



News update

Two main themes have been the focus for February. We have received a significant number of calls regarding courier fraud and we have been seizing a number of vehicles for having no tax, no insurances and no MOT. Storms Ciara and Dennis also brought a lot of problems on the road. We would like to thank those members of the community who helped us to clear blocked roads due to fallen trees. Across Leicestershire, we had a number of reports of drivers moving road flooded signs and cones and then getting stuck in floodwater. If roads are flooded please do not attempt to drive through them.

We stopped one vehicle for no insurance. The vehicle was seized and the driver had 6 points added to his driving licence.

A vehicle was recovered near to Lutterworth and has been confirmed as stolen in a car key burglary in Northampton last month and has been returned to the owner.

The driver of an uninsured and untaxed vehicle tried to get away from us and then collided with some railings and road signs. The vehicle was seized and the driver was arrested.

We also recovered 2 vans in Lutterworth that had no tax, no insurance and no MOT. The vans were seized from workmen at an address who were carrying out a landscaping job.



In conjunction with our colleagues at Trading Standards we advise people only use legitimate tradesmen when getting work repairs done on your home and not any random person that knocks on your door. Well established companies normally have a diary full of appointments and not able to fit people in straight away. Ensure you obtain as much information about the business before you make a decision to have work carried out. Don't be rushed into agreeing to any work. Get quotes from elsewhere if you think work is required on your home before making a decision.

REMEMBER

Consumers have a 14 day cooling off period to cancel contracts made in their homes. If the business won't give information about these rights they may be a rogue trader.

If you decide to have work carried out never pay cash up front and never let the trader take you to the bank to withdraw any money.



Worried about your number plate being stolen? We have secured a number of security fixing kits for number plates which are available free at the Broughton Astley Parish Council Offices.

Courier fraud

COURIER FRAUD – DO YOU HAVE AN ELDERLY NEIGHBOUR OR RELATIVE?

We are warning people to be wary of courier fraud as there has been an unusually high number of incidents relating to this crime being reported in the Lutterworth and Broughton Astley areas and surrounding villages in recent weeks. Fraudsters typically target older people by exploiting their trust in the police and their bank.

What is courier fraud? Courier fraud is where fraudsters call someone pretending to be a police officer or bank official, warning that there are corrupt bank staff intent on stealing their money, and as for their help to solve the problem. Typically the caller then tells the victim to withdraw a sum of money and a courier is sent to collect it.

What to do if you receive a call? Just because someone knows a few basic details about you such as your name and address, it does not mean that they are genuine. If someone calls you asking you to withdraw large amounts of cash or to go out and buy expensive jewellery before handing it over to a courier... IT'S A SCAM!

There is a lot of information about Courier Fraud on the internet and many warnings have been issued in the last few months. However, we know that not everyone accesses social media or the internet, so we are asking the public to help us by informing their neighbours or relatives about these offences. There are actions you can take to stop getting nuisance calls. Register your number with the Telephone Preference Service. You can call them on 0345 070 0707. It is free to register. They will add you to their list of numbers of people that don't want to receive sales and marketing calls.

Phone scams
Fraud over the phone – or vishing – is when a fraudster calls claiming they're from your bank or another trusted organisation, often under the pretence there has been fraud on your account. It is easy for them to convince you too, since they can both fake the telephone number on the screen and do their research to find out some of your basic bank and personal details. Remember though, a genuine bank will never ask you for personal financial details like your PIN number or full banking password (even by tapping it into your phone keypad), or ask you to transfer money directly to them.

Text message scams
A text might not be from who you think it is – Smishing is when fraudsters pretend a message is from your bank or another organisation you trust. They will usually tell you there has been fraud on your account and will ask you to deal with it by calling a number they provide or by visiting a fake website to update your personal details. Please take a moment to stop and think and realise this is the fraud, and any data you enter will be captured by them.

Online fraud
Online fraud covers everything from online shopping to online banking, but one thing can help prevent both: take the time to install security software and updates most banks and browsers offer. These can help protect you whether the fraudsters are trying to dupe you with fake pop-ups in your online banking window, sending you 'scam alert' messages that hide malware, or faking retailer websites to make you input your financial details.

Email scams
Fraudsters don't just try to contact you by phone and text, they also 'phish', contacting you by email, usually saying you need to verify or update some details or reactivate an account. So always be suspicious of unsolicited emails that are supposedly from your bank or some other trusted organisation because the address can easily be faked. Never automatically click on any links they contain either, not before stopping to check if they seem genuine first.

What to do if you think you're a victim
If you think there has been fraud on your card or bank account – or if you suspect someone has attempted to compromise your financial details – report it immediately to your bank or other financial services provider and then contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or at actionfraud.police.uk.

TAKE FIVE TO STOP FRAUD™

Leicestershire Police
Protecting our communities

takefive-stopfraud.org.uk

Get in touch or come and see us

Beat surgeries

Monday 9th March 10-11:00am, Parish Council Offices, Station Rd, Broughton Astley.

Keep up-to-date with your local beat team

Facebook: Lutterworth Police Twitter: @LPLutterworth

Sign up to Neighbourhood Link at www.neighbourhoodlink.co.uk

If you have any questions or issues you wish to raise, you can email eastercoutiesnpa@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk