



### INTRODUCTION

Firstly, a big Thank You to all those who helped prepare the Croydon Eye envelopes on a very hot day in the Purley office (see photo) and to those that distributed the packs around the wards. Christian Keupers was the lucky raffle winner of a bottle of fizz drawn on the day so well done Christian (bottle waiting for you at the Conference).

Everyone should have received a Save the Date email for the 2018 Conference on 6<sup>th</sup> October. We are finalising guest speakers and hoping to make the content both interesting and relevant. The police are being very supportive and representatives will be there on the day to speak to you. We will update you with more details soon.

### MOPED ROBBERY IN CROYDON

Stolen mopeds are increasingly being used to commit further crimes e.g. phone snatches and knife point robberies. Two men who committed violent thefts were jailed at Croydon Crown Court on 3<sup>rd</sup> August. According to Croydon MPS, **robbers are busiest in Croydon between 16:00 and 17:00**. The police strongly advise taking extra care looking after your belongings, when out and about:

- Be mindful when getting your phone out in public; hold it securely or use a hands-free device so that it is not on display
- Do not have jewellery on display
- If you own a scooter, secure it with **at least two chains** or fasten it to street furniture

### DON'T MESS WITH CROYDON APP



You may have noticed the new 'Don't Mess with Croydon' slogans on the sides of recycling vehicles as well as on the literature that has been sent out regarding the new bins and recycling services. Croydon Council have also launched a new **Don't Mess with Croydon** 'app' which can be downloaded on all smartphones or devices. You can use the app to report many issues including:

- Abandoned vehicles
- Dog Fouling
- Drug related litter
- Empty property
- Fly-posting
- Fly-tipping on public land
- Graffiti
- Damaged pavements
- Potholes or damage to roads
- Problems with skips
- Road surface drainage problems
- Streets - issues with benches, bollards, signs, bins, overflowing litter bins
- Tree or high hedge obstruction on public land
- Dead animals
- Waste on private property

Once you have reported the issue, you can request a follow up by using the 'nudging' feature on the app. More information on how to download the app and submit a report can be found on the Croydon Council website

<https://www.croydon.gov.uk/environment/dontmess/dont-mess-with-croydon-app>

## PENSION SCAMS

The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and The Pensions Regulator (TPR) are urging the public to be vigilant when receiving unsolicited offers about their pensions and to check who they are dealing with.

This comes after figures show that a total of 253 victims reported to Action Fraud that they had lost more than £23 million to pension scammers in 2017, which equates to an average loss of £91,000 per victim.

Scammers lure people into transferring their pensions into fraudulent schemes. Victims of pension scams can lose their life savings, and be left facing retirement with limited income.

The FCA and TPR are highlighting the tactics used by pension scammers. One of the most common tactics is to offer a '**free pension review**'.

Cold calling is currently the most common method used to initiate pension fraud. Other scam tactics include:

- Unexpected contact about your pension via post or email
- Promises of guaranteed high returns
- Offering unusual or overseas investments that are not regulated by the FCA e.g. overseas hotels or green energy schemes
- Putting people under pressure to make a quick decision e.g. time limited offers or sending a courier round with paperwork to sign
- Claiming to be able to unlock money from an individual's pension (which is normally only possible from age 55).

To protect yourself from pension scams:

- **Reject** unexpected pension offers whether made online, on social media or over the phone
- **Check** who you're dealing with before changing your pension arrangements – check the FCA Register or call the FCA contact centre on 0800 111 6768 to see if the firm you are dealing with is authorised by the FCA
- Don't be rushed or pressured into making any decision about your pension

## FAKE BRITISH GAS REFUND EMAILS

Action Fraud have had an increase in reports about fake British Gas emails claiming to offer refunds. The links provided in the emails lead to genuine-looking British Gas phishing websites that are designed to steal the usernames and passwords for British Gas accounts.

### What can you do?

Always question unsolicited requests for your personal or financial information in case it's a scam. Never automatically click on a link in an unexpected email or text

If you have been affected by this, or any other type of fraud, report it to Action Fraud by visiting [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or by calling 0300 123 2040.

## AND FINALLY...

Amazon have launched a new charitable scheme called Amazon Smile. If you use Amazon for online purchases, rather than shopping on the normal Amazon.com website, you simply access [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) instead and every time you make a purchase, it will donate 0.5% of the price to your chosen charity. Should you wish to choose CBNWA, we are listed as a charity under our full name 'Croydon Borough Neighbourhood Watch Association'. If you would like any more information please either contact us or take a look at the smile amazon website for more details. Any support would be much appreciated!