

Neighbourhood Watch News – May 2010

THEFT OF CHARITY COLLECTION BAGS

We all receive charity collection bags through our letter boxes and many of us will give generously to the various genuine registered charities. However, the system is open to abuse with commercial companies posing as 'charities', and the collection of genuine charity bags by companies other than the charity for which they are intended. Most genuine collection vans are clearly identified and/or the driver carries ID. Make no mistake – the illegal collection of charity bags is theft, and as such is a reportable crime. One of our residents recently spotted the collection of a St John's Ambulance bag by 'unmarked white van' but she was able to give the police the van registration number and a description of the driver. This information is of value to the police and if you should witness a similar event, their advice is:

'...get a **registration number** and if the vehicle is still there, or has just left, call the Non-emergency number ASAP giving the reg. number and **approx direction of travel** and they may even be able to get a patrol car out as the van will likely as not still be in the area collecting more bags.'

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For further information about any of these topics or about Neighbourhood Watch, contact:

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Police General & Non-emergency number: 0845 8 505 505
NEW - Public Safety Team (Anti-social behaviour): 01494 421087
Crimestoppers (Anonymous): 0800 555 111
Trading Standards (Consumer Direct): 0845 4 04 05 06