



Wilstead NEWSLETTER

August 2020
including Parish Council News

PUBLISHED BY WILSTEAD NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH, PART OF BEDFORD & DISTRICT NW ASSOCIATION

Wilstead Village Hall Now OPEN for Hiring

(with Covid-19 restrictions and procedures)

During lockdown, Wilstead Village Hall was given an extra clean and tidy up inside and out. Thank you Andy, Louise and our gardener.

Following Government guidelines for re-opening, the Management Committee have been busy putting together a Risk Assessment relevant to the Hall and acting on it by putting Covid-19 procedures in place and installing extra equipment to help make the Hall as Covid-19 safe as possible. These extra procedures (to follow alongside the normal conditions of hire) called 'Additional Conditions of Hire', have been sent to all the regular hirers of the Hall and given to any potential hirers before booking. These procedures must be shared with all people entering the Hall by the named hirer. The 'Additional Conditions of Hire' is available to read on the Wilstead Community Website, under Village Hall.

As you are aware, the Government keep updating the guidelines but as from **Friday 1st August**, because there are Covid-19 procedures in place and due to the hall sizes, the Hall was open for bookings of up to 35 people in the main hall and 10 in the small hall, all observing the 2 metre social distancing.

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Latest Crime Recorded for Wilstead

**Other Criminal Damage to a Vehicle –
under £5000**

Friday 24th July at Midnight
Whitworth Way

**Other Criminal Damage to a Vehicle –
under £5000**

Sunday 19th July between 10am and 5pm
Dines Close

Burglary – Residential – Non Dwelling

Tuesday 23rd June between 9.50am and
Midday and between 11.50am and 11.08am
Cotton End Road

Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm – ABH

Monday 8th June at 9pm
Woodland Park

Harassment Without Violence

Sunday 31st May at Midnight

Crime recorded for nearby villages

It has been decided not to publish the normal information this month as there appears to be a few older crimes and some duplication of entries

**The above 'Crime Recorded' are the latest
available and are up to 28th July.**

Your Co-ordinator is

Community Engagement Events

The Police are looking to restart the **Community Engagement Events**. These have not yet started but an update will be issued once the Police are happy that events can be held whilst adhering to Covid-19 regulations.

In the meantime, please complete the Survey Monkey survey which helps the Police to identify the next Community Priority. The more that are completed, the better the understanding of community concerns.

If you have difficulty accessing the link, you could cut and paste:

www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BedsPoliceHaveYourSay

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Most activities are now accepted, especially those where people are not moving around each other BUT there are exceptions.

Not allowed yet in Wilstead Hall: -

Live singing e.g. choirs, congregations, performances

Use of woodwind and brass instruments by amateurs

Discos
Bouncy Castles
Adult and teenage parties

Catering involving buffet style service. Food must be served via table service or individually wrapped portions. Serving only tea/coffee and biscuits will give more protection against Covid-19 contamination.

Overall this means that any function where an obvious risk of the guidance will be hard to comply with, should not take place.

Further guidance can be sort on the Government Guidance websites.

If any queries, please contact: -

Chair - Paul Buckley

01234 740740

pkbuckley22@gmail.com

Secretary – Angela Fosbrook

01234 294692

angela.fosbrook@ntlworld.com

Booking Secretary – Roisin Whittle

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Village P3 Footpath Group

Meetings

The next meeting is planned for **Saturday 19th September**. Hopefully it will be in the large hall of the Village Hall starting at 10.00am. Details will be confirmed in the September Newsletter.

If the corona virus has meant you now know more about the footpaths and bridleways in and around the village perhaps you would be interested in helping look after them and periodically report on their condition. Come along to the meeting (or contact the number below) to find out more. You will be made very welcome.

Footpath Work

Following the installation of way mark posts reported in last month's Newsletter, work on the paths in the last few weeks has concentrated on mowing and updating the waymarking.

The group has mown the paths from Cotton End Road to both sides of the Stables, (FPs 8&9) and Littleworth to Cotton End (FP1/Eastcotts FP10). In addition many way mark discs that have become faint/faded have been replaced.

If you spot any problems with the path surface or overgrowth then please contact the number below and the group will try and address it.

