

# WAVERLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH & 'IN THE KNOW' NEWSLETTER

SURREY POLICE

OCTOBER 2018

## WELCOME

Hello and welcome to my first newsletter offering!

I have recently joined the team here at Waverley as the Borough Commander – a fantastic role which allows me to make a difference for the residents of Waverley (of which, I am one) by overseeing and directing policing in the Borough.

My ambition in this role is a very simple one –

***Making Waverley the safest place it can be.***

We all have a part to play in this ambition, whether it's by direct action of identifying offenders and bringing them to justice, by watching out for each other and reporting anything that appears out of the norm or just by wishing everyone you see a 'Hello' or 'Good Morning'.

How can this help, you ask?

Well, often people who have designs on committing crime hate being seen, so by acknowledging them it goes some way to making them uncomfortable in our community. It also has the benefit of maintaining Waverley as a friendly and welcoming borough!

Almost half way through the financial year (a calendar we use in reviewing crime figures) we see that crime trends in Waverley remain broadly similar to those of last year. We have made in-roads in tackling drug supply in the Borough with dedicated officers tackling transient drug dealers coming into the Borough, have seen a reduction of 6% in Dwelling Burglaries

Inspector Gary Smith  
**Waverley Commander**

Contacting Surrey Police

If your call is URGENT, call 999

If NON-URGENT, Call 101 or 01483  
571212(if outside the county)

Report Online at  
[www.surrey.police.uk](http://www.surrey.police.uk)

If you are hard of hearing or  
speech impaired telephone 08000  
101 (emergency) or 08001 101  
(non emergency) or text us on  
07786 204020 or 999

(Register at  
[www.emergencysms.org.uk](http://www.emergencysms.org.uk))

**In an emergency always call 999**

(offences which record burglaries in houses, garages and garden buildings) and continue to work to improve road safety.

Much of the work we complete involves working closely with partner agencies and we are fortunate to have an excellent working relationship with the borough council and local councils across Waverley.

This was clearly seen throughout the summer as the council and police were called upon to engage with people setting up Unauthorised Encampments (UE) at various locations. I appreciate that this is an emotive subject, but using the powers we have within the law we were able to collectively manage all UEs and resolve them as quickly as possible. More work continues to try and further improve the co-operation between agencies to tackle matters that affect us all and, in the years ahead, we will no doubt see increased joint working.

Now if like me, you have children, you are probably getting back into the daily routine of the school run twice a day. The long summer holidays seem a distant memory now as life settles back into the normal pattern we all know (and love?!) For many, this will involve a short journey in the car to complete the drop-off/pick-up and as such, September often sees an increase in traffic on the roads around the start of the day and mid-afternoon. This, together with darker mornings and evenings or a momentary lapse of concentration can lead to an increase in traffic collisions on our roads. So to prevent this becoming an issue, please consider leaving enough time to complete your journey safely (never easy when the little ones don't want to get dressed/put their shoes on/get out of the door!), think about what other road users are likely to do so you can avoid the consequences of their bad driving and always leave enough space between you and the vehicle in front – as a national campaign running at the moment about tailgating states – 'Don't be a Space Invader!'

Thank you for taking the time to peruse this newsletter – feel free to pass it on to anyone else you think may like to know a little more about what we do and how we do it. We couldn't do much of the work we do without your support, help and engagement (whether saying that cheery 'Hello' as our paths cross, or by contacting us to provide information about a situation out of the norm).

If you have any comments or questions about policing in Waverley, please feel free to contact the team by any of the methods shown in the Newsletter.

In the meantime, I thank you all for your ongoing support and look forward to working with you in the years ahead.

