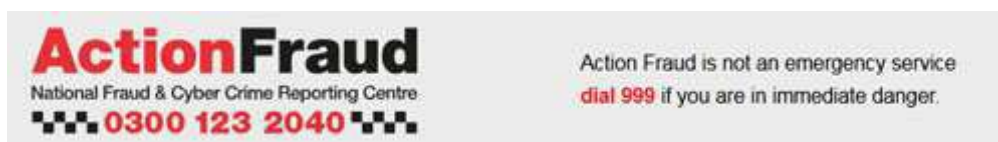


Action Fraud Alert



Payment diversion alert

Fraudsters are emailing members of the public who are expecting to make a payment for property repairs. The fraudsters will purport to be a tradesman who has recently completed work at the property and use a similar email address to that of the genuine tradesman. They will ask for funds to be transferred via bank transfer. Once payment is made the victims of the scam soon realise they have been deceived when the genuine tradesman requests payment for their services.

Protect yourself

- Always check the email address is exactly the same as previous correspondence with the genuine contact.
- For any request of payment via email verify the validity of the request with a phone call to the person who carried out the work.
- Check the email for spelling and grammar as these signs can indicate that the email is not genuine.
- Payments via bank transfer offer no financial protection; consider using alternative methods such as a credit card or PayPal which offer protection and an avenue for

recompense.

If you believe that you have been a victim of fraud you can report it online http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud or by telephone 0300 123 2040.



Dating online - make sure you're safe

With Valentine's Day approaching it's worth taking a minute to remember that "romance fraud" is a modern menace for those looking for love. **While the shops may be filled with hearts and chocolates, online dating fraud in the UK cost victims a heart-breaking £27 million in 2015 according to Neighbourhood Watch partners Action Fraud and Get Safe Online.**

Thousands of online dating related crimes were reported to Action Fraud last year with the average loss standing at £10,000. However, the actual number of crimes is thought to be considerably higher, with victims not reporting many cases owing to embarrassment.

Intelligence reveals that people aged 50-59 are the most likely to become a victim of dating fraud and therefore need to be especially careful when going online in search of a partner. **Get Safe Online recommends the following tips:**

- Trust your instincts - if you think something feels wrong, it probably is.
- Choose a site that will protect your anonymity until you choose to reveal personal information and that will enforce its policies against inappropriate use
- Do not post personal information, such as phone numbers, on dating sites.
- Never send money or give credit card or online account details to anyone you don't know and trust.
- Wait until you feel comfortable with an individual before telling them things like your phone number, place of work or address.
- Be extremely wary about removing clothes or doing other things in front of your webcam that could be used against you - even if you think you know the other party.
- Use a dating site that offers the ability to email prospective dates using a service that conceals both parties' true email addresses.
- Set up a separate email account that does not use your real name.

- Pick a user name that does not include any personal information. For example, “joe_glasgow” or “jane_liverpool” would be bad choices.
- Finally, meet for the first few times in a safe place with plenty of people around, and tell a family member or friend where you are.



Norwich Yellow Pages Deliveries

Some households within Suffolk receive the Norwich Yellow pages. Delivery is due to commence on the 15th February 2017, scheduled to take approximately 2-3 weeks to complete. The deliveries apply to the following postcodes in Suffolk:

IP18	IP19	IP20	IP21
IP22	IP23	IP25	NR32
NR33	NR34	NR35	

Lowestoft AGM date

The Annual General Meeting of the Lowestoft Neighbourhood Watch Association is to be held on MONDAY 3rd April at St. Marks Church, Bridge Road, Oulton Broad.NR33 9JX. Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm. Speaker to be confirmed. Crime prevention products will be available for sale and other material to take away.

PCC confirms council tax precept increase of 1p* a day

Police and Crime Commissioner, Tim Passmore has announced that he will be asking council taxpayers to pay an average of just under 1p* a day extra towards policing in the county in the next financial year.

The PCC presented his precept proposal to the Police and Crime Panel meeting on Tuesday 31st January for their consideration; the panel unanimously supported the proposal.

Raising the precept by 1.972% will add approximately £830K to the Constabulary's budget in the next financial year. [Fuller detail here.](#)

** based on Band D property*

Out in the community

Volunteers from the Lowestoft NW Association took part in a second 'Meet and Greet' session with PCSO's from their local SNT at Tesco's supermarket at Gunton for two hours on Friday 28th January. The first session took place in early December 2016. They offered advice to shoppers and handed out crime prevention literature. As result of a previous session with their local SNT it is likely that a new scheme will start in Lowestoft soon. These joint sessions are being organised as part of the Constabulary's policy of getting SNT's to interact with the public.



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