Footpaths across the A6

Warning signs (i.e. adult holding child's hand) have been put up either side of the two footpaths (FPs 3&4) which cross the A6 on their way to Houghton Conquest. It is hoped that words saying 'Pedestrians Crossing' can be added to these signs to clarify the warning as these signs are also used to indicate where there is no footway/pavement.

Walks

The July walk was cancelled because of the virus. It is still uncertain as to when we will be able to walk as a group again. The plan was to walk on the evening of **Friday 21st August** and the afternoon of **Sunday 27th September**.

Please keep an eye on the village noticeboards and the Newsletter for updates on this.

Nigel Jacobs

P3 contact 01234 400733

Please mention the Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter when replying to advertisements.

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Wilshamstead Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting, Wilstead Village Hall, Monday 7th September – Members of the Public Welcome to Attend

The September Parish Council meeting will be a physical meeting now the Village Hall has reopened. The meeting will be held in the Main Hall to ensure social distancing, and members of the public are welcome to attend. The Council meeting will start on **Monday 7th September** at 7pm: comprehensive planning is taking place for this meeting; if you plan to attend it would be helpful for the Council to know in advance if possible.

Please remember if you have a matter that requires the attention of the Parish Council then you do not need to wait for a Parish Council meeting, you can get in touch so we can look at how best to resolve the matter as promptly as possible.

Current Bedford Borough Local Plan Options and Issues Consultation

It is already time for the Borough Council to start the Local Plan process again and to look at the strategy for where development should go in Bedford Borough. You will have received a leaflet through your door recently outlining the proposals and potential ways Bedford can grow. The Parish Council again wish to encourage **ALL** residents to engage in this consultation, as now is the time to have your say. The Borough Officers will look at all the comments fed back and use this to direct the way development moves forward in the Local Plan going forwards. To find out more information please visit:

www.bedford.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy-its-purpose/local-plan-review/

If you have a specific question then email:

planningpolicy@bedford.gov.uk

putting 'consultation questions' as the title of your email. There is also a dedicated phone line (**01234 718300**) where you can leave a message containing your query.

The consultation closes on **Friday 4th September** so please make sure you submit your responses by then. Your comments should be sent using the consultation response form, which can be found through the webpage details above. If you are not able to access this, then please still engage in the consultation and just send your comments to the email address above.

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Village Facilities Update

The Parish Council wish to thank Lindsay Bates and the Allotment Society for their continued hard work in ensuring the allotment facility is managed efficiently. It is such an asset to the village and it is great to see it flourishing, so if you do want to get involved, or are considering an allotment then get in touch to be added to the waiting list.

Over recent months the Parish Council have been working hard on moving forwards with two new village facilities for which the Parish Council have agreed to provide financial support. There is going to be CCTV installed at the Crossroads junction to support local community safety. This is planned to be the first phase of a scheme in the village that will see a pro-active approach to keeping the village safe. The Police will have access to the recorded information if they require it, so it will enable them to be assisted with their work in the local area, plus give residents peace of mind. The installation of this is planned to take place shortly.

Also the Parish Council have been busy trying to arrange the installation of a Christmas Tree at the Crossroads junction, so that there is a central focus during the festive season in the village, after what has been a challenging year. It is planned for this to be an annual feature, and thank you to those residents who have stepped forward to assist with arranging the logistics of the tree being installed.

How Do I Contact The Parish Council?

The best way to do is this via email by sending a communication to:

clerk@wilsteadparishcouncil.org

This is a new email address so please save it to your contact list, as it is part of moving the Parish Council communications over to one cloud-based system. Part of the work done to move the Parish Council forwards also includes document storage and information handling to make the Parish Council more efficient, one of the items linked to this being the new stand-alone website. This continues to be updated and it is worth taking a look at the site as we would welcome input and feedback. The site can be found at:

www.wilsteadparishcouncil.org

The Parish Office Will Remain Closed

Please kindly understand that the Parish Office will remain closed at this time. The Parish Council are looking at ways the Office may be able to re-open in the future, these are being explored and a further update will be provided in the next Newsletter.

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Wilstead Pre-school

We reopened our doors seven weeks ago and we have to say children have been absolutely fantastic!! Thank you to our parents who have been amazingly supportive and understanding.

