

CRAYKE
GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME
(A Neighbourhood Watch)

The Good Neighbour

The objective of the CGNS is to ensure Crayke is a crime free, secure village. Experience, elsewhere, has shown the best way to achieve this is for each Good Neighbour Scheme member to:-

- a) Be aware of and respond to the risk of crime
- b) Effectively secure their own property against criminal intent
- c) Report all suspicious activity to the Police
- d) Act with their neighbours to protect each other's property

CGNS helps to achieve this by advising how to protect your home and your property. It has close links with the Police, is registered with them and is notified automatically whenever criminal activity is detected in the area.

Responding to the Risk of Crime

Where news reports show reports of crime, we seldom relate this to ourselves until we, personally, suffer the effect. Then it's too late.

The intrusion has taken place, irreplaceable

personal possessions have been lost and your peace of mind is shattered for years to come.

Full awareness of the risks involved is the best safeguard.

Only with such knowledge can we hope to remain vigilant and alert.

CGNS receives and coordinates information from the Police and other Neighbourhood Watch Schemes and passes it on to members via a Coordinator.

We can only abolish crime and fear of crime by noting what is happening to others and by our own actions ensuring such things never happen to us.

Securing Your Property

Thieves are usually opportunists, who try to reduce their risks by going for easy targets. They are not usually local people. They enter an area looking for tell-tale signs that there is no one at home e.g. milk on the step, newspapers in the letter box, post or parcels on the step, notes on the door, empty wheelie bins left outside, no sound in the house, no lights on early in the evening, no cars in the drive, or garage etc. They may then try to confirm their suspicions by knocking on the door and, if it's answered will give an excuse, such as asking for a drink of water, directions to somewhere, or offer to sell you some dusters etc.

It is, therefore, sensible to make life as difficult as possible for the potential criminal by always making sure the house is properly secured and looks and sounds as if someone is at home. Don't forget, security applies to sheds and garages too. Just think of the valuable equipment stored inside.

Having good locks fitted to all doors and windows is essential. Always keep the doors locked, even when you're at home.

Every time you leave your home, check all doors and windows are locked. Even if you're just popping next door, mowing the lawn, or taking a shower, make sure everything is properly secure. It only takes seconds for a bogus salesman, for example, to try your door, find it open and steal your handbag, purse, wallet, or other valuables.

* **Locks** - Inexpensive locks are available for every kind of door and window. If you can't afford them for every accessible window, fit them to the most vulnerable first.

A security deadlock is desirable for all external doors, but essential for your main exit door. At least, on other than the main exit door, fit security bolts top and bottom. They're much cheaper than security deadlocks, but will effectively stop a door being forced open. For extra security on doors, fit hinge bolts, as well.

* **Time Switches** - use them to switch on lights and a radio. Consider leaving a radio playing whenever the house is unoccupied.

* **Security Lighting** - can be a valuable deterrent. Sensors can switch lights on automatically and certain types provide more advanced functions. Your Coordinator can advise you.

* **Marking Property** - Property stolen has a better chance of being recovered and returned to you if it can be identified. You can mark your possessions with a SMARTWATER kit, available via your Coordinator at the concessionary price of £25. Police will then know where to return your stolen possessions and a SMARTWATER sticker on your door, or window is a real deterrent to criminals

Marking is quick, simple and practically invisible to the naked eye. Don't forget to mark things in the shed and garage, such as a lawnmower, hedge cutter and garden furniture. Thieves find a ready market for them. Also, they are easier to steal and don't involve breaking into a house. Marking your car radio/stereo equipment will give you a much better chance of getting it back if stolen.

Photographing valuable possessions is also a good idea, as it can help with any insurance claim.

* **Burglar Alarms** - Burglars are mainly opportunist thieves, avoiding houses posing a high risk of detection and choosing to burgle those that look easier. A burglar alarm is a major deterrent. Different types are available, to suit a range of budgets. Ideally, choose one to be installed by an approved supplier, where you can claim a useful discount on your Home Insurance. If the cost of this is too high for your budget, then a DIY alarm is

an alternative. Some types link the components by wireless and are very easy to fit. However, do make sure you have the siren part of the system out of reach, in a prominent place on an outside wall.

