



Wilstead July 2021 NEWSLETTER *including Parish Council News*

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

Wilstead Annual Flower Produce And Handicrafts Show Will Be Cancelled For This Year

Wilstead Flower and Produce Association Committee regret to announce this but feel it necessary due to the Government's decision to delay the lifting of COVID pandemic restrictions.

We apologise to everyone who have been making preparations to enter the show but from the news reports it is still not clear if there will be a further delay and there is a likelihood that there will still be some social restrictions which could make the event impractical.

It is hoped the situation will have eased by next year and it will be considered safe to go ahead. We will, via the Newsletter, keep you informed of the new date for next year and the new schedule will be posted on the Village Website in late March 2022.

Thank you for your support in past years and we look forward getting back to normality.

Linda & Ken Cook

CRIME RECORDED FOR WILSTEAD

Assault Without Injury
Saturday 29th May 11am
Hampton Close

Theft or Unauthorised Taking of Pedal Cycle
Between Sunday 9th May Midnight and Sunday 16th May 11.58pm
Bedford Road

Crime Recorded for nearby Villages

Cardington 3, Shortstown 16, Wixams 18.

The above Recorded Crimes, the latest available, cover the period 29th April to 31st May.

Wilstead Jubilee Centre Is Now Open

In line with current government recommendations, the Jubilee Centre is now open for clubs and youth groups. These have to conform with current legislation and observe social distancing, and masks must be worn in the building by adults, unless exempt.

Whilst private parties cannot yet be held there, provisional booking is possible for your family gathering and party, for once COVID restrictions have eased. This date has not yet been announced, but is not anticipated to be before the end of July.

The hire fee remains at its pre-pandemic price of £12.50 per hour with a refundable deposit, so if you wish to make a booking or an enquiry, please contact the **Booking Secretary on bookjcentre@icloud.com**.

All enclosed articles are subject to current Covid19 restrictions

Contents this month includes:

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Your Co-ordinator is:

Covid Vaccine Passport Scam

We have been made aware of a **Covid Vaccine Passport Scam** going around that purports to be from the NHS and informs recipients that they can apply for their '**Digital Coronavirus Passport**'.

Clicking to the link within the email takes you to a convincing, but fake, NHS website that asks for personal and payment details (for an admin fee).

Although the website has been taken down please be aware that similar emails/websites may appear.

Your vaccination status is obtained **FREE** through the NHS App, website or by calling the NHS on 119

More information can be found on the gov.uk website: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/demonstrating-your-covid-19-vaccination-status-when-travelling-abroad>

Please note that any Phishing scams can be reported to SER (Suspicious Email Reporting Service): report@phishing.gov.uk

Wilstead Neighbourhood Watch

Wilstead Village Hall

Unfortunately, due to the continuation of the restrictions beyond Saturday 21st June, the Hall has not been allowed to open completely for everyone to use and enjoy. Hirers have to continue to follow the COVID-19 procedures that the Committee have put in place, under the Government guidelines.

However, by the time you read this, perhaps we will know what the future holds and the Committee can plan for limited or not any restrictions when hirers use the Hall.

Hopefully on Wednesday 23rd June the AGM took place, a new Chairperson was elected and a Committee of exciting people full of ideas was formed! More information on this next time.

If you wish to enquire about making a booking please see the hall advert in this Newsletter or look at the Wilstead Community website. Click on 'Village Hall' for any information on rates of hire, conditions of hire, COVID-19 procedures etc.

Wilstead Village Hall Needs You

If you have any queries about this, or anything to do with the hall, please contact me.

Angela Fosbrook | Wilstead Village Hall Secretary.
angela.fosbrook@ntlworld.com | 01234 294692



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Village P3 Footpath Group

Meetings

The May meeting was cancelled because of Covid and the July meeting is planned for the 10th. However this may be moved to later in the month following the latest road map.

