Dear Residents  **July 2017 – bulletin 6**

**Crime reports**

* Property in Denison Road broken into and vehicle stolen.
* Cash stolen from a property in The Mile.

**Advice from local Police – shopping online**

* Use the website’s feedback to check other customers’ experiences**.**
* Use published contact details to check out the company. A UK web address is not necessarily a UK based operation.
* Spelling mistakes and bad grammar are clues to the company not being what you think.
* Paying by credit card or PayPal gives added protection – avoid bank transfers (which do not).
* Do not send confidential personal or financial info by email.
* If you bid for an item unsuccessfully, do not trade off site if another seller contacts with similar items.

**Scam reports – local**

Scam emails still being reported:

* “Thank you for visiting Natwest……we have acted on your behalf, some of the transactions on your designated accounts was revoked…….please review now following the link….”
* “Your account has been flagged as one of the numerous…… that needs to be reviewed……RBS Online Security Team.”

**Advice from Action Fraud (National Fraud Intelligence Bureau) via Neighbourhood Watch**

* **Vehicle online shopping fraud.** Vehicles and machinery advertised on various selling platforms………after communicating via email, victim gets a bogus email from a third party provider (escrow)who will keep the money (usually bank transfer) until both parties happy……..this is untrue and the money is lost. Avoid by: (a) meet face to face and see the goods before paying; (b) contact the third party to validate legitimacy of the email; (c) these scams often offer vehicles or machinery well below market price – beware!
* **Pet fraud**. Recent rise in pets (particularly puppies and kittens) offered on auction websites. The pet is claimed to be held somewhere less accessible or overseas…….advance payment is requested by money or bank transfer……..delay and further payment requested for courier charges, shipping fees or extra costs……..pet never appears and probably doesn’t exist. Avoid by: (a) stay within auction guidelines; (b) beware if seller asks for one payment method then switches to another (e.g. bank transfer) due to “issues with their account”; (c) research as much as possible the seller or courier company details; (d) meet face to face – reluctance is suspicious; (e) request inoculation history, breed paperwork and certification prior to sale – lack of suggests a “puppy farm” (commercial enterprise aimed at maximising profit by breeding illegally at unregistered sites in poor conditions and producing unhealthy animals).

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