

To: Barton Neighbourhood Watch Circulation List

There has been a marked increase in crime in our area in recent weeks and we need to take extra care to protect our property

In October, there were 48 burglaries in South Cambs, compared with 23 in September. In Barton alone, we had a total of 9 crimes in October, a much higher number than usual.

More recently:

A thief tried to break into a vehicle in Cambridge Road.

A van was broken into in the High Street and various items were stolen.

A house in Mailes Close was burgled and guns were stolen.

Wallis Garage was broken into and all the cigarettes were stolen. The burglar alarm went off, but the thieves were in and out in 3 minutes and escaped before anyone could intervene.

Some advice from the police is given below.

Wishing you a safe and happy Christmas.

Bev Edwards

As the nights get darker, there is an increased risk of burglary when many homes will look obviously unoccupied. This can make your property more attractive to a potential burglar who would not like to be seen or discovered.

Use light timer switches, to make your home look occupied as it starts to get dark from about 3p.m. 3:30p.m. even just leaving some lights switched on will be beneficial. Think of rooms you would naturally be in such as a living room or kitchen. Leave a radio on a talk station, and make sure that all the windows, doors and side gates are secure. There have been some recent burglaries where intruders have got in due to an insecurity. Any window that opens with a gap of 11inches or 24c.m. should be locked and secured. Don't leave keys in locks as this will make it easier for a potential intruder to gain access. Think about external lights also, ideally dusk to dawn lighting at the front of your property, and movement sensitive at the rear. If you have an alarm, make sure it is set.

Don't leave all your curtains drawn if you are going away, it will make your home look unoccupied.

If you can, make arrangements for a friend or neighbour to check on your home while you are away, they can collect your post and move it from the doormat so it's not in obvious large pile.

Don't discuss your travel plans on social networking sites, wait until you get back.

For more information and advice visit our website www.cambs.police.uk and search under 'B' for burglary.

Keep an eye out for any suspicious activity in your street and report details to us on 101.