



## ***The Molesey, Dittons & Hinchley Wood Neighbourhood Watch Group***

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### **AUTUMN / WINTER 2023**

#### **In this edition:**

We send regular email details of burglaries and vehicle crimes, courtesy of Elmbridge police. We also have access to the underlying data for all neighbourhood crime, and so below is an update of *all* Neighbourhood crime types from Jan '20 to Sep '23, with a comparison between years and identifying trends. But first, advice about a new type of scam involving QR codes.

Banham Security is again sponsoring Elmbridge Neighbourhood Watch. We are lucky to work with this leading Security Company. They're based in Earlsfield, with a branch in Guildford. If you're thinking of adding security to your home, call them or go online, and they'll send a representative, who can check out what you already have and make suggestions as to what would be beneficial to add. This is a free service with no obligation to buy. Their main telephone number is 0207 6225151 or Guildford 01483 301400

*John Haberfield*

#### **QUISHING - QR CODE PHISHING EXPLAINED**

Have you received an email asking you to scan a QR code to unlock a great deal? Beware as, instead of an amazing special offer, you may be getting phished.

#### **What is "quishing"?**

Scamming people using a phishing email containing a QR code. QR code phishing attacks – *quishing* – are on the rise as cybercriminals look for new ways to steal your data.

#### **What does a quishing attack look like?**

- The scammers will be to trying to steal your credentials or infect your device with malware.
- The email will imitate a trusted sender - like your bank or a reputable e-commerce platform – and create a sense of urgency by claiming there is a problem with your payment or limited-time special offer so you have to act now.
- Instead of a link to click, a quishing email will contain a QR code that you scan with your mobile.

#### **What happens if you scan a fraudulent QR code?**

In a quishing email, the QR code serves the same purposes as a malicious link in a phishing mail. If you scan the QR code:

- **You may be redirected to a phishing website.** Scammers have grown increasingly skilled at imitating the homepages of legitimate organizations. When you see the familiar page and logo, you are more inclined to enter the requested personal data or login credentials to help them execute identity theft or harvest your data to sell on the Dark Web.
- **Your device might be infected with malware.** The QR code could be set to automatically start a download when you scan it, installing malware (spyware or ransomware) on your device so the perpetrators can access your data or other sensitive data in order to execute a ransomware attack.

#### **Why are criminals turning to QR code phishing?**

Cybersecurity experts report an upturn in quishing because users have become wary of link-based

phishing emails, reducing their success. QR codes can **circumvent digital security systems** as the code can be attached to an email as an image file removing the typical features security systems detect to trap phishing.

### How to avoid being quished

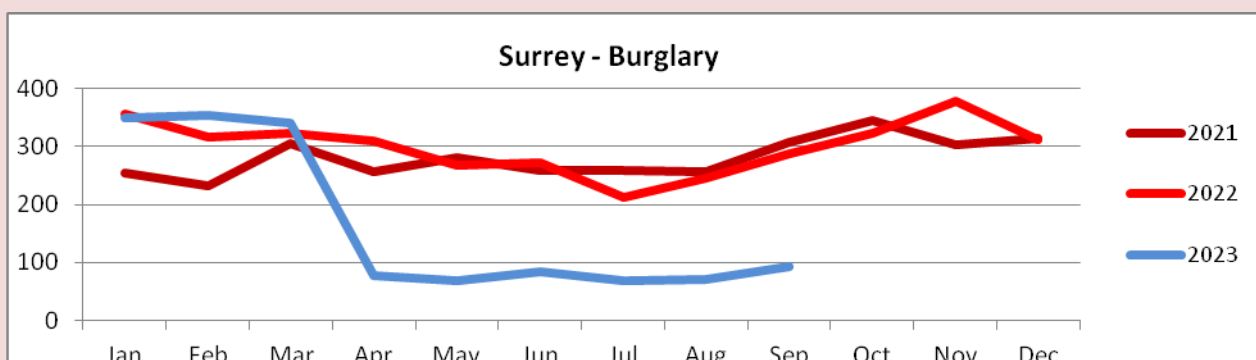
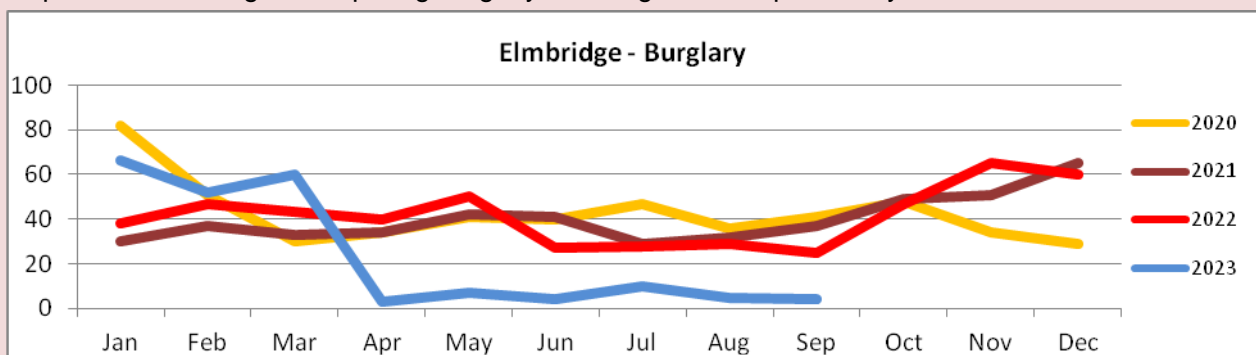
- Never scan a QR code in an **email from an unfamiliar sender**.
- **Look for the signs of quishing** – a sense of urgency, small mistakes in the email address and pay attention to any instinct that tells you the QR code email “feels off.”
- When you scan a QR code on your phone, a preview of the URL will pop up. **Don't click on any unfamiliar or shortened links** and look for slight misspellings in familiar names, e.g. @amzon.co.uk
- If the QR code takes you to a page that asks for your login credentials, never enter them there. If you think there might be a legitimate concern with a purchase, delivery or online account, **visit the company's website directly** in your browser or call the business by phone.
- Follow security best practice: **Use strong, unique passwords** for *all* online accounts (e.g. 3 random words [nsc.gov.uk/three-random-words](https://nsc.gov.uk/three-random-words) .
- Keep your **device software up to date** (including the operating system on your mobile phone).
- Lastly, since the pandemic, scammers have been taking advantage of the greater use of **QR codes in public places** for online payment - e.g. on parking meters - so be vigilant about *all* QR codes to stay safe.

