

The Claygate Neighbourhood Watch Group

Chairman – John Haberfield Contact Tel 0208 398 5256 Email jhaberfi@yahoo.co.uk

Newsletter



AUTUMN/WINTER 2026

In this edition:

We send regular email details of burglaries and vehicle crimes, courtesy of Elmbridge police. We also have access to the underlying data for all neighbourhood crime, and so below is an update of *all* crime types from Jan '23 to Jun '26, with a comparison between years and identifying trends.

Also, a reminder that we do have an Elmbridge NHW website at elmbridgenhw.org

But first, an update on policing in Elmbridge.

John Haberfield

Borough Commander Update

Elmbridge SNT's Policing Priorities remain:-

- Burglary
- Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG)
- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)
- Safer Town Centres
- Drug Related Harm
- Youth Violence

I am pleased to report that burglary offences continue to fall across the borough, with 16% fewer burglaries recorded this year compared to the same period last year. While these figures are encouraging, I do not want us to become complacent. I would encourage residents to look out for our burglary prevention tips, which have been prepared by Ann Pickering (Police Volunteer) in conjunction with our Designing Out Crime Officer. The guidance will be distributed through Neighbourhood Watch in the coming weeks. My personal favourite tips relate to fencing, as many burglaries within the borough involve offenders gaining access through insecure rear gardens. If you do not receive the tips, please email our SNT inbox (elmbridge@surrey.police.uk).

We continue to proactively target those who cause harm to women and girls within the borough. Specially trained undercover officers are regularly deployed within the nighttime economy and at large events such as Boogietown in Walton. These officers are trained to identify and challenge predatory behaviour and will alert uniformed colleagues when intervention is required. During these encounters, officers will explain why individuals have been approached and the nature of any concerns. We are also working closely with licensed premises to promote safe spaces for women and girls through initiatives such as Ask for Angela, as well as measures including anti-spiking kits.

Since the start of the year, we have completed more than 500 hours of high-visibility patrols focused on anti-social behaviour hotspots. These patrols target issues such as e-scooters being ridden on pavements, rowdy behaviour, and anti-social driving associated with car meets. We also continue to work closely with partners, including the Environment Agency and Elmbridge Borough Council, to tackle the issue of illegal liveaboards on the River Thames. While progress can be slow, we are beginning to see positive results along our stretch of the river, and I hope this work will help reduce anti-social behaviour for residents living nearby.

Retail crime is a particular passion of mine and an area where I take great pride in delivering results. Earlier this year, my former team featured in *Police Interceptors: Taking Down the Shoplifting Gangs*, which highlighted how organised crime groups target retailers to steal large volumes of goods. The programme featured one of several investigations undertaken by the team, resulting in custodial sentences totalling almost 10 years for those involved. Within Elmbridge, one in three shoplifting offences now results in formal action being taken. We are also working with national retailers, including Waitrose, Sainsbury's and Tesco,

to share real-time information on prolific offenders. In one recent example, a prolific offender who visited Sainsbury's in Cobham was arrested shortly after leaving the store thanks to information shared through this partnership.

Almost 50% of all drug-related offences within the borough result in positive action. Since the start of the year, we have executed more than 11 drug warrants at local addresses and seized significant quantities of drugs, counterfeit currency and bladed weapons.

Youth violence was a significant issue during 2025 among a small cohort of young people living in the borough. Over the last 18 months, the team has made 39 arrests in connection with 105 criminal offences, resulting in 22 court hearings. Within this cohort, eight young people were issued with Anti-Social Behaviour Injunctions (ASBIs), while one received a Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO). I am very pleased to report that, as a result of this work, youth violence has significantly decreased across the borough.

This is just a snapshot of the work the team has delivered since the start of the year.

One final message from me would be to please continue to report all crime and anti-social behaviour. While we may not always be able to act immediately, these reports help us identify patterns and trends, allowing us to take action and keep the borough safe.

