

NAGs are a key part of Neighbourhood Policing in Thames Valley and is a multi-agency, problem solving group that consists of relevant partner agencies, key stakeholders and, most importantly, members of the local community. All group members are volunteers and take on the responsibility for achieving certain tasks on behalf of the neighbourhood.

*The top 3 concerns that you identified in 2009 were **Parking, Litter and Anti-Social Behaviour**. The NAG regularly meets to help resolve these issues. Our aim is to try and help make real differences to your quality of life and a better community for all of us to live in. This edition provides commentary and updates on these priorities together with other information that we hope will be of use.*

Parking We take all complaints very seriously. These are passed on to Kingston Police Station for investigation. The Police then attempt to trace the vehicle, and contact the owner to explain why parking in that place is causing an issue. Hopefully, the owner will respond to being asked to park responsibly, but **be warned** – if the advice is not heeded, or if the parking is illegal then a **Fixed Penalty Fine** could follow!

If you feel that your street has parking problems – please let us know and the NAG will organise a detailed audit for you. We will show you our findings, and let you know what can be done to help. **Please don't put up with bad parking behaviour – contact us now for action! If we don't hear from you, we assume all is well.**

PLEASE Remember:-

- Park on the road only where you are NOT causing danger, inconvenience or obstruction to other road users.
- Parking on the pavement, or half on the pavement means that people with wheelchairs, buggies or the visually impaired cannot get past. Think how you would feel if it was a member of your family having to step in the road to get past a badly parked car.
- When you park ensure that you do not encroach across a driveway to somebody's property or across dropped kerbs. How would you like it if it was your car that was blocked and you couldn't get to work on time or get the kids to school?
- Keep off grass verges! Parking on the grass will ruin the look of the estate, and damage cables lying underneath. If these have to be replaced, our Council Taxes will go up!
- Parking on bends or opposite junctions causes a serious hazard. It is very difficult to see round corners of the narrow streets in our estates. A child could be crossing and driver's views are easily obstructed!

- Getting emergency vehicles through these roads can be a nightmare. Remember if your car is obstructing the road, it could be YOUR house

Remember that footpaths are for feet. That's why they are called footpaths!

that can't be reached by the fire engine.

Think you are a good driver? If

you park badly and regularly inconvenience your neighbours, passing pedestrians or other drivers – you are probably wrong!

Litter Dropping litter is socially unacceptable and illegal, yet our streets, grass verges and green spaces continue to be blighted by careless, irresponsible littering. You probably groan when you see your Council Tax bill – well, some of the costs are down to us! Here are just a few facts:-

- Annually, over 30 million tonnes of litter is dropped – costing Council Tax payers £780 million in clean-ups.
- 23% of people are likely to throw litter from their car. An anticipated 1.3 million bits of rubbish are dumped close to or on our roads every weekend. (Highways Agency).
- An estimated 122 tonnes of cigarette related litter is dropped every day across the UK. It costs an estimated £342 million per year to clean up the 200 million cigarette butts thrown away every day!
- Litter doesn't just disappear! If litter is not picked up, items can take many years (sometimes decades) to decompose and:-
 - Is a threat to public health - attracting vermin and is a breeding ground for bacteria.
 - Items such as broken glass and syringes can be a health hazard.
 - Can be a fire hazard.
 - Litter looks awful and negatively affects the image we, and visitors, have of our neighbourhood.
 - Litter attracts more litter.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Anti-Social Behaviour comes in many forms and has an impact on people's quality of life, it weakens communities, and generally causes great distress to many.

In each edition we examine one of these issues. This time we focus on...

Graffiti is criminal damage it can make residents feel unsafe and increases fear of crime. Left unchecked and undetected, areas with graffiti are often more prone to littering and vandalism as pride and respect for the area starts to decline.

Although there are many types of graffiti, most are juvenile scribbles.



Graffiti is a problem because:

- Looks bad and can be offensive.
- Makes an area appear rundown and neglected.
- Can encourage more anti-social behaviours and crimes.
- Makes people feel frightened and intimidated.
- Can be difficult and expensive to remove. (English councils spend £27 million a year on graffiti removal).

Have a good look at your property and see if there are physical things that you can do to discourage graffiti taggers. Try growing prickly or bulky evergreen plants at the base of a wall or cover the fence in evergreen vegetation to prevent, restrict or discourage access to large clean surfaces.

Please help keep our communities free from crime and clean and tidy. Be the one that actually does something!