



Community Safety News

Road tax information

As has been widely publicised, the paper road tax disc has ceased being issued as of 1 October 2014. You no longer need to display tax disc in your vehicle. Motorists are now able to pay by direct debit, making it more affordable for many. The option of six month and twelve month payments also remains. Your local authority continues to liaise with the DVLA and deal with untaxed and abandoned vehicles on public land in the same way.



People can report untaxed and suspected abandoned vehicles to the local authorities customer services team. However, before you do this, we would recommend visiting www.vehicleenquiry.service.gov.uk where information on the tax and MOT status of any vehicle can be checked. You may also find www.fixmystreet.com useful.

Anti-bullying Week

Calling all schools in North Hampshire! Anti-bullying Week returns this month. Running from the 17 - 21 November, the event, organised by the Anti-bullying Alliance, is a week where children and young people, schools, parents and carers come together with one aim: to stop bullying for all.



This year, the school community is being asked to take action to stop the bullying of all children and young people - including disabled children, after research has shown they are significantly more likely to experience bullying in schools and the wider community.

There are many ways to get involved, from school resources and lesson plans to taking part in a school writing competition, bake-sale or non-uniform day to raise funds. For more information please visit www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk.

Parking on the pavement

Following a number of recent incidents, we would like to remind motorists that they should not park their vehicles on the pavement. Although this is usually done with the intention to keep the highway clear, it can force pedestrians to walk onto the road - a particular concern for the elderly, wheelchair users and parents with pushchairs and young children. While a common sense approach is used by officers, if a vehicle is reported to 101 and the officer deems it to be an obstruction, you may receive a fine. You can download our new vehicle nuisance leaflet from www.safernh.co.uk.



Buy With Confidence

In response to concerns about 'rogue traders' which are often highlighted in the media, a partnership of Local Authority Trading Standards Services have taken a ground-breaking step by putting together the Buy With Confidence Scheme.



The Buy With Confidence Scheme is an approved register of businesses, which have been thoroughly vetted and approved by Trading Standards to ensure that they operate in a legal, honest and fair way.

The scheme provides consumers with a list of local businesses which have given their commitment to trading fairly. Every business listed has undergone a series of detailed checks before being approved as a member of the scheme.

For more information and for a list of approved businesses visit www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk.

Firework safety

Major events such as Guy Fawkes Night, Diwali, New Year's Eve and Chinese New Year are approaching in the coming months. Please remember the fireworks code:



- Light sparklers one at a time and wear gloves.
- Dispose of sparklers in a bucket of water as soon as they are finished.
- Never give sparklers to a child under five-years-old.
- Only buy fireworks marked BS 7114.
- Keep fireworks in a closed box or tin. Use them one at a time, replacing the lid immediately.
- Follow the instructions on each firework, using a torch or hand lamp. Never use a naked flame.
- Light fireworks at arm's length using a taper.
- Do not drink alcohol if setting off fireworks.
- Stand well back.
- Never go back to a lit firework, even if it hasn't gone off - it could still explode.
- Never throw fireworks.
- Keep pets indoors.
- Why not visit an organised fireworks display in your area?

For more information visit www.hantsfire.gov.uk.

