Dear Residents  **June 2017 – bulletin 5**

**Crime reports**

* Two cars parked at Allerthorpe Woods vandalised.
* Trailer and wall damaged at a farm near Pocklington.
* Various reports of vandalism in and around Pocklington and Market Weighton.
* Closer to home, our own The Old Bus Stop (TOBS) in Burnby vandalised and items stolen – probably the same scum who broke into the Recycling Centre office on the same night. The missing pump was replaced quickly by a local cyclist – the first aid kit and various tools/repair kit still missing. Thanks to Albert Smith for tidying it up again.

**Advice from local Police – cycle security**

* Register cycle frame numbers and pictures for free at [***www.immobilise.com***](http://www.immobilise.com)**.**
* Use two different types of lock at the same time as thieves rarely carry tools to break both.
* Keep the gap between the bike and lock small and point the lock face downwards to make it awkward for tools to be inserted.
* If stored in a shed/garage: (i) lock it; (ii) screw windows shut and/or fit mesh/bars on the inside; (iii) replace broken glass with laminated glass and make opaque; (iv) fit alarm (battery types are available); (v) fit cycle anchor bolted to wall or floor; (vi) park in well-lit area and lock both frame and wheel to stand or street furniture; (vii) do not leave out overnight.

**Scam reports – local**

Scam emails normally can be spotted easily but recent ones reported have been more convincing:

* “Barclays Online E Statement……..recent transaction statement attached.”
* “Office 365……….your profile is missing or incorrect………click here to confirm.”

**Advice from Action Fraud (National Fraud Intelligence Bureau) via Neighbourhood Watch**

* **Smishing** (means SMS phishing) – lets criminals steal money and/or identity as a result of a text message. Message often purports to be from a credit card provider saying a transaction has been approved and you need to confirm Y or N. A response means you confirm an active phone number which leads to you being enticed to provide more detail. The advice is NEVER RESPOND TO SUCH MESSAGES.
* **Wedding booking fraud**. The average wedding costs £30,111 (bridesmagazine.co.uk) -requires advance booking/payments and there are significant potential risks – credit card payments protect you up to £30K. Some companies run entirely on social media sites – get a physical address so you can verify them – consider wedding insurance. For photographs, beware of fake images (check style and consistency) – meet the photographer in person and view sample albums – if you like an image from a wedding, ask to see pictures of the whole event. **If it seems too good to be true, it probably is.**

Robert Mills