Group members will be reporting on the footpaths and bridleways in the Parish which they will have recently surveyed, identifying any problems/issues with their path.

Borough Paths

It is still hoped to help the Borough undertake surveys of paths in other parishes. Depending on dates around 10 members of the group have said they would help with these surveys.

These surveys are now undertaken electronically rather than using pen and paper. We used to go as a group and then split up and do all/most of the paths within a allocated parish.. However a shortage of Borough tablets may result in changes to how the Group are involved this time.

One of the Group is to go on a Borough training course on how to use the tablet to record the state of the paths. They will in turn teach the rest of the Group.

Footpath Work

The recent wet and warm weather has meant that many of the paths around the village now need a mow and other minor footpath work has been identified. Hopefully this can be done in the next couple of weeks.

If you do spot any problems with the path surface or overgrowth or stiles/way mark posts etc then please contact the number below and the group will try and address it.

Walks

The June walk was cancelled following the delay to the COVID road map. Hopefully we will be able to resume the monthly walks in the near future, perhaps a Friday evening towards the end of July. Keep an eye out for posters on the noticeboards.

If you would like to be put on the Group's emailing list regarding these walks then please contact the number below.

Below are provisional dates for rest of the walks in 2021:

Friday 6th August evening

Sunday 5th September afternoon

Sunday 10th October morning

Sunday 21st November morning.

Nigel Jacobs | P3 contact 01234400733

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Watch Out For DVLA Scam Email

The following email has been received by a local resident. Please be vigilant and never click on a link in an email you are not expecting. When in doubt go directly to the website for that organisation and make your query that way.

The message read:

Your bank has told us that your recent Direct Debit Payment has been returned as you have cancelled your instruction.

As we have not been able to collect payment we have now cancelled your Direct Debit mandate and the vehicle is not taxed.

Failure to take one of the above actions may result in enforcement action being taken.

Payment advice about DVLA Direct Debit is at >> <http://dvla-account-govuk-data.aadworkshop.org/>

The agency reserves the right to withdraw Direct Debit as a payment method from anyone repeatedly failing to make payments or not adhering to the terms of the Direct Debit guarantee.

If you receive this email, do not reply to it, and forward it to report@phishing.gov.uk

Then delete it.

Name and address supplied.

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Vacancy at Wilstead Jubilee Centre, Jubilee Way, off Bedford Road

Now the Jubilee Centre is opening for groups and eventually for family parties, the Committee are looking for a local caretaker, to open and close for these bookings.

There is no general cleaning involved although safety checks and regular inspections of the appliances and alarm systems will be needed. Full training will be given.

This is an hourly paid, self-employed position, paying national minimum wage.

If you feel this is something you would be interested in, or if you wish to learn more, please contact the Chairman of the Management Committee, David Lloyd on either bookjcentre@icloud.com or by telephone on 01234 742757.

Theft of Motor Vehicles

The current Community Priority is vehicle offences, which includes *Theft of Motor Vehicle, Theft from Motor Vehicle and Interference with Motor Vehicle.*

Theft of Motor Vehicle offences were reported in the Abbeyfields area of Elstow at the end of May together with the report of an Interference with Motor Vehicle offence.

Although these offences took place outside of Winstead, it has been pointed out that all the vehicles targeted were those with the keyless entry/start. This is when offenders use a device to relay the key's signal from inside the house to the vehicle to unlock the car doors and start the engine.

PCSO James Dancer has strongly advised that if you have a vehicle with the keyless feature to use a Faraday Pouch to place your keys in while they are in your house. This helps block the signal to and from your key. If you do not have Faraday Pouch, a metal tin may help to block the signal. Also, try to keep your keys in an area of the house away from your car. For most, this will be away from the front door. The signal from your key will be weaker with the added distance.