Advice is available from the Crime Prevention Officer at Northallerton Police HQ, or your Insurance Company.

Remember, CGNS has a Burglar Alarm you can borrow at no charge.

*** Taking Care of Cars** - Cars are at risk whenever they are left unattended. Lock your car every time you leave it. Ensure all windows are fully closed. Take with you anything that may look attractive to a thief, or lock it away out-of-sight in the boot. Remember to remove the satnav, phone, radio (or it's removable panel), as thefts of these are quite common. If it isn't possible to garage the car, or when parking, try to leave it in a well-lit place. For extra security, fit an anti-theft device and/or immobiliser. Have the registration number etched on all windows and sunroof - your insurer may well pay for this to be done.

*** Sheds and Garages** - These are increasingly being targeted by thieves. You'll be surprised just how much value lies in them. It's worth protecting their security as you would for your house. Don't forget, if the thief can't see what's inside, he may not be tempted. Obscuring the windows can be simple, inexpensive and worthwhile.

*** More Information** - Your Coordinator will provide you with advice on security devices for the complete protection of your property. But, only you can exercise the necessary vigilance - BY REPORTING ALL SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY.

If you see someone breaking into a house, garage, shed, car, or committing some other offence:-

IMMEDIATELY DIAL 999 AND ASK FOR POLICE

If the actions are less specific, e.g. an unknown person taking a suspicious interest in someone`s property, suspicious callers at the door etc., ring the number below. If YOU get a gut feeling that something`s not quite right, invariably YOU will be correct. At this stage PLEASE phone the number below. The Police say “ If you get it wrong it doesn`t matter. It`s better to get it wrong than do nothing at all”.

RING THE POLICE ON 101

In either case be prepared to:-

- a) Say you`re a member of the Crayke Neighbourhood Watch
- b) Give your name, address and telephone number
- c) Say what you consider to be suspicious and describe
 - Person/People/Property involved
 - Individual characteristics/distinguishing features

- d) Describe any motor vehicle involved or suspected
 - Registration Number
 - Make, colour, type (e.g. saloon, hatch-back, van, pick-up etc.)
 - Direction of travel, or direction where facing

Make a note of the information you give to the Police, either before or after speaking to them and hand it to your Coordinator to pass to the Chairman for follow-up.

The information lets CGNS check the Police took prompt action and is a record of activity which can be passed to other local Neighbourhood Watch groups, if appropriate.

If for any reason your Coordinator is unavailable, please contact another Coordinator, or the Chairman, for advice.

Don't be afraid of wasting valuable Police time, should your call prove to be a false alarm. If you have a gut feeling something's wrong, it probably is. The Police would rather check all suspicious circumstances than miss the chance of catching a criminal, or preventing a crime taking place. You won't find yourself involved. You'll just be acting as a good citizen and helping the Police to be more effective.

Acting together with your Neighbours

The good neighbour principle isn't meant to be intrusive, quite the opposite. It's a two way

arrangement, which is at its most effective when a person isn't available to safeguard their property themselves.

Make a habit of letting your neighbour know when you'll be away and where and how to contact you in an emergency. This will sharpen your neighbour's perception of any unusual activity concerning your property and help your peace of mind, knowing that someone is keeping an eye on things in your absence. Each neighbour benefits in turn and it eliminates the lapses, which might otherwise occur, in the security of property when no one's at home.

A Good Neighbour will remove post from behind doors (to avoid a tell-tale build up), return empty wheelie bins to their usual place. It may also be neighbourly to water those precious plants. Many such friendly relationships already exist, without becoming onerous or intrusive in any way.

Actively Promoting Interest

It is a fundamental CGNS belief that no crime prevention scheme can be a lasting success unless members belong to a friendly, active and caring community. We therefore encourage you to participate in and promote community interests. For our part, we will always seek to cooperate fully with other village organisations.