Insp 4779 Chris Thoday

Elmbridge Borough Commander

Crime map review

As before, our crime data is grouped by electoral wards. (*For anyone uncertain of the boundaries of the wards, there's a map at the end of this article*). To provide a reasonable comparison, we have reviewed data in the new format dating back to Jan 2023 and up to the latest available data.

First, to set the scene for crime rates, let's view how Elmbridge compares with the rest of Surrey.

TOTAL No. CRIMES IN JAN-JUN 2026 PER 1,000 HOUSEHOLDS	Violence and sexual offences	Anti-social behaviour	Public order	Criminal damage and arson	Shoplifting	Other theft	Vehicle crime	Burglary	Drugs	Other crime	Possession of weapons	Bicycle theft	Robbery	Theft from the person	TOTAL
Epsom and Ewell	37	20	11	14	10	7	7	4	5	2	1	1	1	1	122
Runnymede	42	18	10	11	7	9	5	4	3	3	1	1	1	0	116
Spelthorne	40	18	11	11	9	7	4	4	4	3	2	1	1	1	116
Woking	42	19	9	9	8	8	4	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	111
Guildford	38	17	11	11	10	8	4	3	4	3	1	1	1	1	111
Reigate and Banstead	36	14	9	6	8	7	6	3	4	3	1	1	0	0	97
Tandridge	29	20	8	5	9	7	6	3	2	2	1	0	0	0	95
Mole Valley	26	18	8	7	7	6	3	4	2	2	1	0	0	0	85
Elmbridge	28	11	7	5	6	6	5	2	3	2	1	1	1	1	79
Surrey Heath	27	15	7	5	5	7	2	2	2	4	0	0	0	0	78
Waverley	23	9	5	5	4	4	2	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	58
SURREY	33	16	9	8	7	7	5	3	3	3	1	1	1	0	95

An analysis of the national crime data for Surrey for the half year Jan-Jun 2026 reveals that Elmbridge (*highlighted yellow*) has moved up from 2nd lowest overall crime rate to 3rd lowest out of the 11 boroughs in Surrey, although the difference is marginal and this is more a reflection of Surrey Heath improving.

Of the 14 neighbourhood crime types, the 4 highest rates in previous years (*highlighted orange*) had been Violence & Sexual Offences, Anti-social Behaviour (ASB), Public Order, and Criminal Damage & Arson, accounting for 68.0% of the total crime, just marginally lower than in the full year 2025 (68.5%).

These are also closely related, as often an ASB offence could easily become a violence offence (if the suspect pushes someone), or a public order offence (if the activities intimidate innocent bystanders), or a criminal damage offence (if the activities result in something being damaged).

Looking at these 4 crime types combined provides a much smoother crime trend. *(Within Elmbridge, Violence and Sexual Offences were rarely sexual and most violent crimes were common assault.)*

Next, let's compare the crime data for the 16 electoral wards within Elmbridge.

