



Alresford and District Neighbourhood Watch Association



CONTACTING THE POLICE

Following severe cutbacks in funding and the resulting reduction in the number of officers, it is not possible to deploy an officer to many reports of criminal or suspect activity.

However, Neighbourhood Watch has always and still does encourage reporting of all incidents.

This allows police to build a picture and maybe identify a pattern of times or locations, from which data they can target their resources.

For example, there has been a recent spate of non-dwelling break-ins. The Police need all information relating to these incidents, even if nothing was stolen. Part of a registration number, the colour or make of a vehicle seen acting suspiciously in the area; all could help.

Hampshire was the first county to pilot what is now the 101 non-emergency phone service. One of the drawbacks to this and other similar services, is misuse by unscrupulous members of the public, making repeat calls, for either irrelevant, or nowadays, fake reasons. These overload an already very busy system.

The police therefore, have to try to identify and cut off these calls and this is the reason they ask for your personal details. Repeat, or time wasting callers can be identified in this way.

They are aware that asking for your details does actually stop some people from calling in incidents at all, so there is now the ability from the Hampshire Constabulary website to report minor incidents and in some circumstances request a call back.

Visit <https://www.hampshire.police.uk/contact-us/>

The police are currently working on a small flier to be made generally available, giving details of how to contact them for different reasons. We will publicise this when it is finalised.

There is also the Crimestoppers service which is entirely anonymous. They won't ask you for personal details, they don't want them. Phone 0800 555 111 or report on line at <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/give-information-online/>

This is a national service where calls are directed to the appropriate police force.

Please, do report all incidents or suspicions by whatever means suits you.