Dear Residents **March 2018 – bulletin 1**

**Local Crime Report and Prevention**

* Humberside Police report a phone scam – purports to be from HMRC before trying to trick vulnerable victims to pay bogus debts/taxes – they claim will be arrested if you don’t pay.
* The local Crime Prevention Panel, in conjunction with Police and Neighbourhood Watch representatives and perhaps Parish Councils, are looking at a Community Led Action Plan initiative to prioritise local issues aimed at reducing the fear of crime and increasing self-sustainability of safe communities in East Riding. It would look at local crime issues affecting our everyday lives regardless of crime figures or police focus. I will advise on developments.

**The Herbert Protocol**

* This is a national scheme to help families, friends, neighbours or carers of elderly people suffering with dementia or other issues that can leave them confused, lost or disorientated.
* The idea is to have information prepared beforehand which includes details of likely places meaningful to the individual that may help to speed up a search.
* You can download the documentation from ***www.humberside.police.uk/herbert-protocol***.

**Advice from National Neighbourhood Watch**

* **Phantom Debt Fraud** – the fraud involves being cold-called by a debt collector, bailiff or other enforcement agent saying they are recovering a supposed debt - payment to be by cash or bank transfer with threat of arrest if refused - protect yourself by making vigorous checks (e.g. case/warrant number, name of court and all other details/identity check).
* **Flight Ticket Fraud** – victims booking via websites or “popular” brokers report after paying by bank or wire transfer, their tickets turn out to be counterfeit and the seller cannot be contacted - fraudsters target travellers to African nations and Middle East - you have no protection if paying by bank transfer.
* **School Fraud** – several schools have suffered substantial loss recently – the fraudster purports to be the Head Teacher/Principal and contacts staff with responsibility for financial transactions asking for a one-off urgent payment by bank transfer (normally £8K - £10K) – there should be robust procedures in place to corroborate/challenge such requests to change supplier or payment details – sensitive info posted publicly or disposed of carelessly can be used by fraudsters – email addresses can be spoofed to look like from a legitimate source – do not click on links or open attachments of unexpected or unusual emails.

Robert Mills