TOTAL No. CRIMES IN JAN-JUN 2026 PER 1,000 HOUSEHOLDS	Violence and sexual offences	Anti-social behaviour	Public order	Criminal damage and arson	Other theft	Vehicle crime	Shoplifting	Drugs	Burglary	Other crime	Possession of weapons	Bicycle theft	Robbery	Theft from the person	TOTAL
Cobham and Downside	43.7	21.2	9.2	13.8	6.5	19.7	12.6	4.0	2.2	3.7	0.6	0.3	1.2	1.5	140.3
Walton Central	36.4	21.0	13.8	9.7	8.2	2.3	26.4	4.6	1.5	2.1	1.3	2.3	3.3	1.3	134.4
Weybridge Riverside	32.3	11.1	13.5	9.2	6.5	5.8	8.9	2.2	2.5	2.5	0.9	2.5	1.5	0.6	100.0
Esher	33.1	7.7	9.2	5.4	6.2	5.6	4.1	6.7	2.6	1.8	1.8	0.5	1.5	0.3	86.4
Hersham Village	33.8	11.9	8.8	5.8	5.4	4.2	4.2	4.2	2.7	1.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	1.2	85.0
Walton North	32.6	9.2	8.3	7.1	6.2	3.7	0.0	3.4	2.2	1.8	2.2	1.8	0.6	0.0	79.1
Molesey East	27.4	13.2	8.6	6.5	4.9	4.6	4.6	1.8	2.2	1.8	0.6	0.9	0.6	0.9	78.8
Walton South	34.6	7.9	7.2	4.9	4.1	3.8	0.8	6.7	3.1	1.8	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.3	78.2
Weybridge St George's Hill	22.3	11.0	3.8	5.1	8.7	6.2	8.7	1.8	2.3	1.8	1.0	0.3	0.8	0.8	74.6
Molesey West	32.1	9.7	4.6	4.4	5.4	5.4	2.6	3.6	1.3	2.3	1.0	0.5	0.5	0.8	74.1
Long Ditton	28.0	9.2	4.3	8.0	6.8	6.5	1.2	1.2	4.0	2.2	1.5	0.6	0.0	0.0	73.5
Claygate	20.0	6.2	5.0	5.4	5.0	3.5	1.9	0.4	3.1	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	52.7
Thames Ditton	19.1	7.7	3.7	3.1	4.3	7.7	0.6	0.6	1.5	0.9	0.3	2.2	0.0	0.0	51.7
Oxshott & Stoke D'Abernon	16.4	11.3	4.1	4.1	4.1	1.8	0.8	0.5	2.6	1.0	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.3	47.9
Hinchley Wd & Weston Grn	11.2	5.8	4.6	2.3	4.6	5.8	2.7	0.8	4.6	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.4	43.8
Oatlands & Burwood Park	20.0	4.3	4.9	1.2	3.1	2.2	0.0	0.9	1.8	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.3	40.0
Elmbridge	28.0	10.7	7.2	6.0	5.7	5.5	5.2	2.8	2.4	1.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.5	78.5

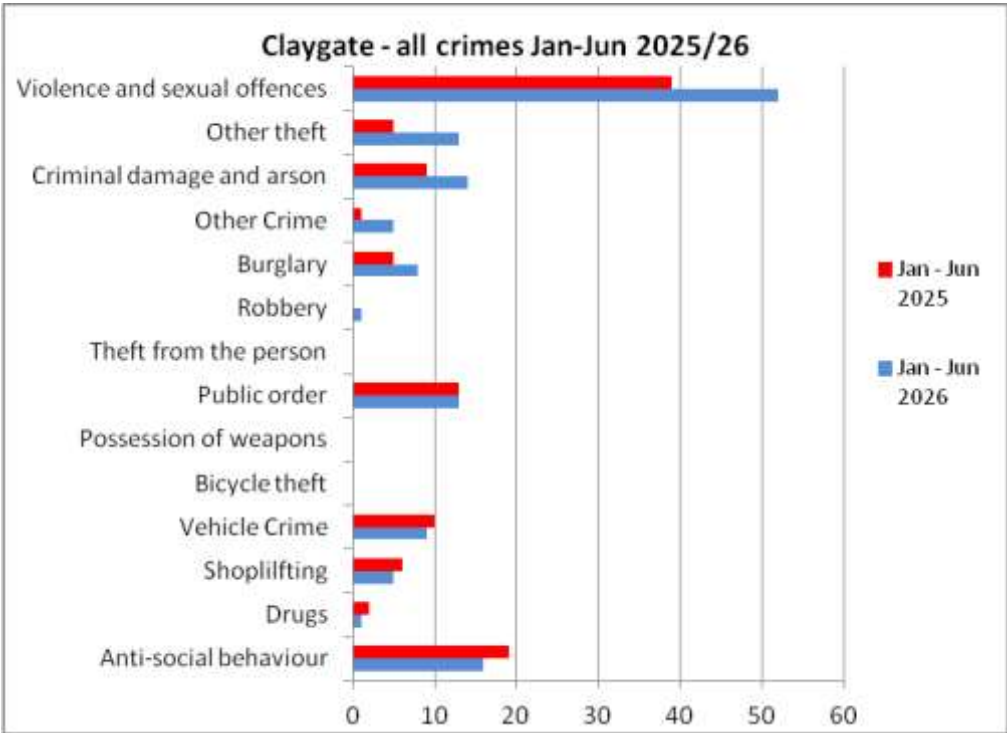
Elmbridge has a very low crime rate within Surrey, and Claygate ward within Elmbridge is in the lower half of the table of total crimes. **Overall crime increased in Claygate by 25.7%, whilst crime across Elmbridge increased by 4.2%, However, Claygate remains at 5th lowest.**