Wilstead Neighbourhood Watch



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Elstow Cricket Club

**Local cricket club for Wilstead, Wixams, Elstow
and other surrounding areas**

At the time of writing, we can report that things at Elstow Cricket Club are going very well. The Saturday 1st XI have picked up their first 2 wins and are moving up the table in the FCCL Division 1 and whilst the 2nd XI haven't picked up a win for a couple of weeks, signs are very good with excellent contributions from several of the young players in the squad. On a Sunday, the 1st XI are currently 3rd in the Bedfordshire County League Division 2 while the 2nd XI made up almost entirely of U16 players are 4th and have had some fantastic results so far. In June, our Club Captain scored his first century of the season in a 70-run win over close rivals Thurleigh. This was topped however by young Henry Jones who smashed 150 off just 118 balls in an equally comprehensive win for the Sunday 2nd XI. Watch out for this lad in the future.

Our first team have also qualified for the Semi Finals in both the Heritage Cup and the East Beds Shield. The Heritage Cup semi will be against Flitwick at the Warren on Monday 28th June and should be a fantastic occasion for the Club.

The Elstow Rabbits (mid-week team) are also going well and whilst they are out of the cup, they currently sit 2nd in Division 1.

In youth cricket all our teams are going well with some significant wins. None better than defending 150 in the U15 county cup v Bedford CC. We continue to field strong teams at U9, U11 (2 teams), U13, U15 and we also field a team in the U18 East Beds Shield. Age group cricket continues to thrive under the watchful eye of our Youth Development Manager Geoff Couling.

The Elstow Belles (ladies/girls) team have also started their season. Whilst they don't have competitive matches, they train with just as much enthusiasm as the boys on a Tuesday evening. Any girls or ladies who are keen to join would be more than welcome whether you are keen to learn cricket or just need an excuse to join a club, do a bit of exercise and have some fun. All ages and abilities are more than welcome to join.

The All Stars Cricket Programme has started for boys and girls aged 5 to 8 years. Adam Ross and Fiona Tanswell lead the coaching with help from some of Elstow's finest young cricketers. All Stars Cricket is on a Friday evening from 6pm. We are always looking for coaches and helpers, particularly on a Friday so please get in touch if you would like to get involved.

Spectators are now allowed at The Warren and the refreshment bar (The Pigeon Toe Inn) is open on match days and Friday evenings. Serving beer, wine, cider, tea, coffee, sweets, crisps and soft drinks, it's a great place to come and have a drink whilst taking in the cricket or watching your kids training. All are welcome to pop along for a beer or a cuppa. In line with Government and ECB guidance we continue to be cautious and as such we are still not opening the facility fully. All refreshments are served outside, we have a regular monitored cleaning regime and signage promoting social distancing is in place.

As with all clubs we are always on the look out for volunteers. If you can help at all or would just

like to be part of the Elstow CC family then please get in touch. Thanks.

Elstow CC Ladies Day on **Saturday 17th July** is a date not to be missed. The Gin and Prosecco Bar will be open from 4pm at Elstow Playing Field, with table service, while the ECC 1st XI take on Milton Keynes CC. Further details will follow on social media, however please contact the Club if you would like to book a table.

Don't forget our Vice Presidents' Day is planned for **Saturday 31st July** when our 1st XI play Great Horwood. Everybody is welcome to join us at The Warren to watch the game and there will be all sorts of refreshments available from the bar and BBQ.

Please visit our new website elstowcricketclub.co.uk for all our news, fixtures and results or see us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Fixture cards are now available from the cricket club and can also be downloaded from the website.

Fiona Tanswell | Elstow CC - Treasurer

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Enjoying Other Gardens

One of the things we enjoy is looking at other people's garden ideas and working out whether they would contribute to our own gardens.

Nineteen members of the Garden Club enjoyed a visit to St Paul's Walden Bury, Whitwell, Hitchin. This was the childhood home of the late Queen Mother and is still owned by the family. It is an extensive formal woodland garden with clipped beech hedges leading to many statues, temples and lakes. Perhaps not quite what most of us could replicate, but including focal points in our spaces creates interest. Some members also enjoyed a delicious tea of cucumber sandwiches and cake, perfect for what was quite a warm day.