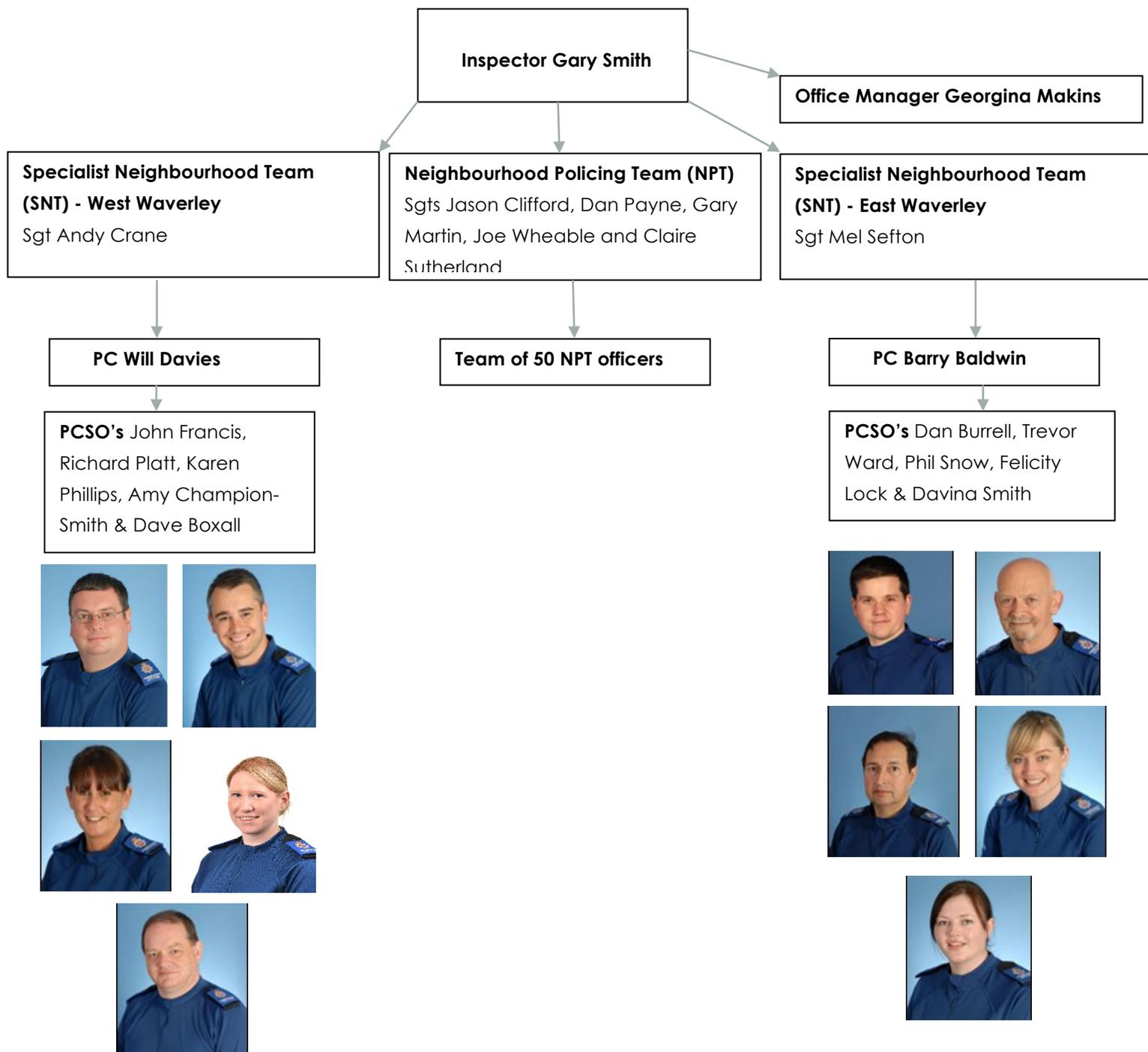
*Gary J. Smith*

Inspector 3042 Smith

Waverley Borough Commander



## Your Waverley Neighbourhood Police Team



# Waverley Good Work

## 2018

### April

A Waverley

youngster was constantly coming to the notice of the local police team for engaging in anti-social behavior. A voluntary placement was found for him, helping at an old people's home. He was amazing, he just needed to find his niche and some direction. He has not come to police notice since.

### June

Local team work with partner agencies stopped the issue of youths climbing on the roofs of shops and other buildings in Godalming from escalating.

PC Baldwin achieved his 5<sup>th</sup> closure order on yet another property of a tenant who was engaging in anti-social behavior.

Males were arrested following a visit to an address in Farnham where cuckooing was believed to have taken place. (Cuckooing describes a situation where a drug dealer befriends a vulnerable person, then takes over their home and uses it for dealing and/or using drugs).

Officers engaged in a rural crime prevention push with farms and country estates.

PCSO Burrell did a presentation to deaf and blind people in the community about his role as a Disability Support Officer.

### July

PCSO Lock was able to galvanise support from partner agencies and charities in rescuing some horses which had been abandoned in a field, starving and with no water. Without her intervention the chances are these horses may have died.

### August

PC Russ Burton dealt with a 16 year old boy that had a range of learning difficulties, and had assaulted his mother, then left the address with a knife whilst threatening to kill himself. During an area search, Russ came across the young man and engaged with him. On being threatened with the knife, Russ maintained a following distance on foot whilst giving directions to others – which went down a long narrow alley along a train line. Eventually, Russ pressed his emergency button when he was threatened again with the knife and managed to subdue the male with the use of PAVA spray, meaning nobody was hurt. It was a good team effort with everyone playing a part to keep control and make the situation safe, the community safe and the young man himself safe from harm.

## **September**

When a hire car failed to stop for officers in Farnham, this was followed by a 15 minute pursuit through Bordon and Hindhead, eventually ending in the subject vehicle crashing and two persons were detained. The driver was drug driving and the passenger had around £2000 of drugs in his trousers, clearly running county lines from east London. It was another great team effort that lead to another great result.

Two officers stopped a pair of caravans being towed in Farnham, which seemed to have been stolen earlier from Arundel. The front van had its cowling ripped out and appeared to have been hotwired, and the rear vehicle contained a damaged locking system which had obviously been removed. One officer noticed the rear plate had no screws in so had likely been stuck on and compared it to the VIN plate showing it was a fake. Two persons were arrested for theft of motor vehicle.

# News

Did you know that whilst we no longer have police stations dotted around the borough, we still maintain a network of police offices in all of the main towns in Waverley to ensure that officers are working within the community and are able to respond to incidents as they occur.

Police posts are maintained at Godalming Council Offices, Farnham Fire Station, Cranleigh Leisure Centre and at the Council Offices in Haslemere. Whilst there are no facilities for public access to these buildings, the divisional police station, based at Guildford, remains available for any face to face discussion you need to have with Surrey Police.

In addition, you can still contact the police for non-emergency matters via the Surrey Police Website ([www.surrey.police.uk](http://www.surrey.police.uk)) or by calling 101.

The borough policing team consists of two key strands managed by the Borough Commander – The Neighbourhood Policing Team or NPT (formerly the Area Patrol Team) and the Specialist Neighbourhood Team or SNT.

Together, this means we have 50 response officers, 10 Police Community Support Officers, 2 Neighbourhood Specialist Officers and 2 Neighbourhood Sergeants dedicated to policing the borough of Waverley.

The Specialist Neighbourhood Team currently start and finish their shifts from the police offices at Godalming and Farnham to ensure both sides of the borough are supported and have a policing presence. This has proven to be very successful with more time being spent tackling the issues faced in each area.

We are always keen to hear your views as to what you would like from the police and, wherever possible, balance these with the resources we have available.

### **ATM Thefts**

Over recent months, we have seen several sites across the borough attacked and cash machines removed. Unfortunately, this is not something new and there have been previous spates of ATM thefts across the country. Work continues on several fronts to reduce the opportunity that individuals have to commit such crime (national work with the ATM owners/manufacturers to improve security, down to local officer visits to sites that may be targeted).

In addition to work that the police and partners undertake, everyone has a part to play in this with any crime that occurs, by reporting anything you see that you consider suspicious. Not every call we receive will create an immediate response to the scene, but officers will be deployed to tackle any crime in action.

### **Vehicle Nuisance**

Whether it's inconsiderate parking or speeding through the borough, vehicle nuisance continues to be a problem we all face. Often, the people causing these issues are members of our local community rather than people passing through the borough.

The Waverley borough team will be continuing work in the coming months to raise awareness of the concerns and dangers that arise from vehicle nuisance in a bid to increase knowledge and to tackle the issue. We will work with the Surrey Fire and Rescue Service to deliver targeted training to new drivers, continue to support national and local educational campaigns and, where necessary and proportionate, target offenders through the court system.

