



To All Residents and Neighbourhood Watch members

Walsall Police Station

Green Lane
Walsall
West Midlands
WS2 8HL

Switchboard: 0345 113 5000*

Tel. Ext: 7883 6590

Please ask for: PS Phil Evans

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Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111

Our Reference:

Your Reference:

Date: 15th October 2011

Dear Resident and Neighbourhood Watch member,

Sadly, what passes for the English summer has gone and winter is creeping up on us. Colder, shorter days present extra opportunities for criminals, so before the clocks go back and frosty mornings are upon us I would like to remind you about some precautions you should be taking at each end of the day.

On those frosty and icy mornings please resist the temptation to leave your car engine running while the windows defrost. I'm sure you've heard the horror stories about people popping into the house for a few moments to say goodbye to loved ones, only to find their car gone. On icy mornings criminals do cruise the streets looking for unattended cars to steal: it only takes a few moments for them to be in and gone. Avoid becoming a victim by not leaving your vehicle unattended with the keys in the ignition, or use de-icer to speed up the process. Remember, your insurance may be invalid if you have left your vehicle insecure and with the keys in the ignition.

At the end of the day it is your home that is more at risk. As darkness falls earlier your home may be unoccupied and in darkness before you get home. At night it is possible to lick out unoccupied homes as they are often in total darkness. Many of us leave a light on when we go out, so think about setting a light on a timer to come on when it starts to get dark? Just one or two lights on in your home may make a burglar think twice and go elsewhere.

While we want you to be careful and take precautions, we do not wish to alarm you. The theft of vehicles remains low as does house burglary - on average just 3.5 house burglaries are reported daily across the whole of Walsall Borough. By taking some simple steps you can help us to reduce crime still further.

For more information on how you can protect your property please visit our web site, www.west-midlands.police.uk. Scroll down the page and click on 'Help and Advice' to be taken to the crime reduction section.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns.

Yours sincerely

PS 8397 Philip Evans
Aldridge South & Central Neighbourhood.
Aldridge North & Walsall Wood Neighbourhood.