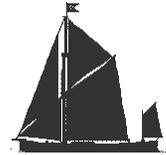




Thurrock Neighbourhood Watch



PROTECT YOUR CYCLE – FREE SECURITY MARKING

Police in the Thurrock district are issuing a reminder to the public to keep their pedal cycles safe during the summer months.

With the warmer weather, adults and children are more likely to be using bikes to get around. This fact will unfortunately create more opportunities for would-be thieves if bikes are left insecure.

The message Essex Police is issuing is: "Secure it or lose it". The most common location for the theft of a pedal cycle is from a garden. People will often carelessly leave their bikes insecure at home as they assume it will be safe on their property. This is unfortunately a great opportunity for someone to steal a bike.

To assist in reducing the theft of cycles, Thurrock Police are running a **FREE** cycle marking scheme. Every weekday evening, at a different location within the district, Thurrock residents can bring in their cycles to have them security marked free of charge.



Residents can bring their bikes along **any weekday evening between 7 & 8pm** at the following locations:

- Any **Monday** or **Wednesday** evening – Grays Police Station, Brooke Road
- Any **Tuesday** evening – South Ockendon Police Station, Darenth Lane
- **Thursday & Friday** evenings at various locations within Tilbury, Corringham, Stanford le Hope and Chadwell St Mary. Dates for August & September are as follows:

Stanford House – East Tilbury– 28 August, 5 September

Chadwell St Mary Housing Office – 4 September

Tilbury Police Station – 11, 12 & 19 September

Corringham Police Station – 18, 25 & 26 September

Please tell your friends and family and encourage them to get their bikes security marked.

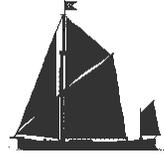
Anybody who brings their bike along will receive the following;

- security marking and label on your bicycle
- a cycle 'passport' (including photo)
- information to register your cycle free of charge on a property database*
- cycle security advice

*Once registered if it ever gets stolen you just update the website that it is stolen and report the theft to the Police - your bike has a better chance of being recovered or traced.



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GENERAL ADVICE TIPS

1) Over 50% of bikes are stolen in or around the house during burglaries or when the bike is left unattended - so it makes sense to lock it to something like a ground or wall anchor or inside a purpose built locker, shed or garage. (The more expensive the bike the more vulnerable it is). Never leave your cycle unlocked in your garden.

2) Always lock your bicycle, even if you are just leaving it for a couple of minutes.

3) Your bike should be secured with a top quality lock – a solid 'D' lock is better than a chain which can be cut through easier. Two locks are better secured through the frame at either end to a proper stand. Do not lock solely through the wheels, these can be easily removed.



4) Do not leave your bike in isolated areas.

5) Use proper cycle stands and frames wherever possible

6) Take with you anything that is easily removable/detachable from the bike (e.g. saddles, wheels, lights, bottles etc)

7) Ask employers and building managers to provide cycle stands which are secured inside lockable buildings or cages as this is much safer.

8) When buying a new bike ask the sales professional about security advice.