

The Molesey, Dittons & Hinchley Wood Neighbourhood Watch Group

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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

For almost all of the 14 crime types our NHW regional wards (Thames Ditton, Long Ditton, and Hinchley Wood & Weston Green) remain in the lower half of the table of high to low crime rates, in the same positions as in overall 2025.

East Molesey, West Molesey and Long Ditton remain in the same positions compared to 2025.

For comparison, the average rate of all crime across Surrey was 95.3 crimes per 1,000 households. For Elmbridge it was 78.5, and for our wards it varied from 78.8 (Molesey East) down to 43.8 (Thames Ditton). In summary, Elmbridge has a very low crime rate and, apart from Molesey West, our wards within Elmbridge have even lower crime rates.

Now, we compare crime data for Jan-Jun '26 with Jan- Jun '25.

The table columns below show, by ward, the variation in numbers of crimes between Jan-Jun '25 and Jan-Jun '26, with crime types sorted from highest to lowest (top to bottom) for our region as a whole. The next column shows, the same figures for the whole of Elmbridge.

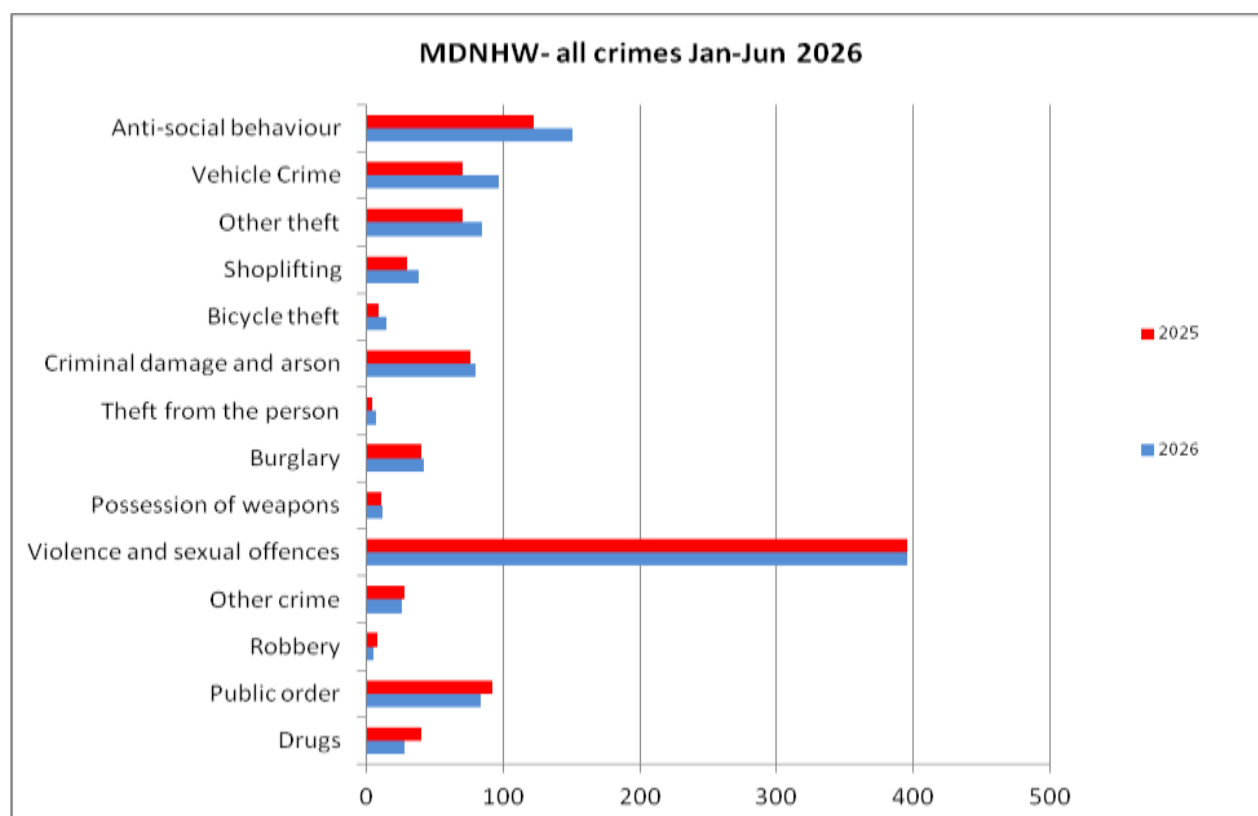
The final 2 columns show the actual number for MDNHW of each crime type in 2026, and the % of each compared to the total. Our region had a 7.0% increase in overall crime in Jan-Jun 2026 compared with Jan-Jun 2025, whilst Elmbridge had an increase of 4.2%.