Other Benefits of Membership

- a) Usually a discount on your Home Insurance.
- b) A discount on the installation of a Burglar Alarm

Please don't hesitate to contact your Coordinator, if there is anything at all you would like to discuss, or have clarified.

Your Coordinator is

and can be contacted at

.....

or by telephone on

DISCOUNTS FOR CGNS MEMBERS

(You'll be required to show your Membership Card)

1. Security Products
Under re-negotiation

2. Burglar Alarms
A 5% Discount is offered on the cost of installation by **Minster Alarms**, Suncliffe House, New Lane, Huntington, York YO32 9NQ (Tel: 01904 466400)
www.minsteralarms.co.uk
The discount is not applicable to maintenance charges.

Appendix 1 Summary of Home Security

Front Door - Fit a 5 lever BS Mortice Deadlock, and bolts at the top & bottom. Also, consider fitting a Door Viewer & Security Chain for extra protection.

Rear/side Door – As for front door. DO NOT just rely on a Yale lock. You may also consider hinge bolts on all external doors.

French Windows - Fit as above, plus bolts top & bottom. Hinge bolts can provide extra security.

Patio Doors - Fit special patio door locks and a patio locking bar to the sliding part.

Ground Floor Windows - Fit locks to all ground floor windows, at the very least to those at the rear.

Upstairs Windows and Skylights - At least fit locks to any upstairs window accessible via a drainpipe, or flat roof - preferably to all windows.

Garage - Fit a door lock, or padlock and a locking bar. For wooden doors special mortice locks are available (single key for both locks), to be fitted, either side, near the bottom. Fit window locks, blinds, or obscuring film, so the contents can't be seen through the windows.

Garden shed - Advice is similar to the garage. N.B. Shed Alarms are very cheap!

Burglar Alarm - An excellent deterrent. Very few homes with an alarm are burgled.

Appendix 2 VEHICLE SECURITY

Always Lock your vehicle when leaving it. Even outside your house, or on the drive. Overnight, park it in a locked garage wherever possible. It's rare for a vehicle to be stolen from a locked garage. If you're unable to garage it, where possible, park it in a driveway and consider security lighting.
NEVER LEAVE ANYTHING IN VIEW INSIDE THE CAR

Parking Away From Home - Think carefully about where you park, particularly in the evening, or at night. Try to choose the most secure location. Avoid remote, unlit or shaded areas of a car park. If possible choose a place where people pass, or which is overlooked.

Security Devices available:-

Immobilisers - Disable the electronics, or fuel system. Most cars now have them as standard.

Car Alarms - Vary in sophistication and price. Again, most recent cars have them fitted as standard.

Car Locators - Can usually only be justified on more valuable cars. They allow the location of a stolen vehicle to be instantly detected.

Simpler and cheaper devices:-

Steering Locks/Bars/Covers - Can be fixed to prevent the car being driven away.

Pedal locks - Lock the brake pedal to the steering wheel.

Gear locks - Lock the gear lever to the hand brake.

Lockable Fuel Caps - Prevent the siphoning of fuel.

Window Etching - Makes your vehicle much less attractive to steal. It usually involves the vehicle registration number being neatly etched on all glass. Many Insurance Companies are prepared to pay for it to be done. Why not ask yours about it?

Radio/CD/Cassette/Satnav/Phone – Where possible remove it (or radio's removable front), when parked outside overnight and at other times when it could be at risk. Also, mark them with SMARTWATER.

Locking Wheel Nuts - Are a worthwhile investment, especially for expensive alloy wheels. More recent vehicles may have them as standard.

Appendix 3 Home - “Always Do It” Check List

Always mark valuable property with Smartwater, or Crimestoppers Property Protector.

Always lock doors, even when you’re at home - this includes the garage and shed.

Always make sure the house looks as if someone’s at home - during the day, evening and at night.

Always check all doors and windows are locked - before you leave the house.

Always set the Burglar Alarm before you leave.

Always tell your neighbours when you’ll be away from home.

