

## **Crime Prevention talk given by**

**Tom Ridley** (crime prevention officer from Wiltshire police)

Home security – This was divided into three areas.

### **The Perimeter** of your property

Fences need to be well maintained so they don't look easy to get through. A determined thief will get over whatever they are like but an opportunist will look for an easier target.

If possible ensure any gates are difficult to climb.

Hedges need to be low enough so that a possible intruder can be seen by passers by or neighbours.

Motion sensitive lighting is really only useful if it lights an area that can be seen by neighbours and passers by. Low-level light dawn to dusk allows natural surveillance and is recommended.

### **Shell** (the walls windows and doors)

Solid doors are the best option. Avoid glass in or around the door unless it is high spec security glass. 5 lever mortise locks are the most secure.

Window an additional lock is recommended, but keep the key out of reach.

Defensive plants (roses or any prickly plant) in front of windows are another incentive for the thief to look for a more likely target.

A Smartwater sticker can also be a deterrent.

Avoid things that help access through ground floor windows, bins garden furniture, bricks to aid breaking the glass etc.

Padlocks on outbuildings need to be closed shank so they cannot be cut. The fitting also needs to be sturdy, not falling off or fixed to rotten wood.

Don't leave keys outside. The thieves tend to be 'professionals' and know where to look.

### **Inside**

Don't have the key rack in view or near doors.

High value possessions can be marked with Smartwater alternatively their serial numbers can put on the Immobilise web site.

Beware of distraction burglaries. If the back door is locked when you answer the front door this gives you more protection

CCTV and alarms are not necessarily very effective. It is better to have an alarm system that is monitored.

### **Links:**

Secured by design

Immobilise

Crimeprevention

If a crime is happening then **999** calls should be responded to within 10 minutes. If Wiltshire have no police near South Gloucester may be able help.

**101** to report a crime, you will be put through to the appropriate department

**Crimestoppers** for adults & **Fearless** for children

If you want to report a crime but are worried about repercussions you can be sure that you will be anonymous.

To get permission for CCTV in public places you need to show a real need such as persistent vandalism.

Information keeper is needed to look after the footage and it needs to be kept in secure storage

Access to recordings must be made available to anyone who has been recorded.

There must be clear signage that a CCTV is in use.

Cheap CCTV is a waste of time.

Visible vigilance, local people keeping an eye on the site are more effective.

NHW is separate from police. The community association can resurrect it but the system already in place works well so is it needed?

Vulnerable people with overgrown gardens are very obvious targets. Good neighbours helping them out can prevent this.

The Bobby Van can visit anyone to give them advice on their home security; this is a very good free service.