

Reporting Crime & Nuisance

Community information for Southcote Ward residents

May 2022

Your community

We live in a great community, but you may sometimes have worries about things going on in your neighbourhood, such as drug dealing, speeding cars, fly-tipping, dumping or litter.

This leaflet has been produced as part of a dedicated approach to reducing anti-social behaviour in the Southcote area, to help you know who you can speak to if you have concerns.

Keep it handy: you never know when you might need it.



CRIME including drug dealing and Anti-Social Behaviour

- Contact the police to report a non emergency crime via the TVP website: WWW.thamesvalley.police.uk
Call the Police on non-emergency number **101**
- In an emergency call **999**
- If you have information but would like to remain anonymous, please call **Crimestoppers** on **0800 555111**.

- The Reading Borough Council **Anti Social Behaviour Team** work with the Police and can be contacted on **0118 937 3787** or via email ASB.Team@reading.gov.uk. You can also report ASB to the team via reportableapp.com - create an account & select service provider Reading Borough Council. The Noise App is the ASB Team's preferred method for reporting noise nuisance as they can hear what you are hearing. Both Apps can be downloaded on a smart phone. The ASB Team will expect complainants to keep a log of incidents to help with the case.



If you can, keep a note of any suspicious activities and of any distinguishing features of the suspect like sex, age, build, and if they were carrying anything. If a car is involved, try to remember the colour, make, type and registration number.

Any details you can give provides us with evidence to help identify individuals and take appropriate action against them using the tools and powers available to tackle anti-social behaviour.

Photographic evidence is welcome and should be emailed to the Police. Residents should not put themselves at risk in taking photos or videos and should be careful that the angle of the photo does not reveal who took it. The Police advise that photos should not be posted publicly/online/on social media.

Reading Borough Council Housing



If you have any concerns or issues around council properties please phone 0118 937 3757.

Domestic CCTV Rules

An individual has the right to protect their property and this can be done by using a CCTV system where it is necessary, such as a security measure. Consideration needs to be made to the following when using CCTV to ensure that you are transparent to those around you. You can do this by:

- Informing your neighbour(s) about your system.
- Putting up a notice informing people that recording is taking place.
- Placement, make sure it does not encroach on other people's property.
- Your cameras do not intrude on your neighbour's property.
- You regularly delete the recordings and that they are not kept for longer than is necessary for the protection of your property.
- You must make sure that the information is not used for any other purpose than protecting your property.
- If your system captures information of an incident, it could be used by the police to aid an investigation.

NOISE

If a building site, business or noisy neighbour is a problem outside of acceptable and/or permitted hours, contact the **Reading Borough Council call centre on 0118 937 3787** and you will be put through to Environmental Health or the Anti-Social Behaviour team, depending on the problem.

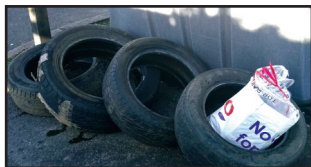


Please ensure General Data Protection Rules are followed when using CCTV.

Recordings made with static CCTV camera/Mobile phone require a diary sheet to support the incident that was recorded.

FLY-TIPPING

Fly-tipping is a crime and the Council will always prosecute if there is sufficient evidence.



- To report fly-tipping, call **Reading Borough Council** on **0118 937 3787**.

- Provide details of where and when the dumping happened.
- Describe the people involved and vehicle registration, make, colour, etc.

LITTER & DUMPED RUBBISH

- Register online or download the free app at <https://loveclean.reading.gov.uk/account/logon> to report any environmental issues (including graffiti, dog mess, etc). You can also send photos of the problem.
- Call **0118 937 3787** to speak to **Reading Borough Council**.
Keep a note of the reference number they give you.

PROBLEMS WITH VEHICLES

PARKING

Road markings such as red or yellow lines, loading bays, bus stops and residents zones indicate that some sort of restriction applies.

You are responsible for making sure your vehicle is parked correctly and is not causing an obstruction.

Parking on pavements can obstruct and seriously inconvenience people using wheelchairs, people with visual impairments and those with prams and pushchairs. If it is a persistent problem then call the Police on non-emergency number 101, with details of the vehicle and its location.



SPEEDING

If you would like to be involved in a project such as Community Speedwatch, please contact your Southcote Safer Neighbourhood Forum.



Police have the powers to seize motorised scooters, mini motorbikes or similar forms of motorised transport that are used to cause a nuisance in neighbourhoods. If a vehicle is being driven in a manner causing alarm, distress or annoyance on land without permission or without due care and attention, the Police can:

- Order a person to stop driving the vehicle
- Seize and remove the vehicle
- Enter a premises where they have reasonable grounds.

To allow the Police and Reading Borough Council to take action to deal with motorbike nuisance, information is needed from those who witness it. Please report this kind of nuisance in the same way as other anti-social behaviour, using the Police Non-Emergency Number – **101** or request a diary sheet from the ASB team: ASB.Team@reading.gov.uk. In an emergency please call **999**.

There are several local groups that you may like to join:



- The Southcote SNF is a community based problem-solving group which helps resolve local community safety and crime related issues by working with the council, police and other agencies. If you are having problems in your street, become a Street Representative, and come along to our meetings. The Southcote Safer Neighbourhood Forum meets every 2 months and their meetings for the next 6 months of 2022 are 14th July, 27th September and 23rd November at the Southcote Community Hub, Coronation Square. Contact Neighbourhoodinitiatives@reading.gov.uk for more information.

- Neighbourhood Watch schemes are community initiatives owned and run by their members. They work by developing a close relationship between community members and local police. To find a Watch scheme near you, go to: www.ourwatch.org.uk/postcode-search
- Thames Valley Neighbourhood Alerts - sign up to www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk to receive updates, news and alerts on local Policing in our community.



Please help Reading Borough Council and the Police make your neighbourhood cleaner and safe – we do our best to spot problems, but it helps if you let us know about areas we might have missed.

Together we can make things better – just contact us