## Crime map review

As before, our crime data is grouped by electoral wards. (*For anyone uncertain of the boundaries of the wards, there's a map at the end of this article*). To provide a reasonable comparison, we have reviewed data in the new format dating back to Jan 2020 and up to the latest available data.

**But first - a note of concern - Burglary**—crime data is downloaded from the police open database of national crime data, and all the following tables and charts are based upon this. The data covers all 14 types of neighbourhood crime, including burglary. From April this year the Home Office revised the way in which domestic burglaries are categorised, and since then the recorded burglaries in the national data have fallen dramatically and **it seems that somehow many burglaries are not appearing in the national statistics**. For example, between April and September, the national data for Elmbridge records a total of just 33 burglaries (*compared to 178 in January to-March*). Yet Elmbridge Police have reported to NHW in the regular crime reports a total of 102 (*the national data for the same period in 2022 was 199 burglaries*). And this is not just Elmbridge – the figures for all of Surrey follow the same dramatic drop, so it seems it may be a national problem.

As this affects every part of Surrey the overall crime figures remain comparable with each other, but there is no point in reviewing or comparing burglary crime figures with previous years.



**Now, to set the scene for crime rates, let's view how Elmbridge compares with the rest of Surrey.**

An analysis, from the latest available national crime data for Surrey (for the period Jan-Sep 2023), reveals that Elmbridge had the 5<sup>th</sup> lowest overall crime rate out of the 11 boroughs in Surrey and the 4 boroughs/districts with lower crime rates are more rural (Tandridge, Surrey Heath, Mole Valley and Waverley).

Of the 14 neighbourhood crime types the 4 highest rates were Violence & Sexual Offences, Anti-social Behaviour (ASB), Public Order, and Criminal Damage & Arson, collectively accounting for 69% of the total crime. These are closely related as often what would otherwise be an ASB offence could easily become a violence offence (if the suspect pushes someone), or a public order offence (if the activities intimidate innocent bystanders), or a criminal damage offence (if the activities result in something being damaged).

Looking at the combination of these 4 crime types provides smoother crime trends, so in the following charts these are viewed together. (*Within Elmbridge, Violence and Sexual Offences were rarely sexual and most violent crimes were common assault.*)

**Next, let's compare the crime data for the 16 electoral wards within Elmbridge.**

Analysis reveals that our NHW regional wards Thames Ditton, Long Ditton and Hinchley Wood & Weston Green, were in the lower half of the table of high to low crime rates. However, Molesey East has moved up to the centre and Molesey West is now just in the highest quarter.

As an example for comparison, the average rate of all crime across Surrey during Jan-Sep 2023, was 142 crimes per 1,000 households. For Elmbridge it was 126, while for the wards mentioned above it varied from 151 (Molesey West), then 119 (Molesey East) down to 87 (Thames Ditton).

In summary, Elmbridge has a very low crime rate, and all but one of our wards (Molesey West) within Elmbridge have even lower crime rates.

**Now, let's look in more detail at the crime data for our wards within our Molesey, Dittons & Hinchley Wood region (MDNHW)**

We compare crime data for January to September this year with the same period last year.

