



RICHMOND SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD BOARD Newsletter – Late Summer 2022



The last two years have been hard on all of us, but this summer sees the return to our pre-Covid world, with more events, more social gatherings, less restrictions, and people wanting to embrace their freedom. Especially the young.

There have been concerns about the Teddington Lock and Riverside areas, where many young people go to have fun. Problems arise when they take risks diving into the river, and large gatherings attract others from outside the borough, some of whom come to make trouble. Safety measures have been put in place around Teddington Lock, and the police have used their powers under Section 35, which allows them to clear an area, and get people to move on.

We work in close partnership with the police to try and provide additional support for youth diversion projects as the need arises. The Safer Neighbourhood Board (SNB) is supporting Heatham House and other schemes for young people this summer.

We continue to work on Women's Safety and Domestic Abuse advice and support the Council's White Ribbon initiative. The Safe Space outside Richmond Station, run by British Transport Police, the Street pastors and our own local police team at weekends is a wonderful example of different agencies working together; our Go Girl (advice on women's safety) leaflets are part of this.

You may have heard that the Metropolitan Police Service has been put in "Special Measures". This does not affect day to day policing in this borough, but there are some areas - better communications, and supporting crime prevention advice, for example - where we can assist our partners to make improvements.

Finally, post Covid, we are planning the return of the annual Youth Crime Conference in March 2023. This event invites over 150 14-15 year old pupils to a day long look at issues which affect them, be it Stop and Search, drugs, keeping safe.

This Newsletter provides several updates on current police crime and safety issues in the borough.

Following the report from our local Inspector, Jon McLoughlin, there are the following articles:

Page 4: Scams – new issues

Page 5, 6: Crime Prevention Advice – useful updates from PC Sean Jaundoo, SW BCU Crime Prevention Officer covering:

- Bicycle theft
- Catalytic Converter Theft
- Garden and House Security
- Personal Safety
- Street Safe

Page 7: The SNB's free "Home Security Advice" for Richmond residents

Page 8: Stop & Search – report from local Monitoring Group

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Page 11: Police Contact details

We should particularly like to draw your attention to the large event on the *24th August – MET IN THE PARK* – at Old Deer Park in Richmond – see details, **Page 10**

The newsletters are now being edited by John Murray – see article. **Page 9**

Your feedback to richmondcpp-snb@gmail.com is welcome!

Important – Domestic Abuse Advice

There is a One Stop Shop for legal advice, support, and information on Domestic Abuse every Friday 10am -12.00noon
at Hampton Hill Citizens' Advice, 1st Floor, 94 - 102 High Street, Hampton Hill TW12 1NY

No need to book an appointment, just turn up.

Inspector Jon McLoughlin – Richmond Neighbourhoods Inspector



Richmond is one of the safest boroughs in London but, as is always the case for a Borough inspector, the past few months have brought a mixture of tragedies and successes, which remind us that we must always be vigilant and never take our comparative safety for granted. The two murders in Ham and Mortlake, and the two tragic drownings in the Thames, have kept our teams very busy, providing reassurance, advice, and a presence on the streets and by the river.

Suspects are in custody for both murders.

And our message to all who are tempted to dive into the river during the abnormally hot weather is **DON'T** and please try and stop others from doing so. The Thames is very dangerous; the currents and cold just beneath the surface can kill.

Other happier events: the Queen's Jubilee celebrations in June, the Army and Navy match at Twickenham in April, and the St George's Day parade in Whitton all went off well with few incidents. Our Neighbourhood officers have also attended the numerous fairs which enliven the summer, as well as holding bike marking events (do get your bike marked, if stolen it can be returned to you), security marking catalytic converters, talking to school children, advising 100+ retailers on the ever-growing problem of cyber-crime.

We have had several successful proactive operations. One in Twickenham, Whitton, and Heathfield (with the aid of our colleagues in Traffic) targeted catalytic converter thefts and caught various drivers for a catalogue of traffic offences plus possession of drugs.

As part of our Borough-wide initiative to reduce violent crime, ward officers have been undertaking weekly weapon sweeps in open spaces.

They have also been targeting habitual offenders who may now be issued with the very powerful Criminal Behaviour Orders. These Orders impose stringent conditions which, if breached, will result in arrest and, if a court finds them guilty, custodial sentences.

And with our British Transport Police colleagues, we have established a Safe Space outside Richmond Station from 9pm-1am at the weekends. Primarily designed for women and girls, it is a safe space for everyone.

Please enjoy the rest of your summer. Keep yourself and others safe by always reporting crime and dangerous behaviour.

Scams!

Why do I write about scams?

Because they wreck people's lives and destroy faith and trust. And they are ongoing. In June, in Richmond there were 73 offences with a reported loss of £236,553. In May it was £541,970! As I have said, and with great regret before, these are only *recorded* scams – many people don't report them. Why? Embarrassment, shame, ignorance of what to do. The answer to the last is Action Fraud, not the local Police although they will of course advise and help.

The assumption is that the elderly get scammed because they tend not to be as technically aware, they are more trusting and don't always understand the effects of just clicking on an unsafe link. However, we are all targets in different ways depending on what we do and how we live. So, we should all be aware and continually suspicious of cold callers (at the door or on the phone), rogue emails or texts, letters or an approach at a cash point or parking machine.

I and others work with the Police ward teams to give talks to groups about scams and personal safety. So, ask your ward team if you are a Women's Institute member or belong to any club or similar group and would like to arrange this. In this Borough, the SNB work closely with the Police and the Council to produce information and guidance. The SNB work very hard to bring you "Knowledge Nights" to cover all these topics and we held a very successful one on 27th July. Larger ones will follow later in the year.

We have "The Little Book of Investment Scams", "The Little Book of Big Scams" and "The Book of Telephone Scams" – all freely available from your ward team. I have also been getting them to food banks, kiosks, and other centres. Can you think of other sites – please tell us if so! An internet link is fleeting and can be forgotten – a hard copy book is much better!

There has been good progress in providers being more proactive regarding telephone scam calls – one of my pet hates. I know many of you just accept these calls by just ignoring them or engaging with the caller, but these callers are crooks! They want to steal your identity and your money! Would you engage in conversation with a burglar who knocked on your door? No - you would ensure you had proper locks and bolts.

It's just the same with cold callers – make sure they just can't get through. How? You must contact your telephone provider to discuss the options they provide. Every provider is different – a brief summary is below from the very helpful "Which" service but check as the options are updated and hopefully improved.

- ❖ **BT** – "Call protect" is the most efficient.
- ❖ **Sky** – "Sky talk shield".
- ❖ **Talktalk** – "callsafe"
- ❖ **Virgin Media** – "call rejection" feature but it costs £3 per month.

Trading standards recommend "Truecall" which is very good. But you must buy it, which I have, and I don't get any unwanted calls.

So, my message is fight back against these crooks – ensure they give up on pestering you. If everyone had a call blocker they would be out of business!

John Murray

CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE



BIKE THEFT

<https://www.securedbydesign.com/guidance/crime-prevention-advice/bike-security>

There are around 300,000 bikes stolen each year in the UK, with 40% of all bike thefts occurring when the owner did not secure their bike - either forgetting to or believing that it was safe. We all need to store our bikes safely, even at home, but the theft of bikes from sheds and garages continues to be a problem as they often house multiple bikes – easy picking for thieves.

Whilst a number of stolen bikes are recovered each year, the police are often unable to return them or prosecute offenders as the owner cannot be traced so please always:

1. Register it
2. Record it
3. Security mark it
4. Double-lock it, secure it and lock the lot
5. Remove the removable bits.
6. Park securely
7. Keep valuables secure when cycling
8. Be aware of your surroundings
9. Remember safety begins at home
10. Remember to keep your bike safe when travelling by car

CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFT

<https://www.securedbydesign.com/guidance/crime-prevention-advice/vehicle-crime/catalytic-converter-theft>

Anyone with any information about catalytic converter thefts should contact their local police force. Always report the crime if you are a victim and remember *if a crime is in progress, dial 999*

Cars that are most often targeted are hybrid vehicles, as these have two power sources, so the catalytic converter is used less frequently. The metals are less likely to corrode meaning the converters are in a better condition, so they are worth more and therefore more attractive to thieves.

On diesel cars, the diesel oxidation catalyst is often integrated with the Diesel Particulate Filter (DPF) and there is evidence that these are being stolen for their scrap value too.

Hybrid cars, vans and Sports Utility vehicles ('SUV's') are particularly at risk, as the ride height makes access to the exhaust system beneath them easier. However, thieves can always jack up a car with a small trolley jack and quickly remove catalytic converters from any vehicle, even in the daytime. The offenders also use high-vis clothing or disguise themselves as motor professionals during the daytime making it easier for catalytic converter theft.

Book with **Kwik-Fit** in either Twickenham (0208 892 1491) or Richmond (0208 948 4179) to get your Catalytic Converter marked for FREE - supplied by the Met Police.

GARDEN AND HOME SECURITY

<https://www.securedbydesign.com/guidance/crime-prevention-advice/garden-security/secure-your-home-garden>

PERSONAL PROPERTY

Take photos of your valuables and close-up / record Serial numbers immobilise.com



PERSONAL SAFETY

<https://www.securedbydesign.com/guidance/crime-prevention-advice/personal-safety>

This personal safety guidance is not designed to unduly worry, upset or shock but seeks to help you to be fully prepared in order to reduce the chances of you becoming a victim of crime or to assist if a situation does occur. Many crimes committed against people are opportunistic and can often be prevented with prior planning and awareness.

This advice is designed to help you travel, work, play, live safely and enjoy yourself whilst out.

STREET SAFE

<https://www.met.police.uk/notices/street-safe/street-safe/>

Help us to build a safer and connected neighbourhood.



