

Bracknell News Article

September 2007

The overall level of crime in Bracknell Forest is still reducing with reductions of around 15% since April. There are some types of crime which have gone up. Such an example is the theft of motor vehicles. This time last year there had been just over 100 cars stolen, this year the figure is approx 150. These cars are predominantly older Fords and Vauxhalls and many of these are taken by joy riders (this is still a criminal offence) and recovered locally. There is evidence that some of the stolen cars are being taken to be sold as scrap as the price of scrap metal increases.

If you have such an old car, Halfords at the Point in Bracknell are offering 20% discount on all security equipment, with the exception of alarms, upon production of the registration document for vehicles registered before 1996.

If you see a recovery vehicle taking an old car from the side of the road it would be very helpful to record the registration number of the vehicle and pass it to the police. The Crime & Disorder Reduction Team of the council will be working with the police and local scrap metal dealers to reduce this opportunity.

An initiative which has been started in Bracknell Forest where we are looking for Neighbourhood Watch volunteers who are interested in becoming part of our Operation Labrador. This operation is aimed at Bracknell Forest residents who walk their dogs and are happy to keep an eye out for vehicles which may be involved in criminal activity. The operation is designed to run as follows:

A message will be sent out concerning a vehicle that may be involved with criminal activity. If members of Operation Labrador spot the vehicle, they will report the whereabouts to the Police on the non emergency number, quoting the URN (unique reference number) and date allocated to that particular vehicle. Under NO circumstances, will that member be expected to, or actually approach the vehicle or occupant(s). The Police may then arrange to set up an operation to investigate on the information reported.

If you feel you would like to assist with Operation Labrador and be part of Neighbourhood Watch, please contact PC Eddie Callis or the Watch Office on 0845 8 505 505 for further information.

As crime falls another area of success is in the reduction of the number of woundings. These are assaults where there is physical injury. The more minor assaults, common assaults have risen since April. It is not clear why this should be but the chances of being assaulted, particularly by a stranger remain very low in Bracknell.

Remember that Bracknell Forest has good information and resources to deal with domestic violence. More information is available from the Bracknell Forest Council website on www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/domesticviolence

Or by contacting the domestic violence officers at Bracknell police station on 0845 8 505 505 in complete confidence.

The fall in crime this year means that there have been over 400 less victims of crime so far this year than last year.