

Dear Watch members,

Welcome to your Neighbourhood Watch newsletter. We hope you will enjoy the contents but would also like to hear from you if you have any preferences on topics to include, feedback on the current format or your own good news story. If you do, please get in touch using the contact details above.

## Your Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch brings neighbours together to tackle crime and promote a sense of co-operation in their local community. Each watch is led by a co-ordinator whose role it is to arrange meetings and act as a point of contact for the council and police. Police *Safer Neighbourhoods Teams* support Neighbourhood Watch by helping set up new watches, offering crime prevention advice, and acting as a point of contact for any non-



urgent information about crime in your local area. Westminster City Council supports the administration of all Westminster watches, writes this newsletter,

and arranges any Westminster-wide meetings.

If you would like to know the contact details for your local *Safer Neighbourhoods Team*, or have any general queries about Neighbourhood Watch please contact us on [neighbourhoodwatch@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:neighbourhoodwatch@westminster.gov.uk) or 020 7641 2117.

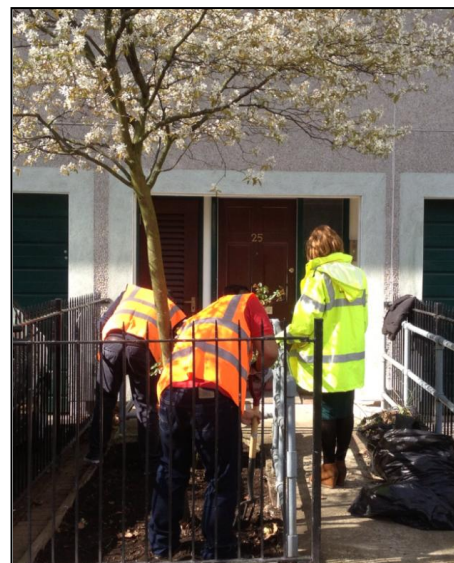
Over the coming year, Westminster is looking into the possibility of a Neighbourhood Watch Association. An Association could mean a greater role for Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators in managing watches across Westminster and setting the agenda for Neighbourhood Watch in the future. There will be more information about this at the Annual General Meeting which will be held in the autumn.

## Community Payback

Community Payback is when offenders pay back their community by providing a service and reparation for their crimes. They do a range of jobs including gardening, painting and undertaking other odd jobs to benefit the local community.

You can have a say in what type of work is carried out in your area and nominate a Community Payback project by calling Serco's Community Payback team on 020 7593 3120.

*The scheme pictured is Lisson Green Estate.*





## Crime and anti-social behaviour

Over the last two years there has been a **15% reduction** in anti-social behaviour (ASB) in Westminster. Here are some examples of recent work by the council's Community Protection team who resolve problems relating to ASB, crime and environmental issues.

### Clean up for Victoria Embankment

The Westminster Warden for Strand & Whitehall recently arranged for the plinth under Waterloo Bridge to be swept and flushed. He also spoke to residents and businesses to ensure that rubbish is put out at the right times so it can be cleared quickly.

### Theft in nightclub reduced

The team has worked closely with a nightclub in Rupert Street to reduce mobile phone theft and introduce a system for clubs to share information about difficult customers.

### Closure order for nuisance neighbours

A property associated with ASB in Langdale House (Churchill ward) has been closed for three months to provide respite to neighbours. Similar orders were also granted in Lenthall House (Churchill) and Walterton Lodge (Harrow Road ward).

### Lighting upgrade on John Adam Street

Two new lighting columns have been fitted for John Adam Street following a walkabout with Villiers Street Forum members where low lighting was identified as a problem.

### ASBOs

Westminster has secured four anti-social behaviour orders (ASBOs) and one premises closure order in 2013 so far.

### London Street clear-up

The Hyde Park Warden arranged for the clean-up of an area which was suffering from litter, street urination, and ASB associated with rough sleepers. Railings were fixed and

support information was given to rough sleepers.

### Empty property secured

A resident in Bryanston & Dorset Square ward reported concerns about an empty property to her local Warden. The Warden liaised with the Community Protection Officer and police who investigated and found three rough sleepers in the property. Within 24 hours they were moved on and the property secured. Other properties have also been investigated to ensure they are safe.

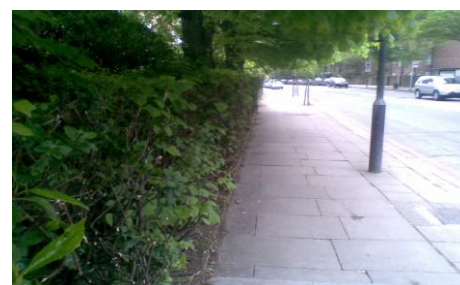
### Street urination targeted

Following complaints about street urination, the team arranged for the street urinal in Adelaide Street to operate 24 hours a day. This has significantly reduced the problem and won thanks from local businesses.

