

WARWARDS LANE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH STUDENT WELCOME NEWSLETTER

Warwards Lane Neighbourhood Watch would like to welcome both the existing and newly arriving students to our street which we all have an interest in keeping safe and tidy over the course of the next year. For some of you, it will be a whole new lifestyle and possibly an area of the country that you have not visited before and we want to try and make fitting in easier for you. The aim of this newsletter is to provide you not only with some useful information relating to local services such as bin collections and other council services but also to seek your support in making the road we all live in a better place for everyone.

The Warwards Lane Neighbourhood Watch team have been operating along our street since 22nd September 2008 alongside of the police and Lisa Barnett from the University of Birmingham to promote the importance of working together for the benefit of all. Our primary purpose is to make the street a better place to be by helping raise awareness of local health and safety issues and seeking to engage everyone in our goal of minimising crime opportunities which can unfortunately sometimes affect us all. Feeling safe is key to this but requires common sense and vigilance on everybody's part if we are all to benefit from this.



We would like to take this opportunity to not only introduce ourselves to first year students in particular so that we can draw your attention to the need to secure valuable items as student households can unfortunately become a target for thieves. Nobody wishes to be alarmist to those of you starting your university degree as some of you may be in an unfamiliar region of the country which can only add to the level of anxiety. Please feel free to contact us on WarwardsNHW@hotmail.com or following us on Twitter; [WarwardsLaneB29](#) with any comments and become updated on local issues via our website; www.warwardsnhw.co.uk.

On the positive side, the local NHW team would want to provide some points that you should find useful and we mention these overleaf -:

(1) Be aware and be alert even if you share a house with other students as it is easy to believe that somebody else has locked all the doors and windows before leaving for university each day or whenever you go out in the evening. Walk-in burglaries are the single largest crime committed against students and the properties they rent – MAKE SURE YOU ARE NOT ONE OF THEM!

(2) Ask yourself –

Do I keep my keys in a safe place and certainly not close to a front or rear door as thieves can access these through letter boxes?

Do I always lock the doors and close all the windows even if I am only going out for a short while?

Do I leave important papers containing personal details lying around for others to steal or copy?

Do I leave curtains open at night for everybody to see theft attractive property inside?

Do I allow expensive packaged mail order items to be delivered and left outside when nobody is at home?

(3) Health and personal safety –

Have smoke alarms been fitted in all living areas and bedrooms to the property and do I know how to test these weekly?

Has the landlord proven the gas heating boiler is serviced annually by a CORGI registered service engineer and a current certificate issued to this effect?

Have all of the electrical appliances and fittings been PAT tested and certified to this effect?

Do I make sure that there is no overloading of electrical sockets for computer, hi-fi and mobile phone rechargers?

Is the plumbing and sanitation to the property to an acceptable standard?

Has our house been supplied with the appropriate recycling boxes for garden, glass, plastic and paper as well as sufficient black non-recyclable waste bags?

Have we been given rubbish and recycling collections rota by the council?

(4) Local community –

We all live in and use the same street and amenities and everyone should be considerate about noise levels preventing others from getting to sleep as some people work shift patterns that mean they may be disturbed by loud noise even during the day. PLEASE BE COURTEOUS TOWARDS ALL YOUR NEIGHBOURS AS THEY SHOULD BE TO YOU

The text box opposite contains a list of useful local contact telephone numbers and e-mail addresses all of which will be listed on the main Birmingham City Council website. The purpose behind providing these details to you is not only to make it easier for you to keep these in one place but also direct you to the appropriate department to resolve issues or queries that you may have. Your landlord would normally receive a local telephone directory which will list these and many more council operated services so if your house does not have one of these, request one to be provided as a matter of urgency.



Although Birmingham City Council do operate a household waste recycling scheme for garden, glass, plastic and paper, disposing of general household waste still needs to be carried out in a certain way to ensure it is cleared from each home along the street in an efficient way.

We all have a responsibility in doing this to ensure we can all enjoy a clean and tidy street whereas if this is not done, rat infestations can easily occur and thieves are known to seek out easy pickings in areas that appear run down which they can do if not kept clean and tidy.

Along Warwards Lane, general waste and recycling collections are made around 6.00am every Wednesday morning every week for general (non-recyclable) household waste and every second week for recyclable material such as garden, glass, paper and plastics. The City Council should provide calendars detailing the appropriate weeks.

HELP US TO HELP YOU!

The following list of contact details is provided to ensure that residents are quickly able to communicate concerns to an appropriate body -:

Abandoned Motor Vehicles
www.birmingham.gov.uk/waste
(0121-303-1112)

Anti-Social Behaviour
www.birmingham-basbu.org.uk
(0121-303-1111)

Bonfires and Smoke
publichealth@birmingham.gov.uk
(0121-303-6007)

Bulky Waste Collections
www.birmingham.gov.uk/refuse
(0121-303-1112)

Domestic Noise Complaints
publichealth@birmingham.gov.uk
(0121-303-6007)

Faulty Street Lighting
streetlighting@birmingham.gov.uk
(0121-303-6000)

Fly-tipping and Graffiti Removal
www.birmingham.gov.uk/streetcleansing
(0121-303-1112)

Environmental Health
publichealth@birmingham.gov.uk
(0121-303-6007)

WASTE COLLECTION AND SEPARATION DO'S AND DON'TS

EVERY householder and tenant is required to separate out the household rubbish to make disposal easier for the collection services provided by Birmingham City Council.

Black bin bags or **grey lidded wheelie bins** are collected weekly for general household waste such as food scraps and non-recyclable packaging. DIY remnants or vehicle servicing debris should be taken to Lifford Lane recycling centre by YOU

Blue recyclable boxes or **blue lidded wheelie bins** are for cardboard packaging such as those breakfast cereals are sold in, magazines, newspapers and product fliers. Staples or sticking tape from packaging should be put into black bin bags.

Green recyclable boxes are for glass items such as bottles, jam jars and plastic milk containers. Metal drink and food cans of all types can be put here but rinse them first.

Green bin bags or **brown lidded wheelie bins** are for garden debris such as flowers, grass and hedge cuttings and plant weeds but NOT soil which tends to be bulky and often contains stones and again this should be taken to Lifford Lane by YOU.

THE INTRODUCTION OF SEE-THROUGH GREEN BAGS MEANS THE COUNCIL REFUSE COLLECTORS WILL NOW BE CHECKING TO SEE WHAT IS CONTAINED IN THESE BAGS

It is the responsibility of every household to tie up the top of the black bags prior to collection to avoid spillage and if they become holed, either re-bag them more carefully or take sharp non-recyclable objects to Lifford Lane. Flattening cardboard boxes such as the ones breakfast cereals are sold in and compressing plastic drink bottles ensures that more can be collected in the same amount of space.

The City Council telephone number for ordering bags and boxes is 0121-303-1112 and the same number can be used to arrange larger bulk collections for unwanted furniture for instance. The recycling centre is based at Lifford Lane, Kings Norton, Birmingham, West



CRIME STOPPERS

0800 555 1111

ADVANCEMENT

Advancement is the name for the illegal and unhealthy practice of leaving household and garden waste out on the pavement days before the rubbish collections are made on the Wednesday morning.

This activity is not only unsightly but attracts rats to the area which then means the environment for all of us is made worse and a pest control officer will then be necessary.

Please make sure that ALL bins and boxes are not put out onto the front pavement to your property before 6.00pm of the Tuesday evening preceding collection.

Storing any kind of waste in any street can attract a fine of up to £1,000 each offence and is enforced by the City Council on a regular basis.