This garden is part of the Hertfordshire National Garden Scheme Open Gardens. We really recommend the NGS in all areas for an interesting and safe visit. A few friends went to the old Texas Instrument site where really sun drenched courtyards allowed some interesting tropical plants to grow. There was also some amazing cakes! That is another treat during visits, we have never been disappointed. If you fancy a trip out either look online or in the brochures, useful if you want something to do in a less familiar area.

Our next outing is on **Tuesday 20th July** to an NGS garden north of Bedford. This is an early evening visit leaving the village at 6 pm. If you would like to join us and haven't put your name on the list, let us know. Again we will be going by car.

On **Tuesday 3rd August** we will be opening our own gardens. If you live in the Whitworth Way estate and would like to show off any aspect of your garden, a patio, arbour, fruit trees, plants in pots, ponds for example please let us know. All good ideas or even not so good ideas are always worth sharing.

We hope you are enjoying either your garden or other open spaces despite the changeable weather. We look forward to seeing you soon.

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

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SMS Flubot Or Phishing Scams

Have you received an SMS message claiming to be from a delivery company lately informing you about a package arriving shortly, inviting you to click on a link to track its delivery status?

Mobile users across the globe (including many members of the Neighbourhood Watch community) have been receiving messages like the one below:

**"DHL: Your parcel is arriving, track here:
<http://demo.minupet.cn/a/> etc."**

These messages are linked to a banking Trojan called 'FluBot' disguised as a legitimate text asking you to install a tracking app, intended to steal credentials and other personal data.

How to protect yourself from FluBot?

Install an antivirus solution that detects threats like Flubot on your mobile device.

You can protect yourself from FluBot and other mobile phishing attacks by following the advice below:

- Do not click on links in SMS messages - Do not install software or apps on your devices.
- Err on the side of caution with any suspicious SMS. you weren't expecting. Contact the company on their legitimate website, to confirm the message received.
- Don't reply directly to suspicious communication - Always begin a new communication via the company's official service channels
- Train yourself to detect phishing messages. These tend to be generic as well as automated messages, or messages that present an offer that seems too good to be true.
- Do not install apps from anywhere but the official app stores. Set your mobile device's security to only install apps from trusted sources.

If anyone you know has had a message like this, please do share the above information with them.

From **Neighbourhood Watch**
Our News June edition



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Wildlife Walks and Talks

**Invertebrate Walk lead
by Colin Carpenter**

Flitwick Moor Nature Reserve

Wednesday 14th July

6.45pm for a 7.00pm start
(Folly Wood car park)

Colin is the Reserves Manager for Flitwick Moor and is the County Recorder for bumblebee species. He has an excellent knowledge of the invertebrate life of this Site of Special Scientific Interest which is influenced by both the acidic iron-rich peat soils and the alkaline River Flit flowing from the chalk of the Chilterns.

This site can be very wet and paths slippery so suitable footwear should be worn. For our guided walks we ask for £3 donation per adult.

Please book your place as numbers will be limited to allow social distancing (see below for contact).

We very much look forward to seeing you! Open to all. Events have group size limits. Please reserve.

To book places or for additional information please email: flitvale.info@gmail.com or ring Ann on 075801 78889 between 6 and 8 pm or at weekends.

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How To Keep Your Home Safe This Summer

Coronavirus forced many people to place their holiday plans on hold. However, with the government reviewing travel, it's possible you might just get away this year. Whether you are planning a foreign holiday or not, you'll likely be out enjoying your new found freedom at pubs and restaurants over the Summer, leaving your homes unoccupied much more regularly as lockdown restrictions lift.

While this can be great news for the economy, it could bring a possible rise in household burglaries so it's important to be vigilant. Here's our top tips on keeping your home safe this Summer.

