

Neighbourhood Watch in Barkway

Most of the time, Barkway is a relatively crime free zone, thanks largely to the efforts of PC Paul Marina and PCSO Chris Brabrook. However, in the last couple of months, there has been a slight increase in reported incidents. These have mostly been thefts of property ranging from pots of jam, pet thefts to car thefts. These crimes may appear to be minor and trivial – but they can have an impact on the quality of life within the Village. A much loved pet that is stolen can seriously upset small children; a child's BMX bike can cost upwards of £200 to replace. Any increase in the level of crime in a small community can lead to a sense of unease.

Responses to the Parish Plan questionnaire indicated concerns about crime in the area. As a response to these concerns, the Police have asked Barkway Parish Council to put out a call for more people to volunteer as Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators.

Neighbourhood Watch is not about curtain twitching or general nosiness but more about acting as an early warning device for the Village and its more vulnerable occupants. Neighbourhood Watch teams are supplied with up to date intelligence from Herts. Police as regards the latest trends in crime and PC Marina is keen to support an increase in Watch members.

An active Neighbourhood Watch operation working in conjunction with the local Police is an effective deterrent against criminals. It would not take long for would be criminals get the message that Barkway is not an easy touch

Anyone wishing to volunteer as a Neighbourhood Watch member in Barkway, should contact Councillor Vince Styles at vpstyles@tiscali.co.uk