



# 'Display and You Will Pay'

Dear Sir/Madam,

Flackwell Heath, Tylers Green & Hazlemere have recently experienced an increase in vehicle crime offences. Despite Thames Valley Police's efforts to try and reduce crime in the area, by increasing patrols, distributing crime prevention literature and arrests being made, the problem has persisted.

This rise in crime reached a pinnacle when 9 vehicles were broken into between the 05<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> February 2012 in Tylers Green. A number of the vehicles had property stolen and others were searched but nothing was taken. The majority of these vehicles were left **unlocked** and basically provided an open invite to an opportunist thief.

Vehicles are also being broken into for items which may be trivial in your mind, but to a thief is their bread and butter. The thefts have included loose change and cigarette packets left on view.

To try and prevent further offences and to raise awareness to this current crime trend, Operation "**Get the Message**" is being conducted by your local Neighbourhood Police Team. This police operation has been aptly named due to the local community "not getting the message" about vehicle security.

During this operation the police will be physically checking vehicles to see if the owner has left their vehicle locked and secure and that nothing has been left on display. If your car is not locked and/or you have left tempting property on show then expect a knock at your door or a letter being sent to the registered owner.

**"If you leave property on show, then expect it to go"**, please "get the message" and help the local police to reduce crime in your community.

If you have any information about these crimes or you observe a suspicious vehicle or person then please contact the police on the non emergency and general enquiry number: **101**.

Please quote **URN: 846 – 08/02/2012** to the police operator if you do have any information about vehicle crime. If you want to provide information to the police and remain anonymous then please call the Crimestoppers charity on **0800 555 111**.

Please help the police by protecting your vehicle and belongings by following a number of simple ways to do this, all of which will help reduce the chance of your vehicle becoming a target.

- "Click & Check" - trust locks, not luck – double check that your vehicle is secure
- Keep vehicles keys safe and out of sight
- Perfect parking – if you have a garage – use it or try to park in a well lit location
- Display and you will pay – don't tempt thieves – take your belongings with you indoors, e.g. Sat Navs
- Be alarmed – this could deter thieves
- Sat Nav – would you be lost without it? Remove it and make sure you wipe the sucker mark off the windscreen.
- Your number's up – number plates can be easily removed, secure them with security screws. Contact police if stolen.

For regular updates on crime and disorder in your area you can sign up to community messaging by visiting [www.tvpcommunitymessaging.org](http://www.tvpcommunitymessaging.org)

You can also follow the police on Twitter @ThamesVP (or you can localise this). Alternatively you can give us a 'like' on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/thamesvp>

For further crime reduction advice you can also visit our website [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk) or call and ask to speak to a Crime Reduction Adviser or your local police/PCSO officer via the 24-hour Police Enquiry Centre on **101**.

**Kind Regards**

**Flackwell Heath, Tylers Green & Hazlemere Neighbourhood Police Team**