Now, we can compare crime data for Jan-Jun 2026 with the same period in 2025. The following table shows the variation in numbers of crimes with crime types sorted by highest to lowest number of crimes in Jan-Jun 2026. The same figures are given for Elmbridge as a whole.

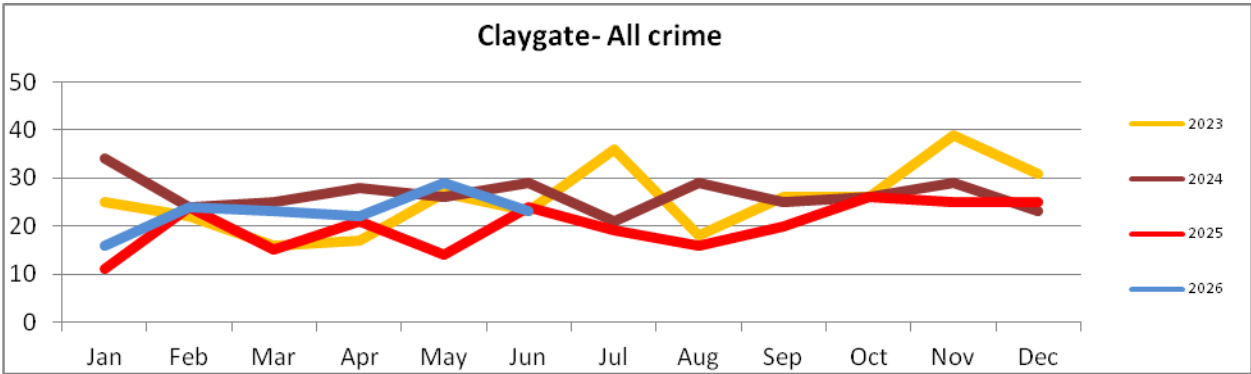
	CLAYGATE			ELMBRIDGE		
	Jan-Jun 2025	Jan-Jun 2026	Variance	Jan-Jun 2025	Jan-Jun 2026	Variance
Violence and sexual offences	39	52	33%	1428	1511	6%
Anti-social behaviour	19	16	-16%	561	577	3%
Criminal damage and arson	9	14	56%	316	325	3%
Other theft	5	13	160%	278	306	10%
Public order	13	13	0%	395	386	-2%
Vehicle Crime	10	9	-10%	281	296	5%
Burglary	5	8	60%	159	132	-17%
Other Crime	1	5	400%	122	96	-21%
Shoplifting	6	5	-17%	222	283	27%
Drugs	2	1	-50%	178	153	-14%
Robbery	0	1	0%	21	47	124%
Bicycle theft	0	0	0%	47	47	0%
Possession of weapons	0	0	0%	44	48	9%
Theft from the person	0	0	0%	15	29	93%
TOTAL	109	137	26%	4067	4236	4.2%

Overall the increase of 25.7% amounts to 28 additional crimes. The main increase is in Violence & Sexual offences (+13), then Other Theft (+8). Other Crime (+4) and Criminal Damage & Arson (+5). Burglaries across Elmbridge decreased by 17% while Vehicle Crime increased by 5%. Burglaries in Claygate increased by 60% (but that's only +3) while Vehicle Crime decreased by 10% (but that's only -1).