Always cancel newspapers etc., before going away.

Always ask a neighbour to take in Wheelie Bins & anything else that could indicate you’re not at home.

Always chain and padlock ladders etc. in your garage, or shed. A Burglar will be disappointed to find a ladder’s unusable!

Always chain and padlock valuable garden furniture, when in a Summer House, or shed. Chains and padlocks are inexpensive.

Always fit a padlock to the filler of an outside oil

tank. Oil theft is not uncommon in our area.
Fitting a gauge with a “low oil” alarm in the house is
a good idea.

Appendix 4 Home - “Never Do It” Check List

Never leave external doors unlocked.

Never leave windows open when you're out.

Never leave keys in doors.

Never leave any keys in reach, or in sight of a window.

Never leave your garage, or shed, unlocked when unattended.

Never leave valuables in sight from a window, or where they can be easily stolen.

Never leave a handbag, or wallet in view from a window.

Never allow unknown people into your house.

Never buy from door-to-door salesmen - support your local businesses.

Never leave notes stuck to doors, or windows, saying when you'll be back home.

Never let the house look unoccupied. Leave a radio and lights on and use time switches, thoughtfully.

Never forget to set time switches for your lights and a radio before going away.

Appendix 5 Check List for your Vehicle

Never leave the car unlocked, or with the windows open - even outside your house or, in the drive.

Never leave the keys in the ignition when the car is unattended - even for a very short time.

Never leave articles on view in the car. Take them with you, or lock them away out-of-sight.

Never leave money, credit cards, or a cheque book, in the car.

Never leave vehicle documents in the car.

Always use a garage if you have one.

Always seek a safe, well-lit, location when parking at night.

Always consider safety when parking in the daytime.

Always remove a Satnav when in a parking place, however safe the place may seem and always when it's dark. **Never** leave anything that can be removed in view.

Always use a supplementary security device, if you have one i.e. steering, gear stick, or brake lock.

Appendix 6 - Suspicious Incidents

A suspicious incident is something you think is out-of-the-ordinary e.g. a youth walking up a neighbour's path with a bag in his hand when they're away on holiday; removal men emptying a neighbour's house when they've not mentioned to anyone they plan to move. Or people (possibly in a car, or van) taking an undue interest in a particular property, or neighbour's vehicle.

As a member of a Neighbourhood Watch you should report to the Police these and any other incidents that make you suspicious. Do it straight away **by dialling 101**

You'll be aware of local people and deliverymen within your area and these people shouldn't arouse suspicion.

Note as Many of the Following Details as Possible:-

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Sex | Scars/Hair |
| Age, Height | Accent |
| Build | Eye type & colour |
| Colour/Ethnic origin | Beard/Moustache |
| Spectacles, or not | Tattoos |
| Clothing type | Cap, or hat |

Left/right handed

Anything unusual

STRANGERS AT THE DOOR - CHECK IDENTITY

If in doubt phone:-

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Accuread | 0800 393 499 |
| BritishGas/Scottish Gas Sales Reps. | 0800 300 100 |
| BritishGas/Scottish Gas Meter Readers | 0800 393 499 |
| BT | 0800 321 999 |
| Meter Reading Plus Services | 0800 073 0030 |
| nPower | 0800 073 3000 |
| Powergen | 01159 066 000 |
| Scottish & Southern Energy | 0800 300 000 |
| Siemens Energy Services | 0115 906 6000 |
| Transco | 0845 605 6677 |
| Virgin Home Energy | 0800 085 0000 |
| Yorkshire Water | 0845 124 2424 |

Other Important Numbers:

| | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Police (non-urgent) | 101 |
| Police (urgent) | 999 |

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| CrimeStoppers (Confidential) | 0800 555 111 |
| Age Concern | 01904 621 020 |
| Drugs Hotline (Confidential) | 0800 526 475 |
| Relate (Marriage Guidance) | 01904 625 971 |
| Samaritans | 01904 655 888 |
| Trading Standards | 0845 330 3313 |

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| | |
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