



EASTBOURNE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

“Making Eastbourne Even Safer”

Newsletter - Dec 2011

Christmas Approaches

The Community Safety Partnership has the following advice to reduce the risk of criminals spoiling your Christmas:

- Keep your purse and wallet out of sight when shopping and don't leave handbags unattended in shopping trolleys.
- Keep Christmas presents and gifts out of sight in parked vehicles. Brand new items left on the seats are very tempting to would-be thieves
- Keep vehicles and front doors locked at all times
- Don't leave Christmas presents within sight through windows at home if at all possible
- Don't leave packaging outside your home advertising what you've bought
- Register the serial numbers of all of your property free on www.immobilise.com.

Eastbourne is a low crime area and these simple precautions will help to ensure that your Christmas is not spoilt.

As always, if you do see anything suspicious please call the Police straightaway by dialling 999.

Jingle Bells

The Community Safety Partnership teamed up with the Business Crime Group to reduce the risk of purse thefts in the town by purchasing 'purse bells'.

Eastbourne Business Crime Group (EBCG) Manager Trish Pybous said, "The most frequent kind of purse thefts is 'handbag dipping' where offenders remove purses from handbags. Once the purse is stolen bank cards are often used by offenders very quickly, frequently even before the victim realises the purse has been stolen. This causes even more upset to the victim who is often elderly and vulnerable."



The bells are clipped to the zipper on your purse and if someone tries to dip into your bag the twin bells will jingle to alert you."

The bells are being distributed free of charge through EBCG members including Cambridge & Co in Cornfield Road, Charity shops and through the Security Officers in the Arndale Centre.

Matt Briggs, Manager of Specsavers and Chairman of the Crime Group, said, "Our customers have been very happy with the anti purse theft

bells as a discreet but effective deterrent to purse thefts."

Portfolio holder for Community at Eastbourne Borough Council and Devonshire Councillor, Margaret Bannister said, "The Partnership welcomes the opportunity to work with the business community to reduce the risk of these thefts where it is often the elderly who are targeted."

Street Pastors

Eastbourne Street Pastors have now recruited their third round of volunteers. Street Pastors are drawn from the local community and may be a Church leader/minister or member who has a concern for society and who is willing to engage with people. They are supported by Prayer Pastors from the base at the Revival Prayer Centre and work Friday and Saturday nights from 10pm to 4am in the town centre.

There are about 20 local Churches represented by the Street Pastor and Prayer Pastor volunteers and the Management Committee who enjoy a good working relationship with Sussex Police and the local Council as well as the Community Safety Partnership, Nightwatch and the Safer Communities team.

A short clip on YouTube gives a flavour of the work that Street Pastors do in Eastbourne.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=4af9dGnt4ac

For more information please call the Coordinator, Ali Stevens, on 07967 212 941 or e-mail: eastbourne@streetpastors.org.uk

Operation Blitzen



Eastbourne Police will be mounting a seasonal campaign to provide additional high visibility patrols in the town centre to tackle shoplifting and anti-social behaviour. Insp Steve Tullett said, "We will be running the operation between 12th and 31st December when the town centre is busy. Shoplifting traditionally increases through this period and the additional patrols will be providing public reassurance at the same time as targeting known offenders."

Cyber Scams

East Sussex County Council is giving out the warning as forecasters predict that pre-Christmas web sales will peak on 'Mega Monday', 5 December.

With over half the adult UK population now shopping online, millions are set to be spent via web sales in the run up to the yuletide period and County Council Trading Standards Officers are warning residents to watch out for scams.

The cyber scams include websites that look legitimate but sell fake goods, with smart phones, digital cameras, designer goods, laptops and video game consoles amongst the most popular on the fraudsters list.

Councillor Carl Maynard, Lead Member for Economy, Transport & Environment, said: "Last Christmas we had several complaints in East Sussex from people who had been conned into buying counterfeit

goods online. Criminals will do anything in their power to take your money and this includes building flashy websites that look like the real thing." For further information about avoiding scams please see [Getting consumer advice and making a complaint](#). Further advice is also available from the [Consumer Direct website](#).

Community Speed Watch

Community Speed Watch involves active members of the community joining together to monitor speed at selected locations in their area using an approved speed meter device. Groups of at least two volunteers record the registration numbers of vehicles travelling at excess speed in both 30mph and 40mph zones. The registration number, speed, place, date, time, vehicle type and the volunteers' names are reported to the police who write to the owner pointing out that his/her vehicle was detected travelling in excess of the speed limit and asking them to desist. If the same vehicle is detected speeding on a second occasion then a second letter is sent and if there is a third occasion a final letter is sent with a warning that the vehicle may be targeted by the police.

Local Councillor Tom Liddiard and Sgt Fiona Munro have successfully applied for funding from the Community Safety Partnership to purchase a handheld speed device, together with the safety equipment needed by the volunteers.

Cllr Liddiard said, "We are thrilled that this bid has been accepted. Speeding has been identified across the entire borough as an issue which needs addressing and each neighbourhood has its hot spots. Partnership working between the Community Safety Partnership, Sussex Police, especially Sgt. Fiona Munro and the Upperton Panel, have made this scheme possible and shows that partnership working is flourishing for the benefit of the people of Eastbourne and surrounding areas."

In agreeing the funding application, the Partnership is keen for other local community groups and individuals to be able to use the camera in their neighbourhood.

Keeping Safe

The Community Safety Partnership has the following advice to help to keep you safe this Christmas:

- Don't drink and drive. Any alcohol will affect your ability to react to situations. Drinking and driving wrecks lives.
- Watch how much you drink when you are out celebrating the festive season. The Government advises that men should not regularly drink more than 3-4 units a day and women not more than 2-3. Further advice and guidance is available on www.drinkaware.co.uk.
- Don't put yourself at risk of rape. Drink sensibly and do not leave your drink unattended. Take sensible precautions when going out and make sure you know how you are getting home, and with whom.

The Partnership website contains advice on all areas of personal safety and security of your property. www.eastbourne.gov.uk/community/crime

December Focus

Current figures on crime in Eastbourne as of November 2011:

Overall crime for the Performance Year (starting April 2011) is down by 10% - 530 fewer victims



Burglary of houses during this Performance year was up by 21%, that's 26 more offences, but burglary other than homes is down 21%, 57 fewer offences.

Criminal damage for the Performance year continues to reduce, down by 23% - 243 fewer offences and violent offences in a public place is down 24%, 221 fewer victims.

We continue to monitor anti-social behaviour which is up by 5.6% with 508 more incidents being reported. Our partnership work across Eastbourne is targeting Anti-social behaviour with regular patrols with Youth workers and the Council's Community Enforcement staff. Don't forget that you can sign up to our Operation Blitz which specifically targets low level anti-social behaviour.

Wishing you all a Very Happy Christmas and a Crime Free New Year