



Important Security Information



Neighbourhood Watch and Terling and Fairstead Parish Council

Dear Resident

You are no doubt aware of the spate of burglaries plaguing our villages. The Police are working to apprehend the thieves and they need our help to make our properties as safe as possible and to report any suspicious activities and details of any crimes.

Reporting Suspicious Activities and Crimes

If you see a crime in progress call 999 or use the Relay UK app if you have hearing difficulties. If you see suspicious activities, such as strangers looking into houses, vehicles driving slowly, groups of strangers wandering the street at night, call 101 or use the Replay UK app to inform the Police. You may not see immediate Police activity, but it does not mean they have no interest. The information you provide may help to paint a picture of the thieves.

On the last page of this document you will find spaces to record information as you notice it.

Vans and Lorries

Not all “white vans” are delivery drivers, not all vans marked with seemingly legitimate business livery are what they seem. If they are cruising around and looking suspicious, take down their details.

Home and Outbuilding Security

Most of the burglaries have been from outbuildings, sheds and garages. The following information taken from the Essex Police and Neighbourhood Watch websites may help you make these places more secure.

Keep the doors locked

Sounds simple, but many people leave outbuildings unlocked.

Fit good quality padlocks and door locks

Use padlocks and door locks that conform to British Standards, look for the Kite Mark and the British Standard Number.

Fit locks to a strong frame and door. There is no point in fitting good locks to weak doors.



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Shed and Garage Windows

These give a good view of what is inside and are easy to break.

Fit reinforced plastic sheets on the inside of the window frame; it will obscure the view of the inside and be far more difficult to break than just glass.

Exterior Lighting

Consider movement detection lighting. This should be fitted high enough so it or the cables cannot be attacked. They can be fitted to the outside of buildings which have power.

Battery and solar rechargeable models are also available at DIY stores.

Alarms

If you have a house intruder alarm it may be possible to have it extended to your outbuildings. Contact your alarm supplier for more details.

Consider using a shed alarm, these are available as mains or battery powered models. Choose one that is loud, 80 decibels or higher.

Gates

If they have bolts, keep them bolted.

If possible fit a lock, either a padlock or mortice lock – and don't forget to lock it! It may not stop an intruder, but it will make entry more difficult and noisier.

Perimeters

Take a look at the way thieves may get into your garden or grounds. Lockable gates are good, so are fences. Consider planting thorny bushes in areas that cannot be easily protected; Pyracantha is a good deterrent. Garden centres will be able to advise you.

Drive ways and Paths

Gravel drive ways are a good security measure, they are noisy when walked on, so if you are thinking of changing your drive you may wish to keep, or change, to a loose gravel surface.

Hedges and Fences

While a high hedge or fence provides privacy for you, it also shields burglars from view. Consider reducing the height of hedges and fences.



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Intruder Alarms

If you have a house intruder alarm, do not forget to set it when you leave your home. If it is zoned so that you can set the downstairs zone when you go to bed, that is even better.

If you see a crime taking place, either on your property or a neighbour's phone 999 and then press your alarm panic button to set off your alarm.

Going Away?

There are a few things that you can do to keep your home safer:

- If you are leaving a car at home, back it up to your garage door or garden gate.
- Ask neighbours to keep watch on your property and perhaps open and close your curtains, clear the mail from your delivery box or front door.
- If you are going away for some time, ask someone to cut your front lawn.
- Set a few lights on timers. Plug-in timers are quite cheap. Set them to come on about dusk and go off about midnight. If the timer has a random function, use it to make it look as if you are moving from room to room.
- Set the radio on a timer and/or purchase a TV imitator, which makes it look from the outside that you are watching TV.

Mark your property

There are a number of property-marking systems available, such as ultraviolet pens, scribes for metal and SmartWater. These may not prevent a theft, but if the Police find your goods in someone else's possession it will help to prove they were stolen. Additionally, if the Police are able to recover stolen goods they will know to whom to return them.

Contact Details

Crime in progress: call 999.

Suspicion activity: You do not have to give your name and address if you do not wish to.

Call 101 or 18001 on Textphone or using the Rely UK App on your mobile phone

Essex Police website www.essex.police.uk

Crimestoppers: www.crimestoppers-uk.org or 0800 555 111

Consider joining the Terling Village Hub at www.facebook.com/groups/877588049051840/ and/or the Terling and Fairstead Neighbourhood Watch, go to <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk> and click on "Join us".



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Incident Record

Please use this form to note anything suspicious and then inform the Police or Crimestoppers

Date	Time
Vehicle Make:	Vehicle Type: Car / Van / Lorry
Registration Number:	Colour:
Any names or markings:	
What is suspicious?	
Number of People:	Approximate Ages:
Height:	Hair Colour:
Build	Nationality:
Colour of Trousers or skirt	Colour of Top:
Colour of Coat:	Shoes type and Colour:
Anything else?	
What is suspicious?	
Did you get CCTV images or photographs? If so, you can give them to the Police when you report the incident	
Date and Time reported	