These have certainly been a very difficult and strange few months for us all and for anyone who has been affected by Covid, Pre-school, sends you all of our very best wishes and thoughts.

Although opening for 'business as usual' in September, we still await Government guidelines with regards to reopening with many more children but we are ready and look forward to seeing you all.

If you require a space for your child please do contact us as we are still around over the Summer getting Pre-school ready and demand is high.

We have really missed all of our Pre-school leavers celebrations but we wish them every success going to school, they will be fantastic!

Thank you as always to our amazing Pre-school staff team for all of their wonderful Facebook videos and activities over the past few weeks, there isn't a day that we haven't thought about our lovely children and to those we haven't seen we have missed you so much.

Please continue to look after each other and be kind.

We will never forget those who have lost their lives and their families.

Take care
Mandy, Manager

North Rural Community Priority – An Update

PCSO James Dancer has given an update on 'High Visibility Policing and Crime Reduction in Relation to Burglary' which was a recent Community Priority.

Unfortunately, there was a large increase in Residential Burglaries in the area with 29 being recorded for June. This compared to 18, a rise of 61%, in the same period last year. Non-Residential Burglaries saw a drop to only 4 – a decrease of 69%. A male was identified and arrested for a number of offenses in Great Denham. The large amount and quality of CCTV in the area was very useful to the police.

Have you bought anything online recently?...

Almost 34% of all retail sales during May 2020 were carried out online, and new research suggests that only 16% of UK consumers intend to return to their old shopping habits post-lockdown.

Online shopping fraud during lockdown

Action Fraud, the UK's national reporting centre for fraud and cyber crime, received over 16,000 reports relating to online shopping and auction fraud during the lockdown, with losses totalling over £16m.

Members of the public have reported buying mobile phones (19%), vehicles (22%), electronics (10%) such as games consoles, AirPods and MacBooks, and footwear (4%) on sites such as eBay (18%), Facebook (18%), Gumtree (10%) and Depop (6%), only to find the items never arrive.

Top tips for shopping online securely

Choosing where to shop:

If you're making a purchase from a company or seller you don't know and trust, carry out some research first. For example, by checking to see if others have used the site and what their experience was.

Email accounts:

Use a strong, separate password for your email account. Criminals can use your email to access other online accounts, such as those you use for online shopping.

Scam messages:

Some of the emails or texts you receive about amazing offers may contain links to fake websites. Not all links are bad, but if you're unsure don't use the link, go separately to the website. And remember, if a deal looks too good to be true, it probably is.

Payment method:

If you decide to go ahead with the purchase, use a credit card if you have one as other payment providers may not provide the same protection.

What to do if you've fallen victim to online shopping fraud:

We all make mistakes and these days the scams can be incredibly convincing.

If you think you've visited, or made a purchase on, a bogus website, you should first, take a note of the website's address, then close down your internet browser. You should then report the details to Action Fraud and contact your bank to seek advice.

Whether you've been a victim of fraud will depend on how much information you've provided to the website, so keep an eye on your bank transactions, if you can. Contact your bank immediately about anything that you don't recognise, even small amounts.

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An Update on Our Group

As some may have heard on the village grapevine our **Good Neighbours group** and our **neighbours Wixams Community Group** have discussed and agreed that it would make better use of both resources **to combine our Good Neighbours activities and become one group, led by Wilstead.** We are looking to a September time frame to formalise this process as both groups have to give twenty one days notice to hold a Special General Meeting to allow all to voice any concerns/agree to the proposal, plus we have to find a village hall open to hold such a meeting and conduct it in accordance with prevailing health guidelines.

The pandemic has highlighted the limitations of the Wilstead group, mostly due to the majority of the volunteers being in the 'at risk age group' as defined by NHS guidelines. Wixams Community has a sister group providing the Shopping Club service which was a tremendous success and benefited many in Wilstead, and as that is beginning to wind down Wixams are looking to try to recruit many of those volunteers to cross over and join the Good Neighbours. Time will tell as to the success of this venture. I will keep you posted of developments as they occur, putting info onto the Village website as well.