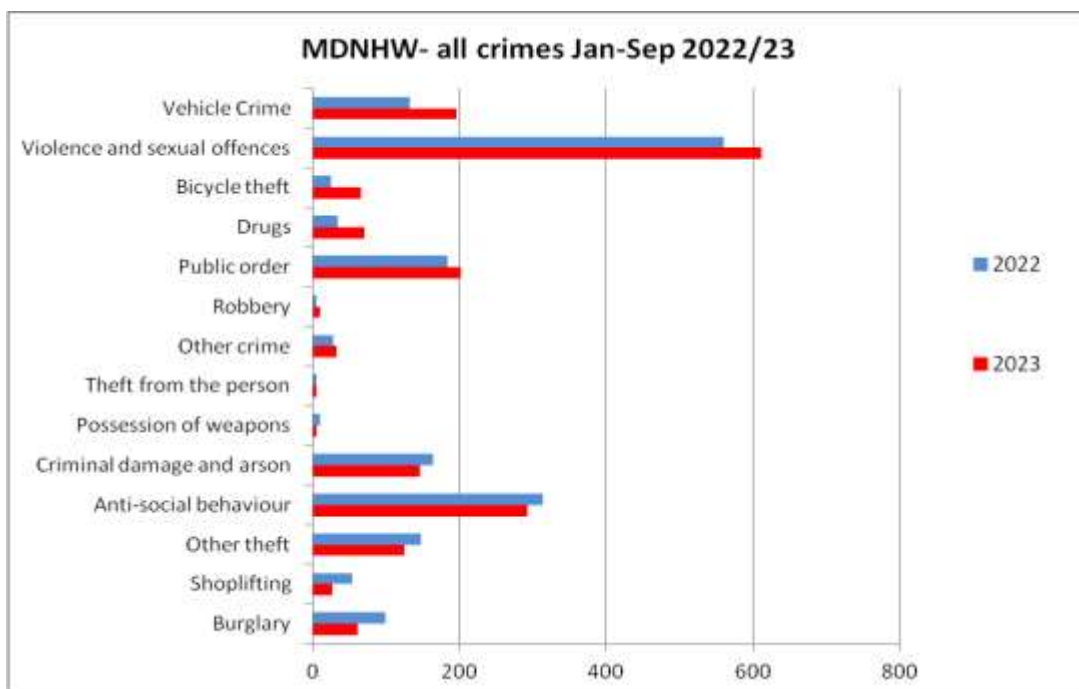
The table below shows, by ward, the variation in total numbers of crimes, with crime types sorted from highest to lowest (top to bottom) numbers of crimes, for the MDNHW region as a whole.

The next columns show, the totals for the MDNHW region, and for comparison, the same figures for the whole of Elmbridge. The final 2 columns show the actual number of each crime in 2023, and the % of each compared to the total. Our region had a 5% increase in overall crime so far in 2023 compared to Elmbridge as a whole with a decrease of 2.6%.

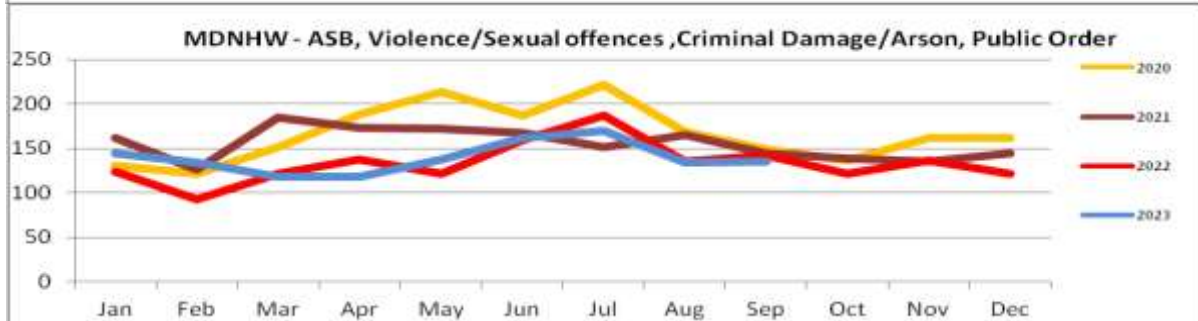
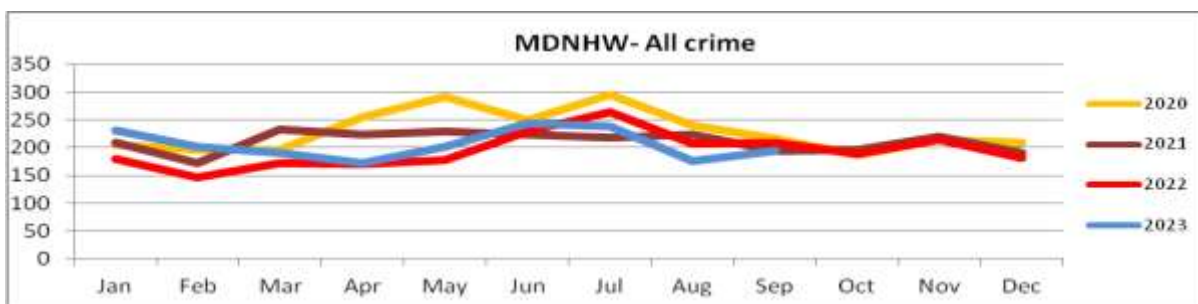
Molesey, Dittons & Hinchley Wood (MDNHW Region) Variance in crimes Jan-Sep 2022/23	Molesey West	Molesey East	Thames Ditton	Long Ditton	Hinchley Wood & Weston Green	MDNHW Region	Elmbridge	MDNHW Total Crimes Jan-Sep 2023	MDNHW % of Total Crimes Jan-Sep 2023
Violence and sexual offences	81	-12	-41	13	11	52	16	612	33.1%
Anti-social behaviour	-26	-14	8	22	-11	-21	-155	293	15.8%
Public order	0	8	3	8	0	19	-22	202	10.9%
Vehicle Crime	18	26	8	1	11	64	176	196	10.6%
Criminal damage and arson	14	-12	-9	-14	3	-18	-38	146	7.9%
Other theft	2	0	-15	-7	-2	-22	-99	125	6.8%
Drugs	22	12	2	2	-2	36	48	70	3.8%
Bicycle theft	5	10	15	6	4	40	-1	65	3.5%
Burglary	-10	-13	-11	-6	2	-38	-116	61	3.3%
Other crime	0	4	0	2	-2	4	11	32	1.7%
Shoplifting	1	-22	-1	-6	2	-26	13	27	1.5%
Robbery	3	-2	2	1	1	5	0	10	0.5%
Possession of weapons	-2	-1	-1	0	0	-4	2	5	0.3%
Theft from the person	0	-1	0	1	0	0	-11	5	0.3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>-17</b>	<b>-40</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>-176</b>	<b>1849</b>	

