NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

BRIEFING SHEET

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IDENTITY THEFT

There has been much publicity about identity theft. Programmes on television have highlighted how rife it is and how people have stolen other identities to open bank accounts, get credit cards or benefit.

In Brighton, a house was rented out and the 'occupier' used the post that had been delivered to the house to re-mortgage the property in the sum of £135,000. Also, in this area, police occasionally receive reports of dustbins or post being interfered with.

You may already be a victim if:

- you have lost or had stolen important documents such as your passport or driving licence
- post expected from your bank hasn't arrived or you are receiving no post at all
- items have appeared on your statements that you don't recognise
- you have claimed state benefit but are told that you are already receiving it
- you receive invoices or receipts for goods or services you haven't asked for
- you have been refused a credit card or loan despite having a good credit history
- a mobile phone contract has been set up in your name without your knowledge

How do you protect yourself? Well, documents that you receive should not be put in the bin but destroyed, preferably by using a shredder. Check statements and keep documents in a safe place.

Regularly check your personal credit file to see if there are any entries that you don't recognise. This can be done through a credit reference agency and costs about £2.

Cancel all lost, stolen or unused credit cards immediately and inform authorities should your passport or licence be lost or stolen.

ROAD SHOW

Police 'Community Safety' and Trading Standards will be giving advice at Homebase on Good Friday between 10 am and 4 pm.

MORE SCAMS

We are all prone to being a taget of a scam, whether it be by e-mail, text, phone or letter. The scam where your details are required by a bank or building society is still going around and now we have got the false lottery letters from Spain and the UK.

Any scams that you encounter should be passed on to Trading Standing for their information on 01243 642 125 or e-mail them at this address: **trading.standards@westsussex.gov.uk**.
For information about the latest scams view the following websight www.met.police.uk/fraudalert/

POLICE / COMMUNITY SUCCESS

Youths were seen to cause damage in Orchard Way in Bognor. The police were told and after a search two men were arrested.

A briefcase was stolen from a car in Westhamptnett Road at Chichester. The police were advised and three men were arrested near Worthing.

Three males were seen trying to open car doors in Heathfield Park at Midhurst. Police carried out a search and arrested three juveniles.

A car was entered in Linden Road at Bognor and the witness followed the offender to a house. Police were contacted and an arrest was made

Police were called to East Street at Chichester where a male was driving a dumper truck into scaffolding. They arrested the driver.

In Middleton a report of a house fire in Sea Way resulted in a man being arrested.

Two men were disturbed breaking into cars in Lagness. Their car keys were seized, police alerted and a man arrested.

A man was seen to smash a window in Felpham Road at Felpham. Police were called and after a search of the area made an arrest.

Two youths were seen to smash a window in Manor Road at Selsey. Police attended and arrested two males.

Police were called to Rose Green after youths were seen to smash a shop window. After a search of the area a youth was arrested.

A man who stole a laptop from a house at River near Petworth got stuck in mud as he drove off. He was detained until police arrived.

Two men were seen to be pushing a car down Whyke Road at Chichester. Police were called and arrested two men nearby.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency.....999
(Crime taking place/suspicious person)

Non-emergency.....0845 60 70 999
or *contact.centre@sussex.pnn.police.uk*
(Abandoned car/doorstep caller)

Neighbourhood Watch.01243 784439
(Administration/support)

Phil Marten – Crime Prevention Co-ordinator