Some wards fared better than others with an overall increase in Long Ditton (predominantly in other

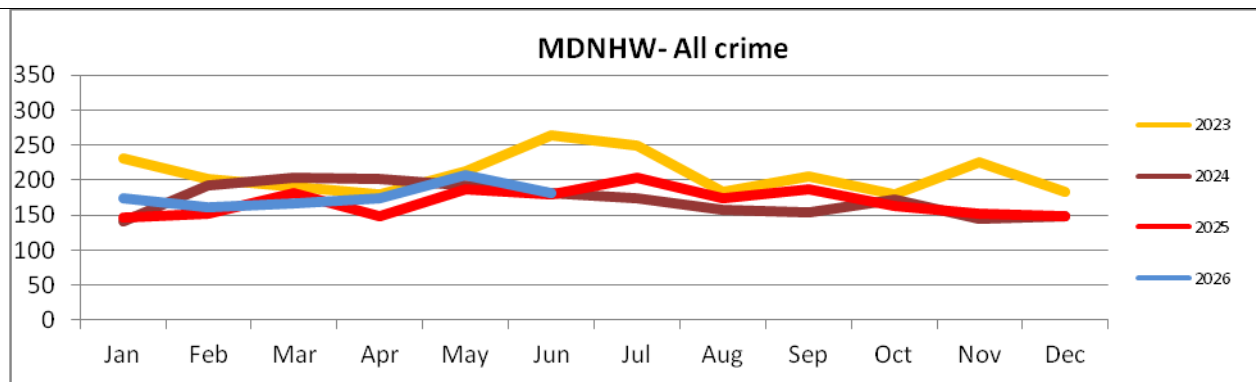
theft, Criminal Damage & Arson, Vehicle Crime and ASB) and also in Thames Ditton (predominantly in Vehicle Crime, ASB, Violence and Criminal Damage) The other wards all have an overall decrease,

Molesey, Dittons & Hinchley Wood (MDNHW Region) Variance in crimes Jan-Jun 25/26	Molesey West	Molesey East	Thames Ditton	Long Ditton	Hinchley Wood & Weston Green	MDNHW Region	Elmbridge	MDNHW Total Crimes Jan-Jun 2026	MDNHW % of Total Crimes Jan-Jun 2026
Violence and sexual offences	-7	14	8	-4	-11	0	83	396	37.1%
Anti-social behaviour	10	0	13	7	-1	29	16	151	14.2%
Vehicle Crime	4	-7	13	10	7	27	15	97	9.1%
Other theft	-3	-3	1	17	3	15	28	85	8.0%
Public order	-8	1	6	-9	2	-8	-9	84	7.9%
Criminal damage and arson	1	-3	-4	15	-5	4	9	80	7.5%
Burglary	-6	1	-2	1	8	2	-27	42	3.9%
Shoplifting	5	-2	2	3	0	8	61	38	3.6%
Drugs	-1	-6	-1	-1	-3	-12	-25	28	2.6%
Other crime	-1	1	1	0	-3	-2	-26	26	2.4%
Bicycle theft	1	2	4	-2	1	6	0	15	1.4%
Possession of weapons	0	-1	-1	4	-1	1	4	12	1.1%
Theft from the person	2	3	0	-1	-1	3	14	7	0.7%
Robbery	0	-1	-1	0	-1	-3	26	5	0.5%
TOTAL	-3	-1	39	40	-5	70	169	1066	

The following table gives a better picture of how the various crime types have changed between 2025 and 2026. They are shown in order of largest increase to largest decrease.

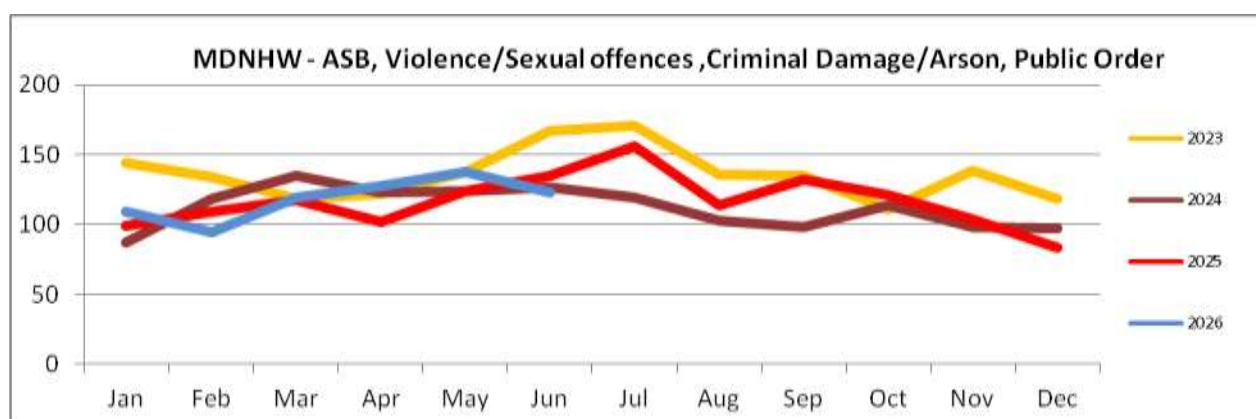


For a better idea of annual trends we need to look in comparison to previous years' crime rates. The overall crime rate started similar to last year, and has tracked close to the same so far. But overall, some 7.0% more than in 2025.