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My team of dedicated officers continue to work hard to serve local residents and help make Waverley one of the safest places in the UK to live.

**They work hard for you and value your support immensely.**

We will continue to work hard on investigating and detecting crime, listening and supporting all victims of crime including our vulnerable and hard to reach groups.

I am both pleased and proud to say that Waverley is one of the safest places in the UK to live and with your continued help and support we will keep it that way.

*Gary J. Smith*

Waverley Borough Commander

## **IN THE KNOW**

Find out what is happening in your area - witness appeals, crime updates, crime prevention advice and news.

It's specific to your interests and local area; from reliable sources; and you're in control of how often you are contacted and who you receive information from. **Sign up now at [www.intheknow.community](http://www.intheknow.community)**

### **What is it about?**

Once you've joined InTheKnow community you will get updates from your local police and Neighbourhood Watch.

In the future, we hope you'll be able to receive updates from other community organisations as well. Updates are sent by email or occasionally by text message and are tailored to you based on where you live and what you are interested in.

InTheKnow.Community is provided by Surrey Police and Sussex Police. It is part of the National Neighbourhood Alert network.

### **When do I get updates?**

We will send you updates whenever there is information that is relevant to you. This could be because it has happened near to you, or because we think it will be useful to you (because of your interests or business). You are in control. If you feel you are receiving too many messages, you can change your settings so that you receive a digest, or if you need to turn off the notifications for a while (perhaps if you go on holiday) you can do that too!

## **CUCKOOING**

### **Are you living next door to drug dealers? Ever heard of 'Cuckooing'?**

'Cuckooing' is where professional criminals target the homes of vulnerable people to be used for drug dealing and manufacture. Dealers often approach the vulnerable person offering free drugs to use their home for dealing. These criminals are very selective about who they target as 'cuckoo' victims - a lot of the time victims are lonely, isolated, are frequent drug users themselves and are already known to the police.

'Cuckooing' means the criminals can operate from an unobtrusive property, which is out of sight, making it an attractive option. They can then use the premises to deal and manufacture drugs in an environment under the police radar, usually staying for just one day. When the criminals use the victim's property for criminal enterprises, the inhabitants become terrified of going to the police for fear of being suspected of involvement in drug dealing or being identified as a member of the group, which would result in their eviction from the property.

Below are some important signs to look out for if you feel you are living within or near a property used to deal drugs, or if you are concerned about your property as a landlord or property manager.

## Stay aware and spot potential signs of drug dealers near you.

### Signs to look out for:

- Usually takes place in a multi-occupancy or social housing property;
- An increase in the number of coming and goings;
- Offenders will often have new vehicles outside the property or hire cars;
- Possible increase in anti-social behaviour in and around the property;
- Disengagement with support services;
- Professionals visiting may be aware of new unidentified persons in the property.

**If you think you have spotted a drugs 'cuckoo' or are concerned about drug-related crime where you live**, call police on 101 or report online at <https://www.surrey.police.uk/contact-us/report-online/>

Only use 999 in an emergency situation, where life is in immediate danger or a crime is in progress.

If you don't want to speak to the police directly, you can call the anonymous Crimestoppers charity on 0800 555 111.

### **Important information for landlords and property managers:**

Under the **Misuse of Drugs Act 1971**, landlords or property managers can receive up to 14 years' imprisonment or a substantial fine for having drugs at their property;

