Community Safety

The newsletter from
Hart District Council

Issue 63 July 2026

This Newsletter aims to provide information around safeguarding and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), raise awareness of current issues across the district, promote the good work of our partner agencies and celebrate the successes we have had.

We can be contacted online: [Report antisocial behaviour | Hart District Council]
by phone: **01252 774476** or by e-mail: communitysafety@hart.gov.uk

THINK DRIVE STAY ALIVE

Students at Yateley Sixth Form recently took part in the powerful Think Drive Stay Alive event, delivered in partnership with colleagues from Hampshire Police and Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service. The interactive session gave young people a firsthand insight into the devastating consequences that can result from careless or impaired driving.

Students had the opportunity to:

- View a **real-life crashed vehicle** from a road traffic collision (RTC).
- Speak directly with **frontline police officers and firefighters** about the realities of attending serious collisions.
- Take part in **reaction-based challenges** using impairment goggles, simulating the effects of alcohol and drug impairment on coordination, judgement and reaction times.
- Learn about the **life-changing impact** that poor decisions behind the wheel can have on drivers, passengers, families and emergency responders.

By combining powerful visual demonstrations with real-life experiences from emergency service professionals, the event encouraged students to think carefully about the choices they make as future drivers and passengers.

The Hidden Risks of Youth Vaping

Vaping among young people continues to be a growing concern. While often marketed as a safer alternative to smoking for adults, vapes can expose children and teenagers to nicotine addiction, impact developing brains, and increase the risk of long-term health problems.

Recent Trading Standards enforcement activity in Hampshire highlights the scale of the issue. Between January and March 2026, officers removed illicit products worth **approximately £4,000–£5,000** from sale, including **289 illegal vapes, 5,990 cigarettes, and 67 packs of hand-rolled tobacco**. Partnership work with Police and the South East Regional Organised Crime Unit (SEROCU) has also led to closure orders against premises linked to illicit tobacco sales and alleged underage vape sales. Enforcement action is being taken against those who sell age-restricted products to children. One retailer and company director were **fined £14,780 after selling a vape to a 15-year-old** test purchaser and being found in possession of illegal vapes.

Parents, carers, schools and communities all have a role to play in helping young people understand the risks of vaping and making informed, healthy choices.

Need support to quit vaping or smoking?

- Catch22 Hampshire Smokefree Generation Programme provides support and advice for young people and families can be accessed here.
- Hampshire Smokefree offers free local stop smoking and vaping support for adults and young people here.

Together, we can help young people make healthier choices and reduce the harm caused by nicotine addiction.

Going on Holiday? Make Sure Your Home Stays Safe

A little preparation before you leave can help prevent your home becoming a target for opportunist burglars. Whether you're away for a weekend or a fortnight, these simple steps can provide peace of mind while you're enjoying your break.

Before You Go:

- Lock all doors and windows, including garages, sheds, side gates and conservatories.
- Set alarms and security devices, check batteries and ensure systems are working properly.
- Use timer switches on lights or radios to create the impression someone is at home.
- Store valuables out of sight and avoid leaving keys near doors or windows.

Ask for a Helping Hand

A trusted neighbour, friend or family member can:

- Collect post and deliveries.
- Open and close curtains occasionally.
- Move bins on collection days.
- Keep an eye out for anything unusual.

Think Before You Post

Sharing holiday photos in real time can advertise that your home is empty. Consider:

- Waiting until you return before posting holiday updates.
- Checking your privacy settings on social media.
- Avoiding posts that reveal how long you'll be away.

Don't Forget the Outside

- Remove ladders and tools that could help a burglar gain access.
- Ensure gates and fences are secure.
- If possible, park a vehicle on the drive or ask a neighbour to do so occasionally.

Enjoy a Worry-Free Holiday

Taking a few minutes to secure your property before you travel can significantly reduce the risk of burglary and help ensure your holiday memories are happy ones. **Remember:** Make your home look occupied, keep valuables secure, and save the holiday photos for when you get back!

Hart Youth Achievement Awards 2026

Nominations are now open until 25 September 2026 in two age categories – up to school year 6 and school year 7 to age 25 across the following categories: Community Champion, Courage, Academic Achievement, Fundraising, Group Achievement, Sports and Arts and Volunteering.

Get your thinking caps on, share with others and submit your nominations here.

Help us to all celebrate the wonderful young people in Hart!

Fleet Phoenix
Empowering Young People To Thrive

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communitysafety@hart.gov.uk