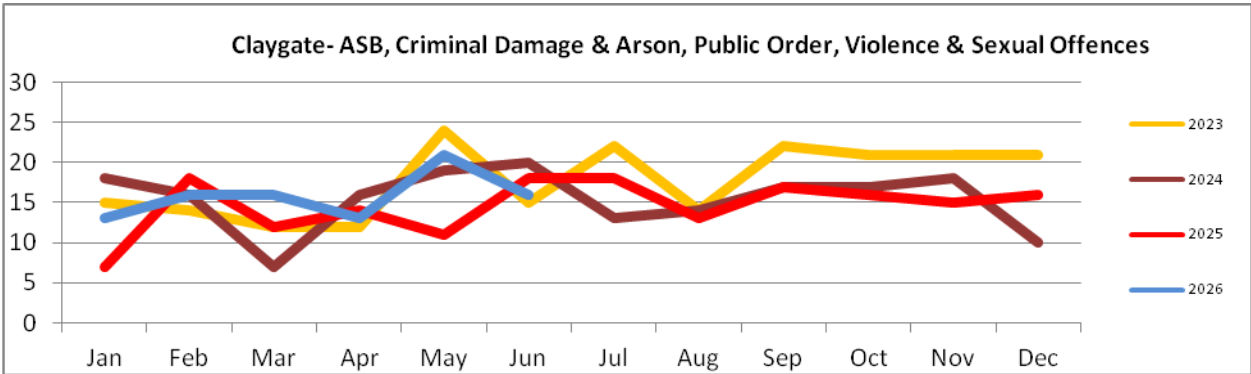
The following table gives a better picture of how the various crime types have changed between Jan-Jun 2025 and 2027. They are shown in order of largest increase to largest decrease.



Of course, this only reflects the overall total for Jan-Jun 2026. For a better idea of annual trends we need to look in comparison to previous years' crime rates. First, we see that the overall crime rate confirms the trend above 2025 levels in March and May, although closer again in June.

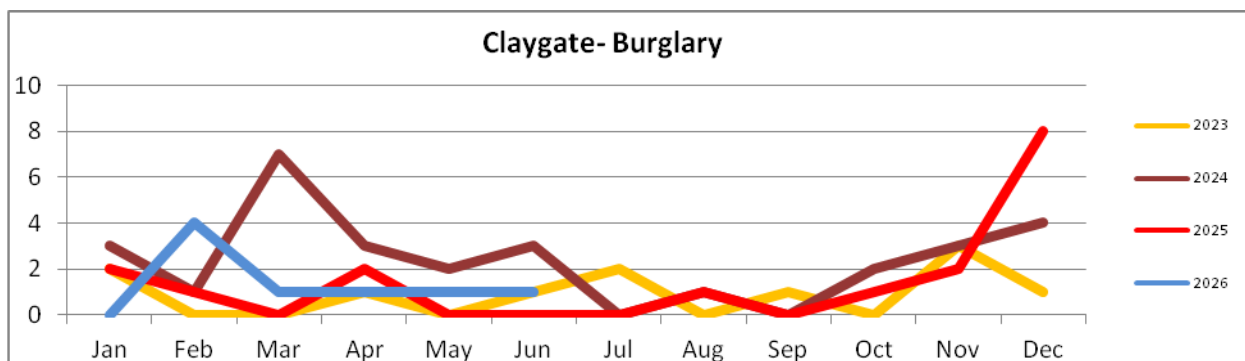


For Elmbridge, in Jan-Jun 2025, Violence & Sexual Offences, ASB, Public Order, and Criminal Damage & Arson, collectively accounted for 66.4% of total crime and in Jan-Jun 2026 it is 66.1%
For Claygate that figure was 73.4% for Jan-Jun 2025 and in 2026 it is now 69.3%, however that apparent decrease is only due to an increase of total crime (+28); whilst these crime types increased by only (+15).