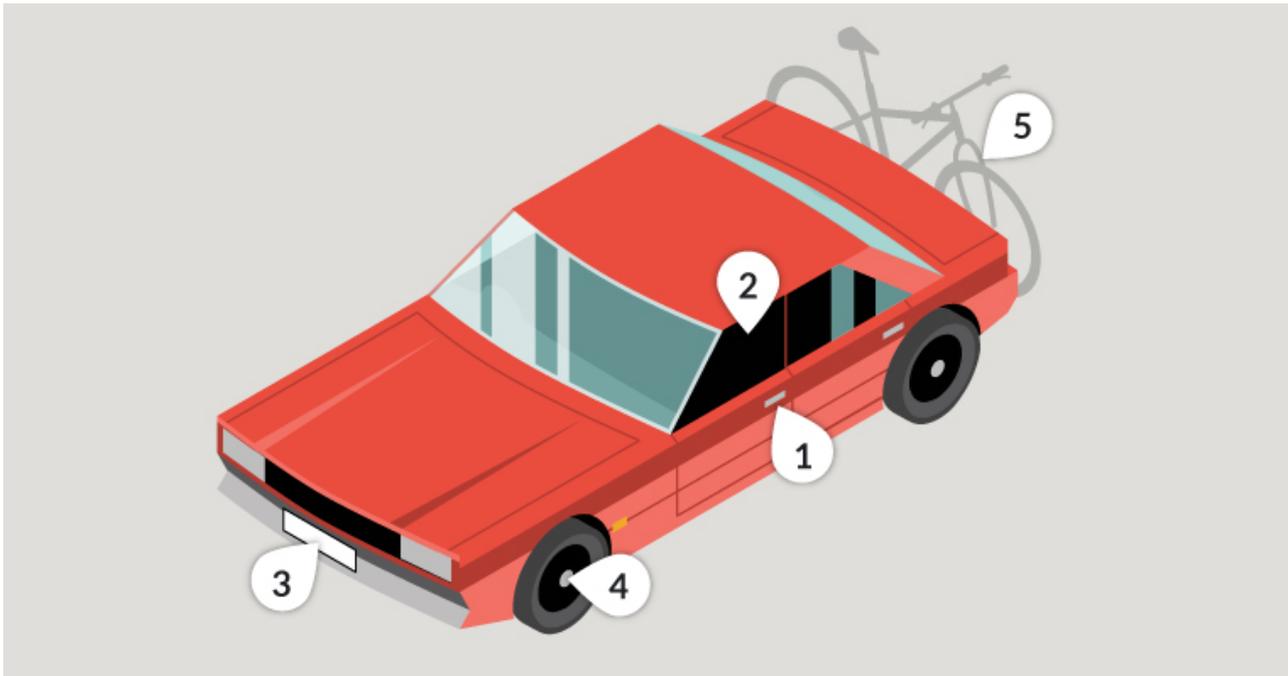
The property may be seized or forfeited as well as prosecuted for money laundering; Receive a Crack House Closure: **(Section.2(3) ASBA 2003)**.

## VEHICLE CRIME

### How to keep your vehicle safe and sound

Having your car or van broken into and losing your possessions to thieves can be very distressing.

Here are a few simple steps you can take to keep your vehicle, and what's in it, safe.



1.

#### **Always lock it**

Fuelling up or popping back into your house to get something are perfect examples of how easy it is to turn your back for a moment and forget that your vehicle is unsecured. Get into the habit of locking your vehicle even if you're only going to be away from it for a moment.

#### **2. Close windows and the sun roof to prevent 'fishing'**

Leaving windows and the sunroof open invites fishing for items through the gap by hand or with something like a bent coat hanger, which could also be used to unlock a door for them to get in. Thieves can be very clever. Don't give them the opportunity.

