



SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY
Taking pride in keeping Suffolk safe

Babergh East Safer Neighbourhood Team

Sadly, my time in Hadleigh has been brought to an end with an official and chosen move to the Control Room at Headquarters from 21st March. This decision has been made based on the efficiency savings enforced on the Police by the Government, which has meant a cut in numbers for the Safer Neighbourhood Team based at Hadleigh. Hadleigh SNT have had to reduce its numbers from 2 PC's and 6 PCSO's to 2 PC's and 4 PCSO's, (force wide the numbers were 166 PCSO's down to 107 PCSO's).

I have totally enjoyed my time covering the villages over the past nine years and will miss being out and about, meeting and chatting to people. I would like to thank you all for your support and help over the years. Hopefully you found some of my articles useful? I'm sure once the team is in place they will make themselves known to you all and help out as best they can.

Should you need to contact anyone from the SNT then please do so via the team email account:-

BaberghEast.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

Following on from last month's article here's some more crime reduction advice for your home.

Perimeter Security

Fencing

In many cases, the fences around your home are the first line of defence.

The front, rear and side boundaries have different functions where security is concerned:

- 28% of domestic burglaries are committed from the front of the house.
- 7% from the side and 62% from the rear. In addition 3% gain access via the roof. This should help to determine your priority areas.

Check Your Boundaries

Walk round the whole perimeter of your property. Check your fences, gates shrubbery and hedges. Look for possible points of entry and hiding places.

Check for good visibility from surrounding houses and roads where appropriate.

Front Boundaries

Low boundaries at the front give maximum visibility. Burglars will feel safer if they can hide behind high fences/ hedges and be obstructed from the view of passers-by from the road.

Rear and Side Boundaries

The height of rear and side fences should be 1.8m. If your boundary is particularly vulnerable the height can be increased with trellis. This can be attractive and will act as a deterrent as it's difficult to climb over without breaking the fence or making a noise. Gates can also have trellis fitted above them.

Gates

All gates should be fitted with lockable slide bolts and be locked with a sturdy padlock to stop someone reaching over to gain entry. If you use your side / rear gate to exit your property then a surface mounted mortise lock can be fitted which allows the gate to be locked / unlocked with a key from both sides.

Additional Measures and Information

Foliage against a fence can provide an effective barrier, especially if a prickly shrub is planted, and can also improve appearance. A four foot box hedge at the front is ideal as it provides natural surveillance as well as a wide barrier for anyone to cross over and makes a potential burglar feel vulnerable because he can be seen.

If you feel that you need something such as barbed wire or other topping along the tops of walls and fences, you are advised to get in touch with the Crime Reduction Officer for advice. They will be able to give you advice regarding your responsibilities under the Occupiers Liability Act.

So for the last time PCSO 3108 Mandy Coleman 'So long, Farewell, Auf Wiedersehen....Goodbye'

Babergh East Safer Neighbourhood Team

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