Ensure your doors are locked

While the nice weather means we typically spend longer outdoors, we can often forget to lock the doors after we leave the house. Always remember to keep both front and back doors locked, whether you're simply going for a jog or popping out to your local shop. Don't forget your windows!

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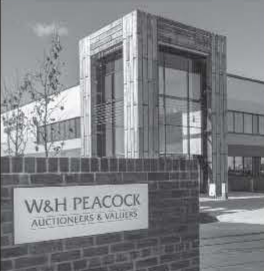
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You could think about installing a wifi security camera to deter potential thieves. Or keep an eye on things with a video doorbell. Another clever tip is to install smart lights. Some smart lights have away modes that turn the lights on and off intermittently making it appear as though someone is home.

Protect your home online

If you do want to use social media to tell friends that you're in the pub or on holiday, there are things you can do to protect your home and possessions from burglars. Make sure your social media profile is set to private and avoid using the location and check-in features when you're out and about. Also, try to save those holiday posts until after you are back home.

Get tech savvy together with your home security

You could think about installing a wifi security camera to deter potential thieves. Or keep an eye on things with a video doorbell. Another clever tip is to install smart lights. Some smart lights have away modes that turn the lights on and off intermittently making it appear as though someone is home.

From Neighbourhood Watch Our News



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Wilstead Bowls Club

We are still able to bowl when it stops raining, but keeping our distances.

The County Competitions are now down to the Fours (Rinks) which is 2 woods each and due to COVID just 15 ends.

Ladies have the John's Trophy game and Walker Cup in July. The Walker Cup is being played at Wilstead on **Sunday 11th July**. We also have the County Ladies semi-finals at Wilstead on **Thursday evening 15th July**.

There are 3 County League matches on Wednesday evenings in July for the men, and they have a County game at home on **Tuesday 3rd August**, Bedfordshire versus Surrey.

We have started playing the Club competitions when we can find a day to suit both sides.

Jean Ward | Club Secretary

All Saints Church News

There is not too much to report this month. Stephen's last service will be on **Sunday 20th June**. Then we go into a vacancy for some time.

We hope to be able to hold a service on a Sunday each week. It may be a Eucharist or we may have to do a different type of service. On the Sundays where we have been able to get licensed clergy to take the service it will be a Eucharist (Holy Communion).

We have filled most Sundays up to the end of August including the Bishop of Bedford on Sunday 1st August.

All are welcome to the services at 11.00 am.

As regards events, we have just been snookered again by the Government with the new restrictions carrying on until 19th July. We will discuss possibilities at our next Council meeting on Monday 21st June.

Please keep an eye on Notice Boards and the Post Office window for any events we may plan.

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Wilshamstead Parish Council

Parish Council Vacancies Reminder

Do not forget the Council have vacancies at present. If you wish to find out more, please contact Lizzie, the Parish Clerk, as shown below.

Bedford Borough Council Local Plan 2040 Next Steps

As mentioned previously Bedford Borough Council are very soon going to be launching the next stage of the new Local Plan, so it is really important residents engage and have their say in shaping where you would like to see development to go.

The format of this consultation will be to give residents options and different scenarios of how development could be managed over the coming years through to 2040. There is a lot of information available here:

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

Do take the time to review the options, and engage in the consultation as the Borough Officers will use the consultation feedback to then select where development should be focused.

Proposed Changes To The Borough Council Ward Areas - Please Respond

You may recall that over recent months there have been several consultations on this, there is now one final consultation and there are some significant changes proposed for the Ward that Wilshamstead currently is in.

It is planned that Wilshamstead and Wixams will join with Stewartby and a large part of Elstow to form a Ward with three elected Borough Council members representing electors. The closing date for comments is Monday 5th July and it is important to make your views known on this proposal, more information can be found at:

<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/eastern/bedfordshire/bedford>

Continued on Page 14 >>>

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Reporting Items If You See A Problem

There are many different ways to report something if you see an issue, and it is really helpful if residents can report items directly so they can be dealt with promptly.