Regarding current day-to-day operations, our Group is still active but there are some restrictions to our activities and what we are able to undertake. We are only taking on those requests for urgent appointments to limit the exposure of all. Under guidance from BRCC we should observe certain procedures if we accept taking a villager (client) to an appointment. The client has to have and wear their own face mask and be on their own. The volunteer must also wear their own face mask. The client must be 'ambulatory', not needing assistance to get to or from the vehicle, preferably without additional walking aids.

If a walking aid must be used the volunteer must wear protective gloves to handle the aid and use a sanitiser spray to wipe the aid down before placing it in their vehicle. The client should not have any luggage (other than handbag) and must sit in the rear seat opposite the driver and preferably have a window open. A seat cover should be used over fabric



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seats. A sanitiser spray must also be used to wipe down seats, door handles, seat belts and anything the client could have touched after job completion. The volunteer should not take the client into any premises.

The Phone Holder will already have informed the client of the above before accepting the job and contacting the volunteer. Also the Phone Holder will also have obtained assurances that the client is not showing any signs of Covid 19 symptoms, nor been in any situation where contact with an infected person was possible. We can assist in obtaining the necessary above PPE/Cleaning items if required.

Look after yourselves and keep well.

Rick Baxter

Chairman WGNS: 01234 740854

WGNS Phone: 07807 408928

Reader's Letter

We the residents of Briar Bank Park are disgusted at how the Millennium Garden at the Luton end of the Village has been left since the road-works finished.

The weeds were chopped off, after messages sent with no answer, now they have grown back and the garden is very hard to find.

Over the years Briar Bank Park residents have taken care of this garden, spending money on plants and compost, also time spent keeping it looking nice.

Now it is in a disgraceful mess, the Chairman of Briar Bank Park Residents Association spent time tidying and planting some alpine plants there, to no good at all.

(name and address supplied)



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Art News

Wilstead
& Wixams



Hi Everyone,
at the time of writing this article we've been able (with restrictions) to have our first two meetings since the 'lock down' at the Village Hall.

We would like to thank the Village Hall for their hard work making the hall 'Covid proof' and thank Andy the caretaker for all his help prior to and after our meetings.

We are a very friendly group with members of all abilities, each individually creating pictures with a wide variety of mediums.

If you would like to come and join us please phone or email us before coming to one of our meetings so we can explain the Village Hall 'Covid Do's and Don'ts.'

We meet on Mondays (except for public holidays) throughout the year in Wilstead Village Hall from 2pm - 4pm. The first session is Free.

Keep safe and well everyone.

Linda Marlton
Mobile 07792 680654

Michael Bradley
07526 939164

villagehallart@gmail.com

Bowls Club News

Our green is being cut every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning by the Green Keeper and his loyal helpers so we can enjoy our friendly rollups, still keeping the correct distances.

Our Club House bar was opened on Friday 10th July. We had four rinks of triples that evening at 6pm and then enjoyed our first drink at the bar after so many weeks without. The bar is being opened **every Friday at 7pm until 10.30pm** and also on **Sunday lunchtimes 12 until 2pm**. You can come and have a game then enjoy a drink before going home.

There are daily roll ups every afternoon from 2pm, 4pm and 6pm. We held a 'Spoon Drive' on Saturday 25th July but this was called off halfway because of the rain.

Looking forward to more of our members being able to come and socialise again. but still keeping our distance.

Everyone keep safe and well.
Jean Ward - Secretary

Garden Club News

We are delighted that restrictions will allow us to resume our very social meetings but, unfortunately restrictions do mean changes.

Until everything returns to normal, we cannot meet in the small hall. We will therefore be holding meetings on the **third Tuesday of each month** commencing **Tuesday 15th September at 2.30pm in the Village Hall**. Further information about the meeting will be given in the September newsletter to reflect the prevailing restrictions.

The first meeting will be an open meeting where we can share our reflections on gardening in 2020. It has been quite a difficult year with a very wet winter, very hot and dry spring and cool start to summer. Crops have either abounded or failed and flowers have bloomed earlier than they should. We wonder what the rest of the year will bring!