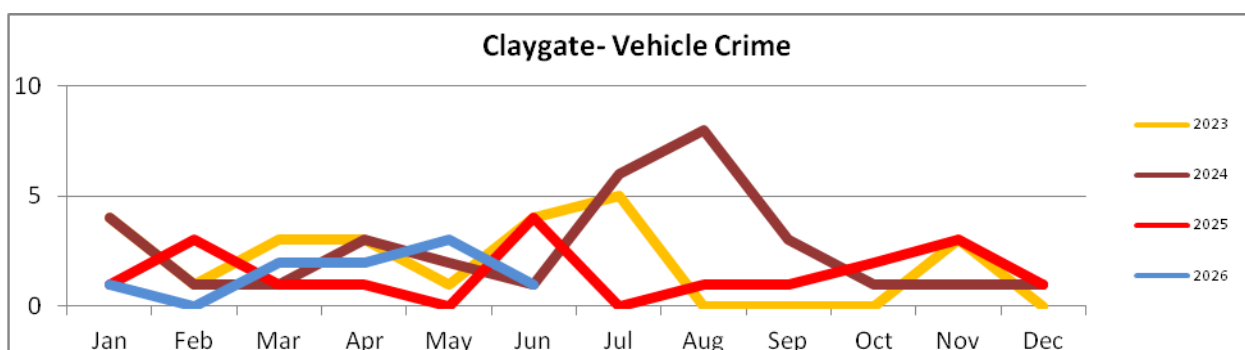


The crimes that have the most impact on victims are Burglary and Vehicle Crime, in Claygate accounting for 5.8% and 6.6% respectively of total crime in Jan-Jun 2026.

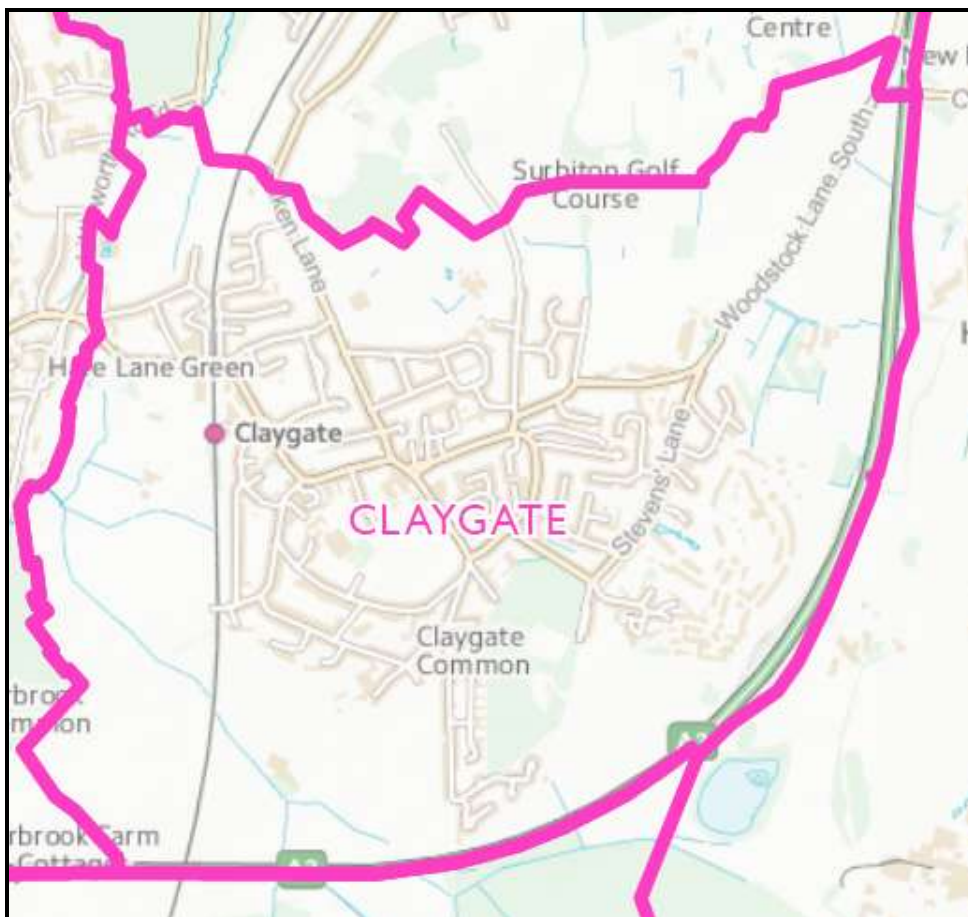
Burglary in Claygate increased by 60% (+3) in Jan-Jun 2026 compared to 2025. The chart reveals that the trend has been tracking similar to but a little above '25 levels, but with a significant peak in Feb '26.