Some wards have fared better than others with the main increases being in Molesey West, Long Ditton and Hinchley Wood & Weston Green, predominantly in violence and vehicle crime, although Anti-social behaviour has also increased in Long Ditton. Vehicle crime has increased across the region.

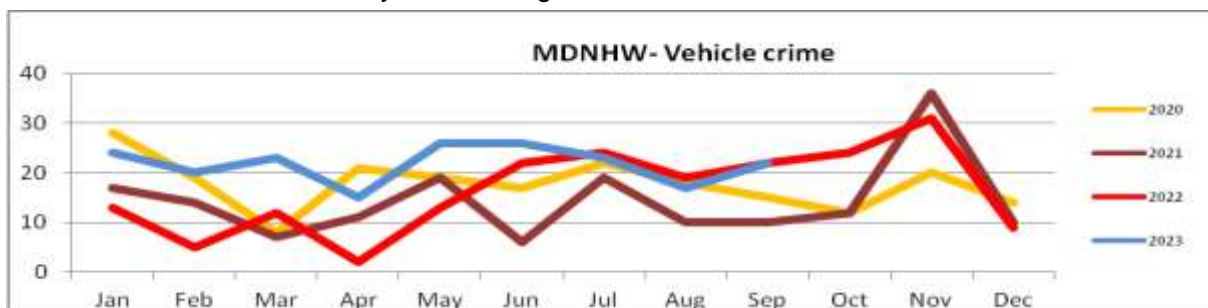
The following table shows the comparative numbers of crimes in each type and how these have changed between Jan-Sep 2022 and 2023. They are shown in order of largest increase to largest decrease.



Of course, this only reflects 9 months of the current year. For a better idea of annual trends we need to look in comparison to previous years' crime rates. First, we see that although the overall crime rate started higher this year, it is trending downwards, closer to 2022 levels. The 4 'ASB-related' crimes together reflect the same trend, but hardly surprising as they account for 69% of the total.



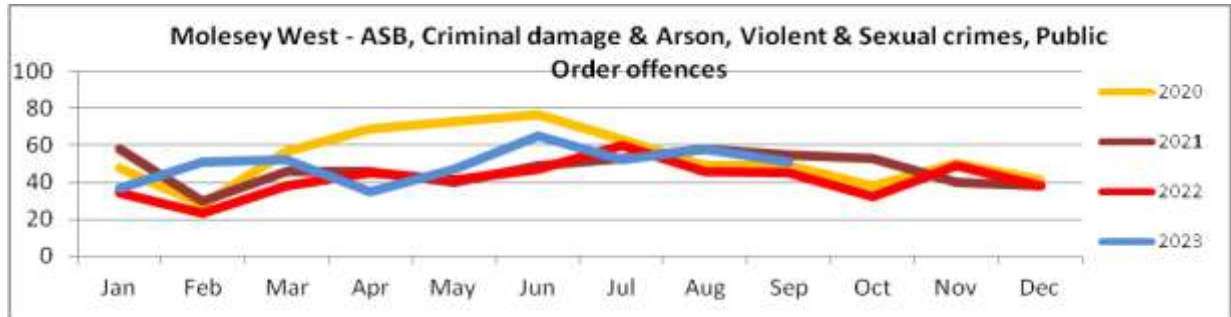
Vehicle crime was the next highest increase in 2023 (+7.5%, although across Elmbridge it was +9.6%). The increase was all earlier in the year, trending close to 2022 levels from June,.



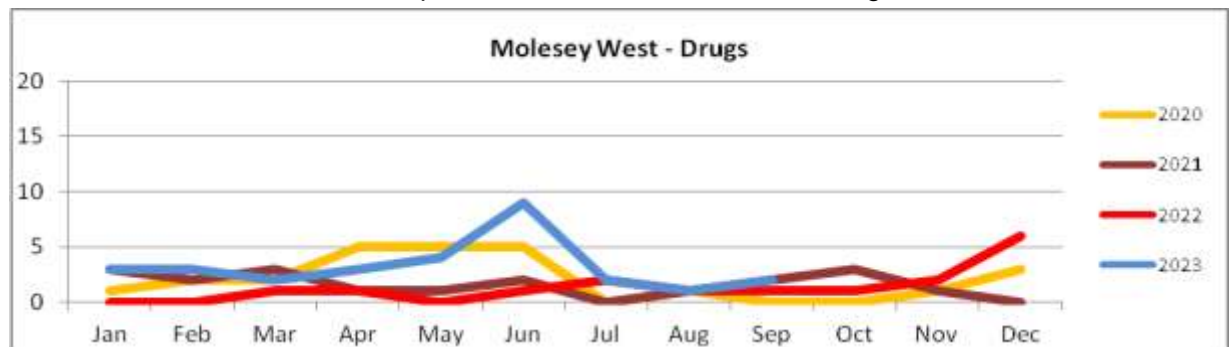
Now, let's look in more detail at the crime data for each individual ward.

**West Molesey**

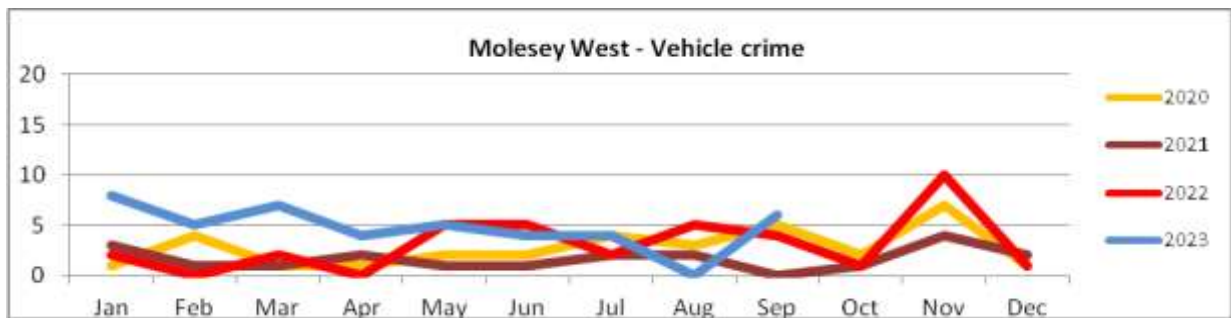
Looking at areas of increased crime, two are Violence & sexual offences (+81) and Criminal damage & arson (+14). As mentioned earlier, these are 2 of 4 closely related crime types, together with ASB (-26) and Public order (no change). Considered together these increased by a total of 69 and the chart shows that there were increases in Feb/Mar and in June, but since have been trending close to 2022 levels. **These affected overall crime figures, with Molesey West showing an increase of 23% this year**



Drugs crime shows an increase of 22 over the same period in 2022. This seems to have increased since Dec '22 at a modest level but with a peak around June and since trending at 2022 levels.



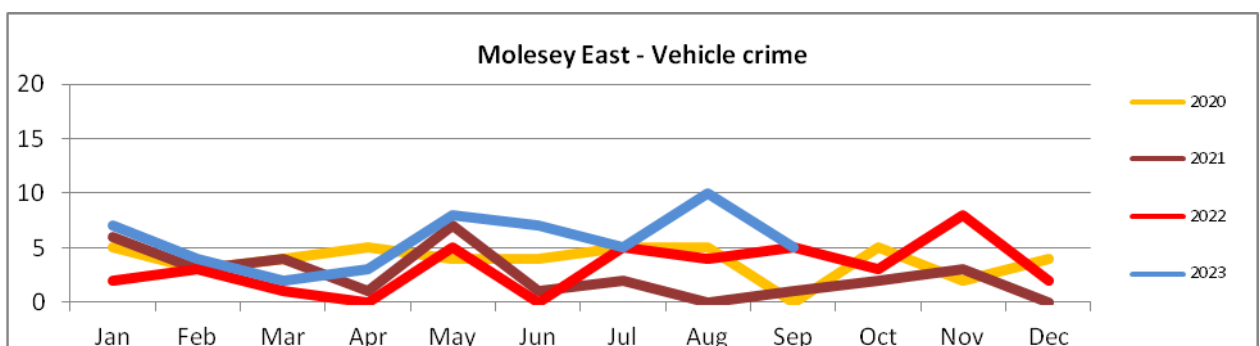
Vehicle crime, show an increase of 18 compared with 2022, predominantly in Jan-Apr but then trending close to 2022 levels.



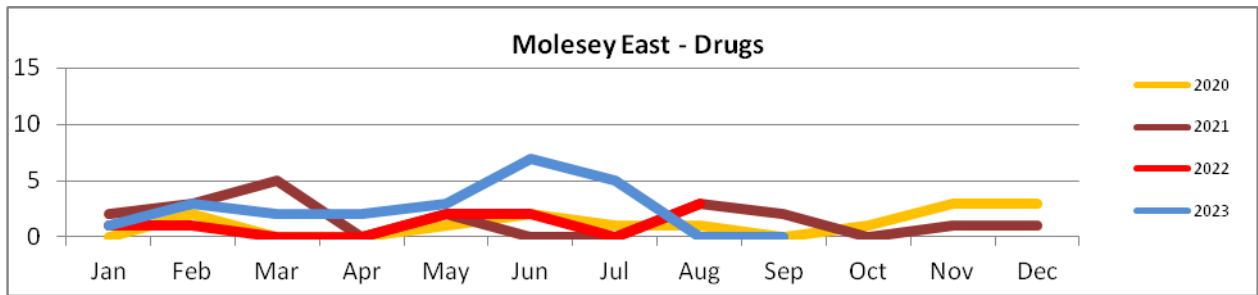
**East Molesey**

The areas of increased crime are Vehicle crime (+26), Drugs (+12), Bicycle theft (+10) and Public Order (+8). **However, for overall crime, Molesey East shows a decrease of 4% this year.**

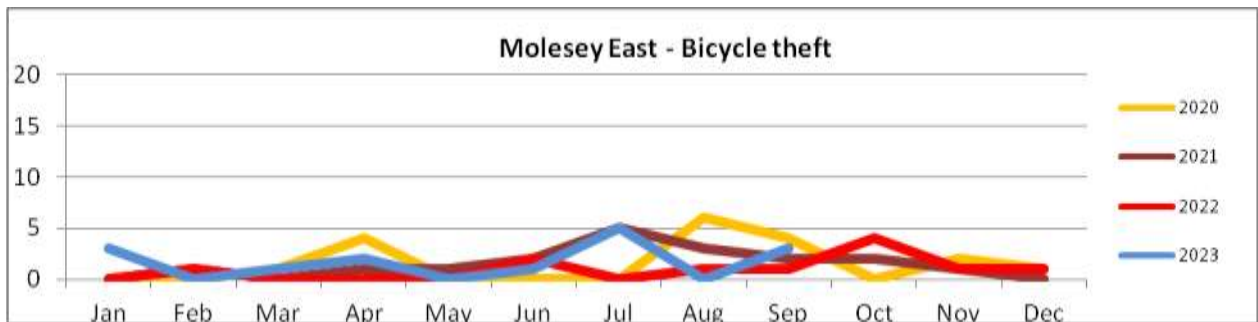
Vehicle crime increases have not just been in Molesey; Surrey as a whole saw an increase of 17%, Elmbridge an increase of 38%, and MDNHW an increase of 48%. However, Molesey East has an increase of 104%, and mostly in the last 4 months.



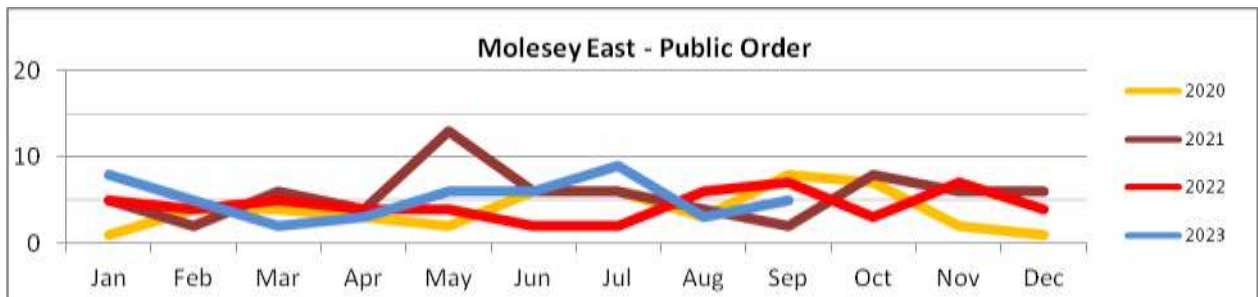
Drugs offences have risen slightly above 2022 levels, peaked in June/July, but have since been zero.



Bicycle theft has increased across East Molesey and The Dittons through the year although for East Molesey the main peak was in July.



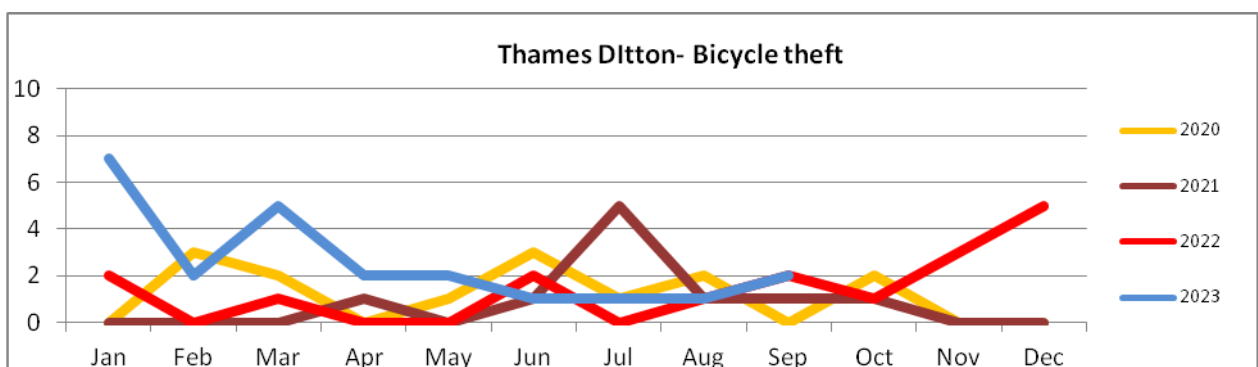
Public Order offences show a peak in May-Jun but then return to 2022 levels or below.



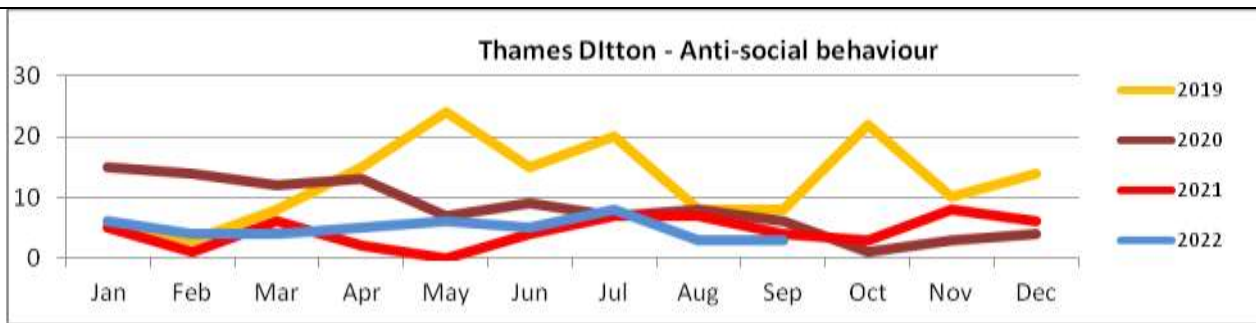
### Thames Ditton

Looking at the areas of increased crime these are Bicycle theft (+15), ASB (+8) and Vehicle crime (+8). **However, for overall crime, Thames Ditton shows a decrease of 12% this year.**

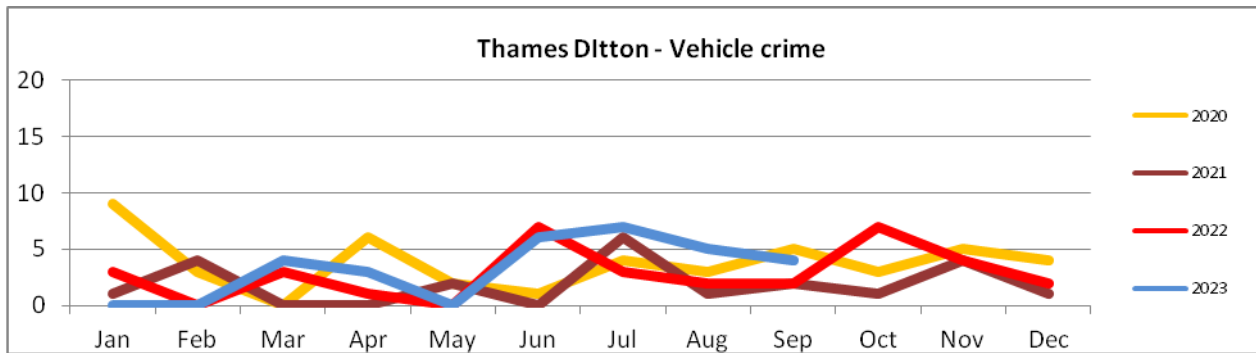
Bicycle theft increased across all of MDNHW but most in The Dittons and Molesey East, For Thames Ditton this occurred earlier in the year (starting in Nov '22), trending normally from June onwards.



ASB has increased but, as mentioned earlier, this is 1 of 4 closely related crime types together with Violence & sexual offences, Criminal Damage & arson, and Public order. Considered together these reduced by 18% so far this year.



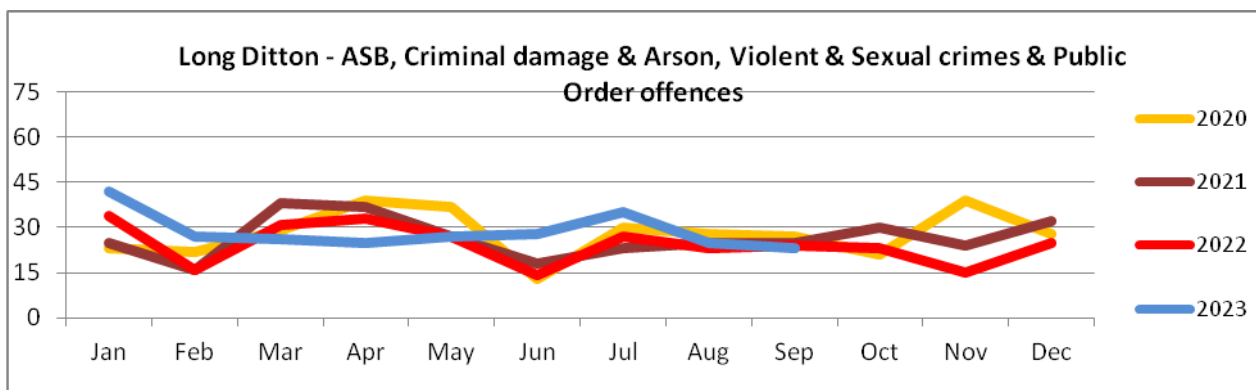
Vehicle crime has increased by 17% across Surrey as a whole, across Elmbridge by 38%, and across MDNHW by 48%. Thames Ditton has an increase of 38%, mostly in the last 3 months.