Unfortunately we have had disappointing response regarding the suggestion for an Open Garden weekend in August. This will not now go

ahead. Remember the NGS is a charitable organisation and gardens are open for pre-booking. Also English Heritage, National Trust and other gardens are open, hopefully without pre-booking after the first of August.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Maralyn, Lynda, Mary and Viv
wilsteadgardenclub@hotmail.com

Alert – Theft of Pets

Residents who have cats or dogs as pets should be aware that there have been recent incidents of pets being stolen 'to order'. Houses have apparently been identified where the householder is the owner of a pet which may be suitable to be stolen.

Owners will not need to be reminded to take care of their pets at all times and to be very vigilant when someone starts acting suspiciously, or asks questions, about or around pets.

Please mention the Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter when replying to advertisements.



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Wilstead Village Hall Management Committee

Annual General Meeting

Monday 21st September at 7.30pm in Main Hall

The position of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer should be nominated at least 10 days prior to the meeting to the Chairperson or Secretary.

Chairperson - Paul Buckley

740740 pkbuckley22@gmail.com

Secretary – Angela Fosbrook

294692 angela.fosbrook@ntlworld.com

Please come along and support your local facility and consider becoming a Committee Member, especially a Treasurer. New members are needed with new ideas about how to keep the Hall running.

All Saints Church News

We are pleased to report that church services will resume on Sunday 16th August. Initially we will have one service at **11.00 am**. Obviously there will be limitations due to current regulations. We are

unable to sing hymns during the service so the Service of Holy Communion will be a said service.

We will need to maintain social distancing and will use every other pew to spread out.

There will be hand sanitiser available as you come into church and we are requested to maintain an attendance register should there be any problems occurring in the days after the service. All are very welcome to join us for worship. It may be that at sometime we can have our usual pattern of services with an 8.00am service as well as the 11.00 service. We will just have to wait and see.

The church clock repairs which have been delayed by the lockdown will be taking place during August and hopefully we will have a smart clock when the work is done. As was mentioned in an earlier Newsletter the cost is considerable some £7,000 and we are still asking for donations.

We have had little extra income during the twenty week lockdown but we still have to pay our dues to the Diocese regardless.

Donations may be given to the Vicar or Mrs Janet Brooks or myself.

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Malicious Games Apps

AVAST is a company developing internet security applications. They have discovered 47 malicious apps disguised as games on Google Play Store.

If you have an Android smartphone, this new report may be of interest to you.

The apps, dubbed as 'HiddenAds', appear as innocent gaming apps, but actually include adware technology that can bombard your smartphone with intrusive ads.

Adware is a type of malicious software that inundates you with incessant pop-ups and messages, such as 'Congratulations! You've Been Selected For A Free Samsung Galaxy S20! Click Here!'.

Besides annoying you, adware can also gather your personal information, track the websites you visit, and even record everything you type.

These apps have already been downloaded more than fifteen million times, and seventeen of the apps are still available on the Google Play Store.

Here are some tips to help you spot malicious apps and prevent your Android device from being infected with them:

- **Carefully check the permissions the app requests before installing it.** See what the app is asking to access. If it's asking for data it does not need, consider this a red flag
- **Read the privacy policy and the terms and conditions**
- **Read the user reviews.** If there's a large number of negative reviews, you might want to reconsider downloading the app
- **Install a strong antivirus app** like Avast Mobile Security on your device so that adware and other malicious apps are identified and blocked.

Thefts from Motor Vehicles – A Word of Caution

Residents are advised to take care and to be vigilant as reports are coming in of **Theft from Motor Vehicle** offences that have taken place in the surrounding area. Although there was no damage to two of the vehicles, messy searches were conducted and loose change was taken. As no damage was involved it is unclear how entry was gained.

Remember to lock your vehicle and don't leave anything on show.



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Bedford Borough Councillor Report

Borough Council Meetings

All Council Meetings are now running virtually. It's not ideal, but it does allow for democracy to continue and for public participation.

Planning Applications

Along with a number of colleagues, I requested a return to 'normal' decision making by the full Planning Committee and to revoke the temporary powers that were given to Planning Officers, at the start of the COVID19 period, to make decisions on applications. I felt it was now possible with virtual meetings to return to the normal planning process. However this was voted down at the last meeting of the Planning Committee on a party vote.