In Jan-Jun 2026, across Elmbridge, of the 14 neighbourhood crime types, 4 of the 5 highest rates were Violence and Sexual Offences, ASB, Public Order and Criminal Damage and Arson, collectively accounting for 66.7% (two thirds) of the total crime. (Vehicle Crime has increased so that this is now the 3rd highest crime type in this period.)

You see here, for these 4 crime types for our region, the same trend as with total crime, suggesting that this is one main factor in that trend. They also account for 66.1% of the total regional crime.



Molesey West has tracked below 2025 levels for 3 of these crime types, but above for ASB since April. However, overall a 2% decrease across the combined types.

Molesey East has also tracked at or below 2025 levels for 3 of these crime types, but above for Violence and Sexual Offences throughout March to May. Overall a 7.1% increase across the combined types.

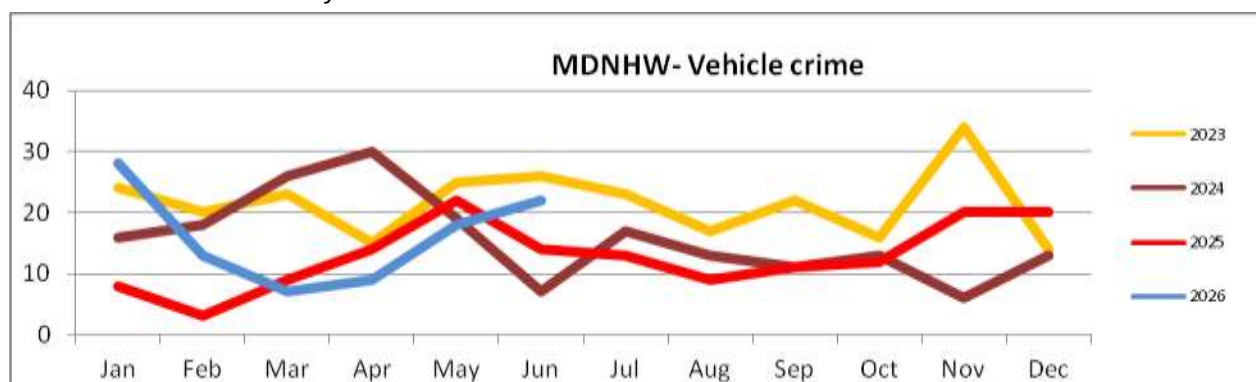
Thames Ditton; ASB increased from May; Violence and Sexual Offences increased throughout Feb to May; Public order increased from May. Criminal Damage decreased overall, however the overall combination led to a 27% increase.

Long Ditton; Criminal Damage & Arson increased (+15) due almost entirely to a peak in April. ASB also increased (+7) trending above 2025 levels in March and April. However Public Order and Violence & Sexual Offences have trended at or below 2025 levels, resulting in an overall 5.9% increase.

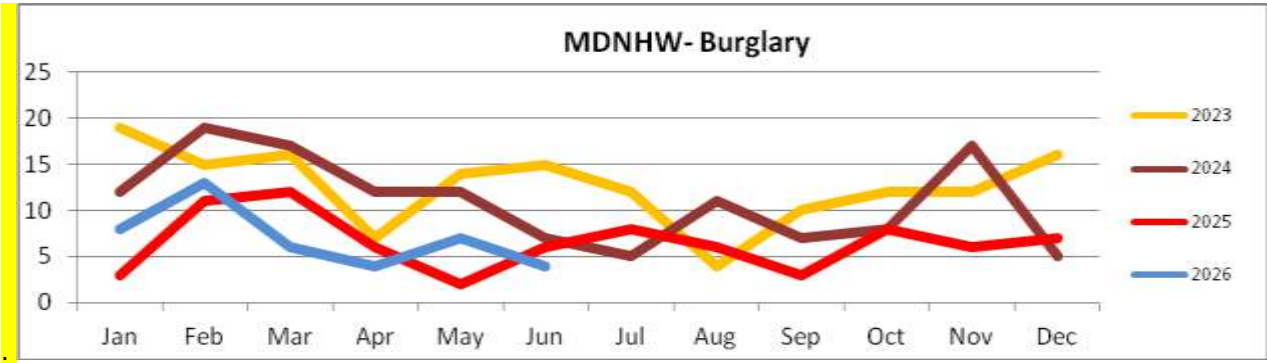
Hinchley Wood & Weston Green had a reduction in 3 of the crime types, with a small overall increase (+2) in Public Order. Overall a 19% reduction across the 4 crime types.