Highways - Bedford Borough Council are responsible for the improvement, maintenance and development of the public highway network within Bedford Borough. This includes footways and public footpaths such as rights of way. If you need any further information or would like to report an issue then contact the Highways Helpdesk on Highways.Helpdesk@bedford.gov.uk

Environment - if you spot an overflowing litter bin, experience noise or nuisance, find some fly tipping, then this should be directed to the Borough Council via the Environment Helpdesk, who can be contacted on Environment.Helpdesk@bedford.gov.uk

If you are not sure whose responsibility something is, then do send an email to the Parish Clerk, Lizzie, who can then assist you with who will be able to help you with the matter. Sometimes it is not the Borough Council's responsibility, but it is the Parish Council, or the landowner's, and the Clerk will always try and guide you to find the right way to get the matter resolved.

Contacting The Parish Council

The best way to contact the Parish Council is to email Lizzie, the Parish Clerk at: office@wilsteadparishcouncil.org

Alternatively you can call 01234 743152 or write to PO Box 1548, Bedford, MK44 5AX



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This newsletter is published by Wilstead Neighbourhood Watch, part of Bedford & District NW Association, in close co-operation with Bedfordshire Police.

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

To All Newsletter Co-ordinators & Distributors

If you need to contact the Editorial team because of a problem with delivery, please would you contact wilstead.newsletter@gmail.com. All members of the Editorial Team have access to this and you will get a speedy reply.

Fraud Trends and Emerging Issues

The National Fraud Investigation Bureau (NFIB) produces monthly threat assessments outlining trends in fraud reporting and emerging frauds that are anticipated over coming weeks.

Some of the types of frauds where reporting has increased recently, as well as what to look out for in the coming weeks are summarised below:

Increases in reporting have been seen in:

- Online shopping fraud
- Door to door sales fraud
- Phone Fraud
- Investment fraud
- Rental fraud
- Computer virus and malware
- Mandate fraud (where fraudsters obtain details of direct debits, standing orders or account transfer details and amend them to transfer money to other accounts)
- Delivery company- branded smishing, with messages asking customers to click to a link to either reschedule or pay for an underpaid delivery charge
- Phishing scams involving text messages purporting to be from a bank stating that a new payee or new device has been added

Stay ahead of the fraudsters - emerging issues to look out for:

- **Festival/concert ticketing fraud** - There has been a huge demand for tickets to festivals and concerts recently announced and fraudsters are expected to try and take advantage of the demand over coming months
- **Holiday fraud** - Following a possible lifting of travel restriction for international travel, low-cost private testing systems offering Covid testing for holidays are like to be overwhelmed. Fraudsters may look to take advantage of this by offering reasonably priced tests
- **Post-vaccine survey scams** - People are being contacted by email and/or text message after receiving the COVID 19 vaccine to participate in an fraudulent survey with the promise of a prize or cash at the end. Credit card information is requested but after being charged for shipping and handling fees, the promised prize is never received. Although victims appeared to be based in the USA at present it is likely that this sort of fraud will be attempted in the UK.

Continued on Page 16 >>>

Newsletter DEADLINE

For any copy, new advertisements or changes to existing advertisements

Friday 23 July

The next newsletter will be published on Friday 6th August.

Please send items and articles for inclusion in the Wilstead Newsletter to our dedicated email 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:

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PC5324 Kerry Jones	101 ext 2865/2864
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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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- **End of furlough schemes** - It is highly likely that following the end of the furlough scheme in September, there will be a demand for short term loans which fraudsters will try and exploit with an increased volume of cold calls
- **Advanced fee fraud** - This is where fraudsters target victims to make advanced or upfront payments for goods, services, financial gain and even career opportunities which do not exist

Wilstead Neighbourhood Watch

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