

Longwick/Ilmer/Owlswick and Little Meadle NHW Area

Alert message 11/11/2021 Darker Nights - Timely reminders

At Home.

Keep front and back doors locked at all times and keep keys and valuables out of sight and reach from cat flaps, letterboxes and downstairs doors and windows.

Close, and ideally lock, all windows when you are not in the room - approximately one in four burglaries in the county still happen because doors have been left unlocked or windows left open.

If it is dark before you get home, use timer switches to turn on the lights - change the times that lights come on, to create the illusion that someone is moving around inside the house. Plug-in-to dawn lights are also popular

Make sure your door is well lit and fully visible from the street - dusk to dawn lamp adaptors are available from DIY stores

Check existing lighting is in good working order and replace any faulty equipment - remember to check batteries in torches and smoke alarms.

Keep shrubbery and hedges at the front of the house pruned to below one metre- remove any cover for a burglar to work unseen and give your neighbours every chance to spot something suspicious. Keep curtains closed at night - if you are away, ask a trusted neighbour to close them for you and open them again in the morning.

On cold mornings never leave your car unattended with the engine running to defrost the windows because when you come out again it may not be there.

Assess your property's perimeter and check it is secure. Cut back overgrown hedges and repair broken fences and gates.

Secure sheds and outbuildings with good padlocks and consider fitting alarms. Lock all tools and ladders away securely.

When out and about:

When out in your car, look out for car parks that are monitored and remove all items from your vehicles when you leave it.

Do not leave your keys in the ignitions, even when filling up with fuel or popping to the shop because you may find your car has sprung legs!

De-clutter your handbag - take out only what you need and avoid carrying large amounts of cash. When you are shopping keep all bags firmly closed and on your person at all times.

Carry wallets and phones in inside pockets of jackets or coats, not in the back pocket of trousers. Men be aware.

When using your credit or debit card shield your PIN and take the time to make sure you safely put away your purse or wallet

Never leave your bag unattended on the back of trolleys or pushchairs.

Do not be tempted to return to your car and drop off your shopping bags - keep them with you or take them home.

If you see anything suspicious, or have information about crime or criminals, call the police on 101
Val
Area NHW Coordinator