Borough Council Services

Please check the Borough website for the latest on Council services. Conscious of the fast moving situation, the website is being frequently updated.

www.bedford.gov.uk

Waste Collections

Green waste collections are currently made on a monthly basis rather than the usual fortnightly collection. Check your collection date on the Council website:

Bedford Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC)

The HWRC is now open again, but is using an appointment system and there are major changes to how the site will operate. Everyone booking an appointment will be given a 15 minute slot which can be booked up to 14 days in advance.

Borough Community Hub

The Community Hub remains open to assist those requiring support during COVID19 Contact: 01234 718 101

Bedford Borough Local Plan

The Borough has only recently adopted the Local Plan 2030, but as part of the requirements of the Planning Inspector, is now undertaking a Local Plan Review,

Continued on next page



Reflections

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Wilstead Website
can be found at
www.wilsteadvillage.org.uk

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which will take us up to 2040 or beyond. This will need to consider future development growth and take into consideration things such as the Oxford-Cambridge Arc and East West Rail.

The Borough is looking at options, and will be considering whether to look at: new large developments (another Wixams type development); town centre growth; expanding villages; or a mixture of each.

The review starts with a call for sites and there is a public consultation which closes at 5pm on **Friday 4th September**.

Last time the organisation of the LP was a complete shambles with constant reviews and revisions and sites in and out. This time the timetable is extremely tight, so the Council will be under added pressure to get things done.

At the last consultation on the 2030 LP, a number of sites along the east of the A6 were submitted in the latter stages of the consultation. From memory, one of these was on land to the south of Medbury Farm and the other on land near to Briar Bank. We need to look out in case these are submitted again.

Cllr. Graeme Coombes

Telephone Scam Targeting Elderly Victims

Bedfordshire Police are reissuing a warning to residents about telephone scammers, following reports of incidents in the county.

Elderly Bedfordshire residents have been targeted in the last Months by fraudsters posing as Police Officers.

In one instance, a caller told a lady that a family member was being held in Police custody, and then asked questions about her bank cards and account.

Happily, she realised it wasn't genuine and terminated the call, then reported it to the Police straightaway.

Inspector Gareth Coombs of the Force Contact Centre, said: "Unfortunately from time to time we see a fresh wave of these cruel hoaxes, intended to dupe vulnerable people out of large sums of money.

Be vigilant with personal details or banking information and remember that a Police officer, or a bank would never ask for details such as this to be carried out over a cold call.

Continued on next page

Newsletter DEADLINE

for any copy, new advertisements or changes to existing advertisements

Friday 21st Aug

The next newsletter will be published on Friday 4th Sept

Please send items and articles for inclusion in the Wilstead Newsletter to our dedicated e-mail address:

wilstead.newsletter@gmail.com

Please Note that requests for NEW ADVERTS and Advert Changes should now be sent to **Maxine Hendry**, as should Payments.

Next Co-ordinators' Meeting

Date and venue to be advised of the next co-ordinators' meeting.

Telephone Number List

to cut out and keep by your telephone

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CRIME IN PROGRESS	999
Non Emergency Police	101
Police Headquarters	01234 841212
PC5324 Kerry Jones	101 ext 2865/2864/2862
Crime Stoppers	0800 555 111
Abandoned Vehicles	01234 221768
Borough Councillor, Graeme Coombes	07815 302318
Neighbourhood Watch Central Office	01234 842043
Wilstead Good Neighbours	07807 408928

"Who's Who"

Neighbourhood Watch, Wilstead

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If you suspect a scam is taking place or you feel vulnerable, hang up, wait five minutes to clear the line, or where possible use a different telephone line, to call Police or Action Fraud to report the incident.'

Telephone fraud advice

A Police officer or bank will NEVER:

- Ask for your personal financial information over the phone.
- Invite you to make purchases either over the phone, online or in person.
- Ask you to move money from your account.
- Collect or arrange to collect money from your address.
- Instruct you not to tell anyone about what they are asking you to do, or instruct you to lie to other officials about what you are doing.

Remember to always check the caller's credentials.

If you take a call from someone who you believe is not genuine, hang up, and contact either Action Fraud or the Police. Where possible use a different phone to make the call in case the fraudulent caller is still on the line.

If you do give your details to someone who you later believe is not credible, it's important that you contact the bank immediately.

Louise Ross, Bedfordshire Police

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