The Vehicle Crime rate has decreased, by 10% (-1 crime) compared to Jan-Jun 2025. The chart shows the trend is similar to 2024 and 2025,



From Ordnance Survey Election Maps



Election wards

To see this map on-line, go to:

<https://www.ordnance-survey.co.uk/election-maps/gb/>

zoom in to your area, click on the 'BOUNDARY' button, scroll down and select 'Wards / District Wards' and click the 'Show names' button.

Numbers To Keep

IMMEDIATE POLICE RESPONSE 999
POLICE NON-EMERGENCY 101
Elmbridge Police Safer Neighbourhood Team
elmbridge@surrey.police.uk

To report a crime go to:
Surrey Police website www.surrey.police.uk

DESIGN OUT CRIME OFFICER (DOCO)
JOHN FRANCIS 01483 631632
 John.Francis@surrey.police.uk

CRIMESTOPPERS (anonymous) 0800 555 111
www.crimestoppers-uk.org

ESHER POLICE STATION (Civic Centre) 101
 Monday-Friday: 8:45am to 5:00pm

TRADING STANDARDS 08454 04 05 06
 via Citizens Advice consumer service

ELMBRIDGE COMMUNITY SAFETY 01372 474398
 Email: communitysafety@elmbridge.gov.uk
 Twitter: <http://twitter.com/ElmbridgeBC#>

NOISE COMPLAINTS 01372 474750

ABANDONED VEHICLES, GRAFFITI, LITTER
Clean Up Line 01372 474474

SURREY FIRE & RESCUE 01737 242444
Home Fire Risk Check 0800 085 0767
Contact Centre 03456 009 009

VOLUNTARY ACTION ELMBRIDGE 01372 463587
www.vae.org.uk

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Fax calls www.fpsonline.org.uk 0845 070 0702
Mail www.mpsonline.org.uk 0845 703 4599

To report suspicious activity call:

- Crimestoppers – 0800 555 111
- Anti-Terrorist Hotline – 0800 789 321

Or in an emergency call 999

Useful Websites

elmbridgenhw.org
www.banksafeonline.org.uk
www.bba.org.uk
www.cardwatch.org.uk
www.communities.gov.uk
www.crimeconcernuk.net
www.getsafeonline.org
www.homeoffice.gov.uk
www.identitytheft.org.uk
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www.thisismoney.co.uk
www.immobilise.com

Residents Associations:

www.esher-residents.com
www.moleseyresidentsassociation.org.uk
www.hinchleywood.org.uk
www.residents-association.com (Thames Ditton & Weston Green)
www.longditton.org



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 Events Nights Cricket pitches Football & Rugby pitches Two fishing rivers



999 For deaf, hard of hearing, or speech-impaired people in the UK alert police, ambulance, fire, or coastguard services by either calling via a relay assistant or texting a message to 999 using an emergency SMS service. Go to www.emergencysms.org.uk for information about how to register.

Keep Them Out!

- **Remember** Lock your car at all times when parking and don't leave valuables on view
- **Remember** Most burglars enter a premises from the rear, and many burglaries take place during the day
- **Remember** Burglars hate locked windows; breaking glass attracts attention



- **Remember** Burglars hate security deadlocks on doors because they can't open them from the inside, and have to leave through a window
- **Remember** Double check all windows and doors are securely locked before leaving home; on winter evenings keep lights on when out
- **Remember** Make sure sheds and gates are locked, and outside bins are not left where burglars could use them as a stepping stone.
- **Remember** If your vehicle is "keyless", keep the key in a "Faraday" pouch or metal tin and keep keys AWAY from front door or kitchen window