#### **3. Secure your number plates with tamper-resistant screws**

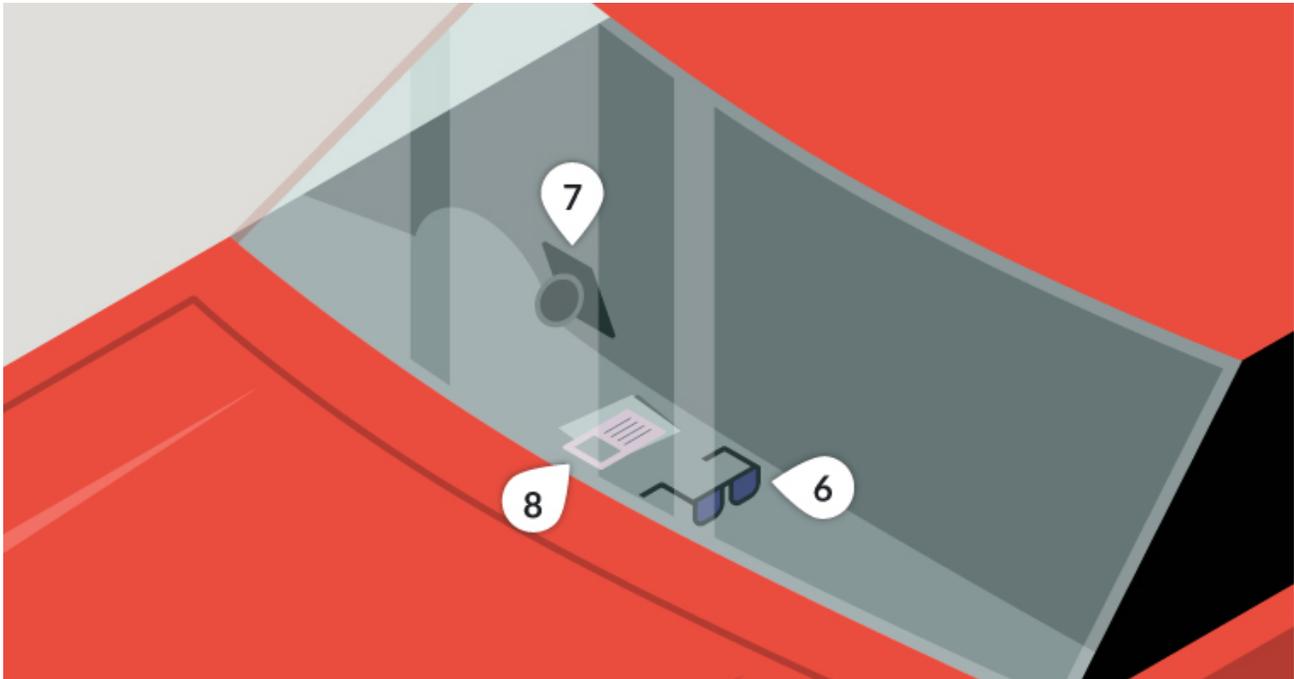
The easiest way to change the identity of a stolen vehicle or avoid speeding tickets and parking tickets is to fit stolen number plates. Using security screws to attach your vehicle's number plates makes it harder for thieves to get your number.

#### **4. Fit locking, anti-tamper wheel nuts to secure alloy wheels**

Stolen wheels are valuable, either as parts or for their scrap value. Using locking wheel nuts reduces the risk of your vehicle's wheels being stolen. Besides, your vehicle will always look better on wheels than on a pile of bricks.

### **5. Secure anything that's on the outside of your vehicle**

Anything left on roof-racks, tailgate racks, holiday top boxes or in tool chests are easily stolen when the vehicle is parked. The use of cable locks, padlocks and self-locking tools chests, which are secured to the vehicle, makes them more secure, but still, don't leave things in them if you can avoid it.



### **6. Take it with you or hide it**

Your mobile phone, coins for the car park, sunglasses, packs of medication or other items that can earn quick cash are irresistible to the opportunist thief. Remember, the cost of replacing a window is often much more than that of what's stolen. And it should go without saying that wallets, handbags, purses and credit cards should never be left in an unattended vehicle.

### **7. Hide electrical items and leave no clues**

Leaving sat nav mounts, suction cup marks on windows or cables on view gives it away that you have left a sat nav, smartphone or other device in your car. Even if they can't see the sat nav or iPad they might still break in to see if it's stored in the car, out of sight.

### **8. Take your documents with you**

Having a vehicle's registration and insurance documents could let a thief pretend to be the owner, which means they could sell it on quite easily. So never leave any documents in the vehicle.



### **9. Park in well-lit and busier areas**

It can take less than 30 seconds to break into a vehicle. Parking in well-lit areas and busy streets increases the chances of a thief being seen, so they'll probably steer clear.

### **11. Remove Tools**

It takes a thief only seconds to steal your tools and possibly your livelihood. Please remove them at night. Many insurance companies will not pay out if you leave your tools in your van overnight.

### **12. Permanently mark your tools.**

Make it harder for them to be resold at car boot sales and the like. Use paint, varnish, engraving or similar to make them undesirable to sell on.

### **10. Choose your car park wisely**

If possible, always try to park in well-lit and staffed car parks or under street lights in full view of others.