Compiled by: PC JAUNDOO - Crime Prevention Officer for SW BCU Met Police

Safer Neighbourhood Board



LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES



The Richmond Safer Neighbourhood Board is funding a free home security check - just for Richmond residents.

We have a retired Met Police Crime Prevention officer who will complete a home security survey for you and recommend ways to protect you and your home going forward.

This is for residential property only.

This service is purely advisory.

We cannot carry out any of the improvements recommended – this is up to you.

To book a suitable appointment – see below.

This service is completely free to you and there are no hidden costs.

email: crimepreventionadvice@yahoo.com

Tel: 07951 038099

**This is part of Richmond's Safer Neighbourhood Board's
Crime Prevention initiative**



STOP AND SEARCH

Report from the Richmond Stop and Search Community Monitoring Group (CMG)

Each London Borough has a CMG whose task is to hold their local police to account for their Stop and Search activities within the borough. The CMG is then required to provide information to the wider community regarding Stop and Search. In July two members of the group viewed four searches from the last two months through Body Worn Video and examined the redacted data of several other searches.

One search involved that on a male who was part of a group who were suspected of carrying out a robbery at knife point. Members of the group were separated, and each was questioned by an officer. The search viewed was carried out in a calm and professional manner of a suspect who was wary and very aware of his companions, he was handcuffed and arrested for robbery and possession of an offensive weapon. Another search was of a male from a group of males who were suspected of drug dealing.

There was a further action on the person searched, but another of the group was arrested for possession of drugs. The third search was in response to a call from a security guard about a person who was suspected of trying to break into premises. This resulted in no further action. The final search was as a result of intelligence about an affray with weapons. Handcuffs were used and the search resulted in an arrest.

All searches were undertaken because of intelligence received and were carried out by officers in an acceptable or good manner. The redacted data examined confirmed that searches were carried out in accordance with the law and there was no evidence of discrimination.

Carole Atkinson - Chair Richmond Stop & Search Community Monitoring Group

NEW EDITOR

I am John Murray and have the pleasure of taking over as the editor of the SNB Newsletter.

Thanks to the hard work of my predecessors, who established the format and detailed content of the newsletter, I think we are making an interesting and valuable contribution towards helping improve the safety of the residents of our wonderful borough.

The partnership between the Police at all levels, the SNB - together with the PLG's (Police Liaison Groups), and the many other off shoots is active and continuous; many thanks for the hard work and enthusiasm of everyone concerned.

The Richmond Safer Neighbourhood Board (SNB) was established by the Mayor of London in 2014, replacing the previous, long-standing Police and Community Partnership. We hold public meetings four times a year (now face-to face, after almost 3 years on Zoom).

You can find details on the Council Website - https://www.richmond.gov.uk/safer_neighbourhood_board

You can also contact us by email on RichmondCPP-SNB@gmail.com.

The role of the SNB is to bring together the Police and other partners but, most importantly, our communities. It is charged with providing scrutiny on all aspects of policing, (including Stop and Search, confidence, complaints) deciding the priorities for the next three months, commissioning and often creating and running projects, and ensuring that every ward has a functioning Police Liaison Group.

If you have concerns about crime and policing in your area, do join the Police Liaison Group in your ward - contact the SNB by email on RichmondCPP-SNB@gmail.com.

And please visit the "Met in the Park" event on 24th August to learn much more! The SNB will be represented.

John Murray

SNB Member, PLG chair & Met Police Volunteer



MET IN THE PARK

WEDNESDAY
24TH AUGUST 2022

FREE
COMMUNITY
EVENT

10AM
TO
4PM

OLD DEER PARK, RICHMOND



JOIN OFFICERS & STAFF FROM
THE SOUTH WEST BCU FOR A
DAY OF NON-STOP FUN!

POLICE HORSES & DOGS, POLICE
MOTORBIKES, BANDS, FOOD, ST JOHN
AMBULANCE, COMMUNITY & PARTNER
STALLS AND LOCAL RUGBY CLUBS



Safer Neighbourhood Board



HOW (AND WHEN) TO CONTACT POLICE

IN AN EMERGENCY – RING 999 if:

- A serious offence is in progress, or has just been committed
- Someone is in immediate danger or harm
- Property is in danger of being damaged
- A serious disruption to the public is likely

AN OFFENCE HAS HAPPENED – RING 101 if:

- An offence has already happened (eg my car HAS been broken into, my house HAS been broken into)

IN PERSON – SPEAK TO AN OFFICER, VISIT A POLICE STATION (TWICKENHAM) to:

- Report a crime
- Arrange to make a statement
- Obtain local information
- CONTACT YOUR LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM to
- Discuss a local issue (Find contact details by typing your ward name followed by @met.police.uk -
- eg barnes@met.police.uk)

OTHER USEFUL LINKS include:

- British Transport Police (BTP) – text 61016
- Crimestoppers – 0800 555 111
- Anti-Terrorism hotline – 0800 789 321

but:

ASB (ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR)

- Eg Graffiti / Dog Fouling /Fly tipping – which are all Council responsibility, not police – ring 0208 891 1411