide.

**2.** Secure side gate; keep side gates locked at all times. Open gates mean burglars can easily access your home without being seen by passers-by or neighbours.

**3.** High side and rear boundaries with trellis and spiky defensive planting; keep hedges, walls and fences around your back garden high (over 1.8 metres). Add lightweight trellis to gates and fences and plant some prickly plants to make it harder for burglars to climb over.

**4.** Gravel driveway and path; gravel driveways and paths make it harder for burglars to go undetected.

**5.** Security light; install an outside security light so that intruders can't approach without being seen.

**6.** Intruder alarm system; install a burglar alarm system.

**7.** Secure your shed; always keep your shed locked and secured, and make sure it is anchored down to prevent it from being lifted in order to gain access. Often sheds contain valuables such as power tools and bicycles.

**8.** Never leave tools lying around; never leave tools lying around as they can be used as a way of breaking into your home.

### ***Stay secure in the Spring & Summer***

***Leaving ground floor windows, doors and patio doors open on our warmer days can give burglars the perfect opportunity. If you're upstairs or out of the room, even just for a few minutes, close them and help shut burglars out!***





## Prevent Car and Vehicle Theft Top Tips Don't let thieves get an easy ride— Follow these simple rules to protect your car.

### 1. Lock your vehicle

Locking your vehicle, even when filling up or parked on your drive, greatly reduces the possibility of it being targeted by an opportunist thief. Even if you have locked your vehicle, check you haven't left any windows or the sunroof open.

It is illegal to leave your vehicle running unattended while you de-ice it or warm it up in cold weather. If someone takes it while it's left like this, your insurer won't pay out because you won't be covered.

If your vehicle has wing mirrors that fold in automatically when locked, make sure you lock it properly. Criminal gangs are looking for vehicles like these where the wing mirrors are still out because it is clear to them that the vehicle has been left unlocked.

### 2. Keep the keys safe

Vehicles today are by and large more difficult to steal than ever, unless the thief can access your key or fob to clone them. Keep your keys safe, out of view when at home, and away from your front door. It's not uncommon for car keys to be stolen from inside your home by thieves fishing for them with a stick and hook through the letterbox.

#### Keyless entry

Cars with keyless entry unlock automatically when the key comes within a short distance of the car. This can be from inside a pocket or bag. If you have to push a button on your car key to open your car, you don't have keyless entry. Keyless car theft or 'relay theft' is when a device is used to fool the car into thinking the key is close by. This unlocks the car and starts the ignition.

Thieves only need to be within a few metres of your car key to capture the signal, even if it's inside your home. This means that even if your car and home are secure, thieves can still unlock, start and steal your car.

#### How to protect your keyless entry car

When at home keep your car key (and the spare) well away from the car.

Put the keys in a screened or signal-blocking pouch, such as a Faraday Bag.

Reprogramme your keys if you buy a second hand car.

Turn off wireless signals on your fob when it's not being used.

### 3. Be aware of carjackers

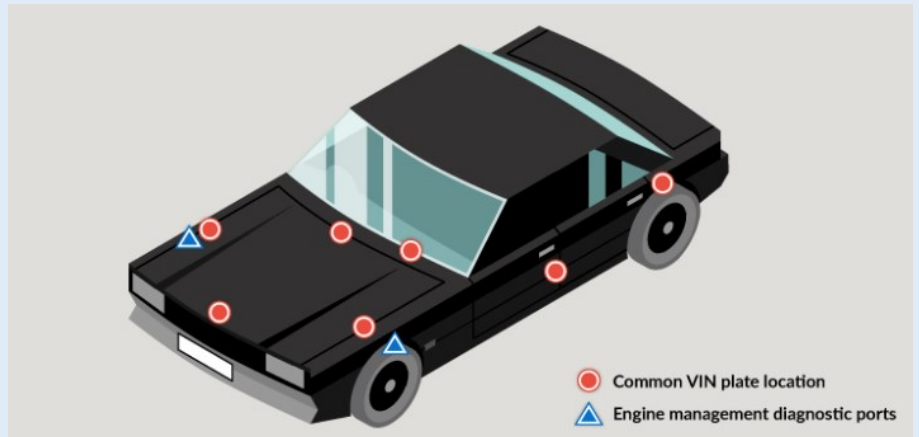
The fact that you're in the car isn't always a deterrent to someone trying to steal it.

In traffic, drive with the doors locked and when queuing leave enough space in front of your vehicle to enable you to get out of a tight spot. If your vehicle is bumped from behind, wait to pull over – somewhere safe and preferably where there are people. After all, you don't know the person who has collided with you; they could well be hijackers.

If you're at all suspicious, consider calling the police.

If someone threatens you, it's better to hand over the keys to the vehicle than become a victim of assault. Then call 999 as soon as possible and ask for the police.

If your car is stolen, some modern vehicle alarm and tracker systems have the facility to isolate or shut down fuel systems, bringing the vehicle to a halt and leaving the thief high and dry.





Continued.....

#### 4. Park responsibly

It's always advisable to avoid parking in dark and secluded areas. It's worth an extra five or ten-minute walk if it means your vehicle is left in a well-lit and busier street.

And if possible, always try to park in illuminated and staffed car parks or those with a Park Mark safer parking award. To find one, simply check out

[www.parkmark.co.uk](http://www.parkmark.co.uk)

#### 5. Watch for illegal tow trucks

Thieves often attempt to lift vehicles from the street, literally. So, if you see a towaway crew acting suspiciously – especially if their vehicle isn't branded or if they're not in uniform – then please report it immediately.

As with every report of suspicious behaviour made in good faith, we'll never blame anyone for calling us if it proves unfounded.

Car parks with height-restricted entrances help prevent illegal tow trucks and removal vehicles. And fitting a Thatcham rated category 1 or 2 alarm system with tracking, immobilisation, anti-grab and movement sensors can help protect and trace your vehicle.

#### 6. Fit good in-car security locks

Bear in mind that built-in steering locks aren't necessarily thief-proof. Many can be forced and broken. Fitting a Sold Secure steering wheel, gear lever or clutch pedal security device can give your vehicle added protection.

#### 7. Double-check electronic locking

Electronic devices can be used to jam the electronic signal from your key fob to lock your vehicle. Always manually check your vehicle has locked before walking away.

If unsure, lock it manually, then scan the immediate area for anyone hanging around. If a potential thief who's watching feels they've been spotted, they'll probably move off.

#### 8. Before owning, check for cloning

Changing the identity of a vehicle, known as vehicle cloning, can be as simple as adding stolen number plates. When buying a vehicle, always check the DVLA V5 document and make sure the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) on the vehicle is the same as on the document. (See diagram above)

Make sure you check more than one of the VINs as well as the engine numbers on the vehicle

#### 9. Secure your port

Many modern vehicles are fitted with engine management diagnostic ports, which can unlock and start your vehicle.

If your vehicle has this type of port, consider fitting a lockable cover.