The crimes that have the most impact on victims are Vehicle Crime and Burglary, accounting for 9.1% and 3.9% respectively of the total crime in Jan-Jun 2026 (although both higher than in 2025)..

Vehicle crime is now the 3rd most frequent crime in our region, and 39% higher than the same period in 2025. Across the region there were increases in January and February and in Thames Ditton and Long Ditton increases also in May and June.



Burglary has increased in total by 5.0% (+2) compared to the same period in 2025. Hinchley Wood & Weston Green experienced peaks in January and February (+8) but otherwise all areas were close to or below 2025 levels..



The other 8 crime types account for the remaining 20.3% of all crime, and only 4 of those show an increase in 2026 compared to the 2025.

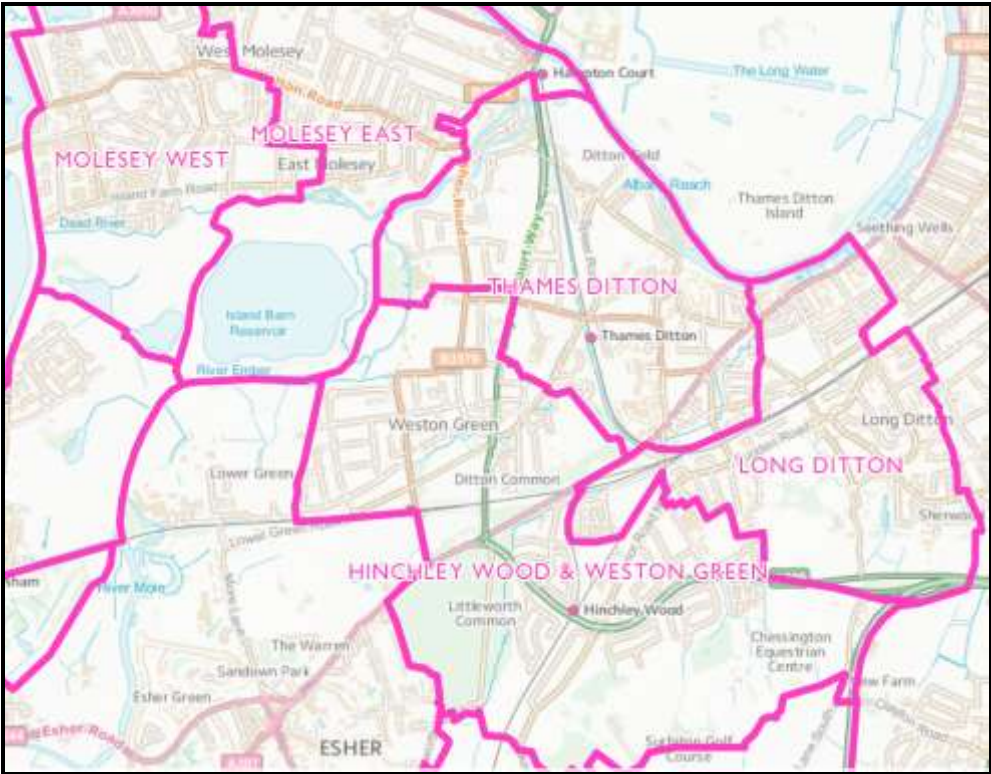
Bicycle Theft, accounting for 1.4% of total crime, with an increase of 66.7% (only +6).

Other Theft, accounting for 8.0% of total crime, with an increase of 21% (+1 in Thames Ditton, +17 in Long Ditton (throughout Jan- Jun) and +3 in Hinchley Wood & Weston Green).

Shoplifting, accounting for 3.6% of total crime, with an increase of 27% (+5 in East Molesey, +2 in Thames Ditton, +3 in Long Ditton).

Theft from the person, accounting for 0.7% of total crime with an increase of 75% (+2 in West Molesey, +3 in East Molesey).

From Ordnance Survey Election Maps



Election wards

It wasn't possible to capture the full map of our NHW region, but the northern border of Molesey West and Molesey East wards is the river Thames.

To see this map on-line, go to:

<https://www.ordnancesurvey.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
www.rightupyourstreet.net
www.surreycc.gov.uk
www.surreypa.gov.uk
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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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