Dear Residents **December 2016 – bulletin 12**

**Crime reports**

* Secure properties broken into and items stolen in Pocklington but **nothing locally**.

**Scam reports – local**

* A bogus “**Notice of Intended Prosecution**” received by a resident supposedly from “**Greater Manchester Police**”. It required the recipient to return a form with their details. He was at home all that day and the notice did not include the vehicle registration.
* East Riding residents are reporting a company calling from 0191 7070024 (too many digits) to make appointments to demonstrate a **new kind of burglar alarm** linked to the police. They are insistent and have phoned back 2 or 3 times. Advice is to hang up.
* Local Royal Mail is warning of cards posted through doors from **PDS (Parcels Delivery Service)** about undelivered parcels. The number to call back is premium rate and very expensive – please contact Royal Mail Fraud on 020 7239 6655 if you get one.

**Scam report – national**

* **Lloyds Bank** customers urged to look out for a sophisticated fraud involving fake bank letters. They have a replica Lloyds template and tell the customer of “unusual transactions” on their personal account. They invite a call to a number to confirm they are genuine. An automated message answers and requests card/account numbers and personal details are entered. Frauds such as this should be reported to ActionFraud on 0300 123 2040.

**Online shopping – advice from ActionFraud**

* Use **reputable sites** you know or are recommended.
* Paying by **credit card** offers greater protection.
* **Double check** details before confirming payment.
* Do not act on/reply to **unsolicited** emails and don’t click on their **links** or open **attachments**.
* Before entering payment details on a website, check for the **padlock symbol**, that the address begins with [**http://**](NULL) and the address bar or name of site owner turns **green**.
* Do not pay for items when using an **unsecured wi-fi** connection (e.g. cafes, bars, hotels).
* Only **bank transfer** to a company/individual you know – **bank will not refund if fraudulent**.
* Always **log out** of shopping sites on completion of payment.
* Keep **receipts** and check card and bank **statements** regularly.
* Have effective and latest internet **security software** loaded, especially on any new devices. Protect devices with **PIN numbers**.

**Review**

It is a year since the Parish Council chairman asked me to set up Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) and would welcome any feedback (pos or neg) on whether it has met your needs. I modified the format this month after a comment that it could be easier to read - still keeping to one page max. From the outset, I wanted to avoid the “curtain twitching” reputation of NHW and concentrate on useful information flow. Thank you to all who have fed in information to share with you. Merry Christmas.

Robert Mills