### Hedge clearance in Regent's Park

The Regent's Park Warden noticed hedges were encroaching on the public highway along Lisson Grove and St John's Wood Road. By liaising with the letting agent, the hedges were tidied within two weeks and the highway is now much clearer for residents.

*Before and after the clearance*



## Growing against gangs

Growing against Gangs and Violence is a programme which delivers gangs resistance education to young people. As of May 2013, 50 sessions have been delivered in Westminster which equates to 15,000 hours of engagement. Specially trained facilitators and accredited police officers deliver dynamic, effective lessons for young people and their families, looking at all aspects of gang-related issues. Lessons include “Gangs: Myths & Realities” and “Knives: Choices & Consequences”. Although Westminster has significantly lower instances of gang activity compared to some other boroughs, the sessions are vital in providing

young people with the confidence and knowledge to make the right choices. If you are concerned about a young person you know, there is advice for parents at [www.westminster.gov.uk/crime](http://www.westminster.gov.uk/crime). A hard copy of the information can be provided by contacting Neighbourhood Watch.



## Home security

It is vital to our well-being that we feel safe in our own homes. Below are just a few tips on how to ensure your home is as safe as possible. There is more information at [www.met.police.uk/crimeprevention](http://www.met.police.uk/crimeprevention)

**Doors** are the primary route of entry or exit for burglars. Make sure yours are always secured properly and consider investing in a door with a sophisticated lock, spy hole and door chain. Never leave keys near the door as burglars may try to reach them via the letterbox.

Avoid leaving valuables near your **windows** and always close and lock them when you leave. Windows on the ground floor should be made of toughened glass or double glazed.

**Security alarms and lights** can be a good investment: you are far less likely to be burgled if you have a correctly fitted and well maintained burglar alarm. Leaving a light on indoors can also fool a burglar into thinking you're home.

If you have a **garden** make sure gates and fences are high and difficult to access. Never leave valuables or tools that could assist a

burglar in your garden shed. Front gardens shouldn't allow burglars to be hidden from view.

Residents in **flats** should ensure their doors and windows are secure, and never let strangers through communal entrances. Internal letterbox shields can stop burglars reaching through to open the door.

Remember, not all burglars break into homes – some will try to **trick or con** their way in. Use a chain or spy hole and make sure you are certain before letting an unexpected visitor in. Don't be afraid to phone their company from your own telephone - a reputable visitor will understand your concern.

If you have been burgled in the last 12 months, and/or are over 60, disabled or in receipt of a benefit, you could be entitled to a **Safe and Secure grant** to help you make changes to your home which will make it safer, and make you feel happier and more secure. To check if you are eligible for a grant, contact the Westminster Residential Grants team on [res@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:res@westminster.gov.uk) or 020 7641 8959



## Your Watch

If you don't already know who your co-ordinator is, contact Westminster's Neighbourhood Watch office on 020 7641 2117 or e-mail [neighbourhoodwatch@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:neighbourhoodwatch@westminster.gov.uk) for further information, or to find out about starting up a watch in your area.

## Watch Online

Find out more about Neighbourhood Watch and crime prevention through the following websites:

London Neighbourhood Watch Association:  
[www.lnwa.net](http://www.lnwa.net)

Neighbourhood Watch and Home Watch Network:  
[www.ourwatch.org.uk](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk)

## What you report *can* make a difference

You and your neighbours know what should be going on in your area and, importantly, what should not.

The police and council won't necessarily know what is going on in your area unless you tell them and the more reports they receive on a particular issue, the more evidence they have to action it. If you witness a crime or anti-social behaviour, please report it.

## Westminster City Council

To speak to Neighbourhood Watch officers at Westminster Council, e-mail [neighbourhoodwatch@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:neighbourhoodwatch@westminster.gov.uk) or call 020 7641 2117

You can contact the council's Community Protection team on 020 7641 1085 or [communityprotection@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:communityprotection@westminster.gov.uk)

To report problems with street lighting, noise, graffiti, roads etc to the council, visit [www.westminster.gov.uk/reportafault](http://www.westminster.gov.uk/reportafault) or call 020 7641 2000

## Metropolitan Police Service

To report non-urgent crime or to find out the details of your local Safer Neighbourhoods team phone 101 [www.met.police.uk/101](http://www.met.police.uk/101)

For crime prevention advice visit [www.met.police.uk/crimeprevention](http://www.met.police.uk/crimeprevention) or <http://content.met.police.uk/Site/crimepreventionbumblebee>

There is more information on Westminster policing at [www.met.police.uk/westminster](http://www.met.police.uk/westminster)

**In an emergency (where there's an immediate threat to people or property) dial 999**

**If you would like more copies or a large print version of this newsletter, please contact us on 020 7641 2117.**

*Westminster Neighbourhood Watch is delivered by Westminster City Council in conjunction with the Metropolitan Police Service*