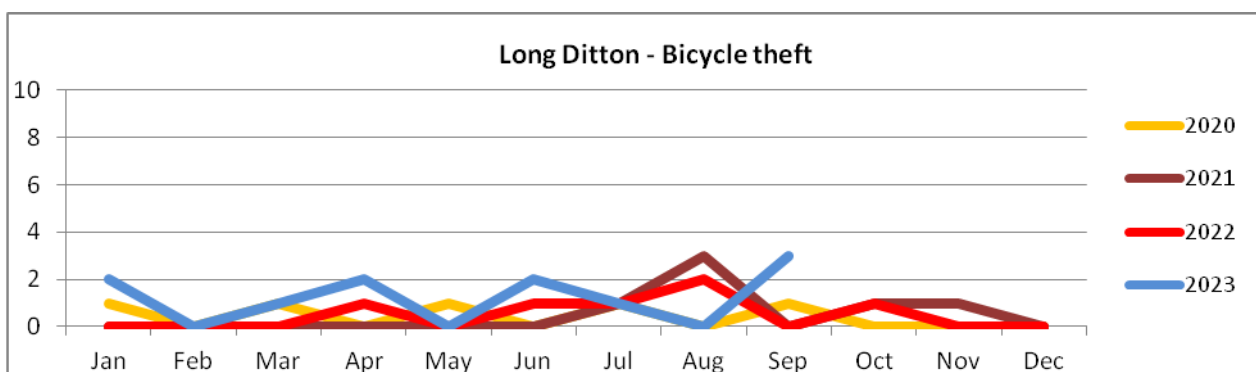
### Long Ditton

The areas of increased crime are ASB (+22) Violence & sexual offences (+13), Public Order (+8) and Bicycle theft (+6). **Overall crime shows an increase of 7%.**

ASB has increased but, as mentioned earlier, with Violence & sexual offences and Public order are 3 of 4 closely related crime types together with Criminal Damage & arson. Together these increased by 14% so far this year, but since August have been trending the same as in 2022.



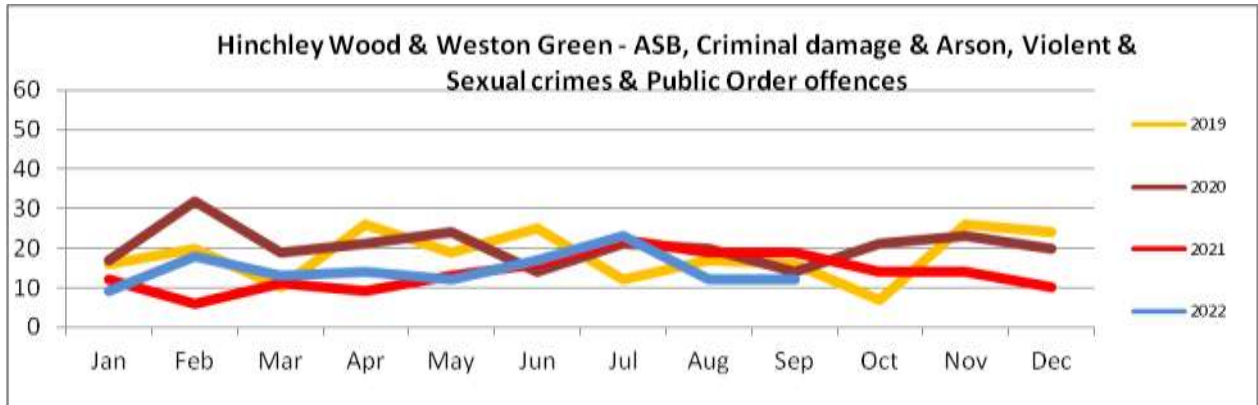
Bicycle theft increased in all districts across MDNHW but most in The Dittons and Molesey East. In Long Ditton this peaked in April, June and September.



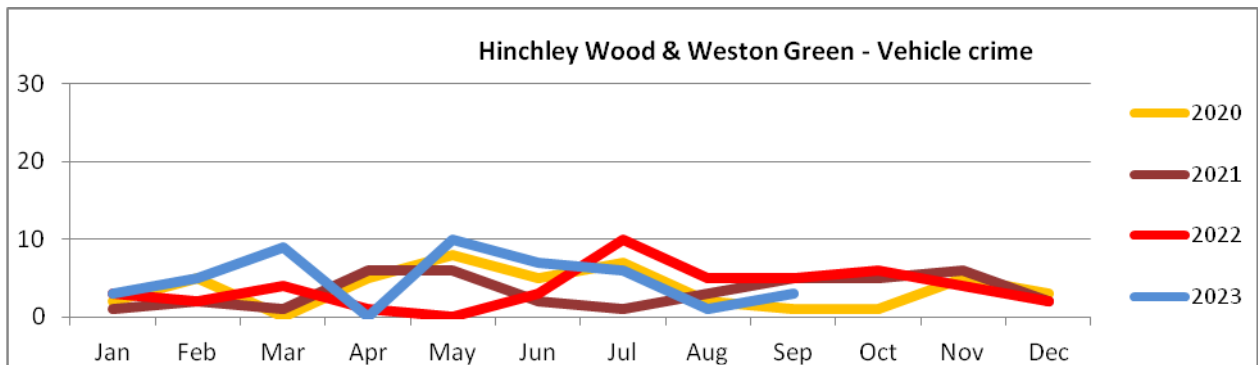
## Hinchley Wood & Weston Green

The areas of increased crime are Violence & sexual offences (+11), and Vehicle crime (+11). **Overall crime shows an increase of 8%.**

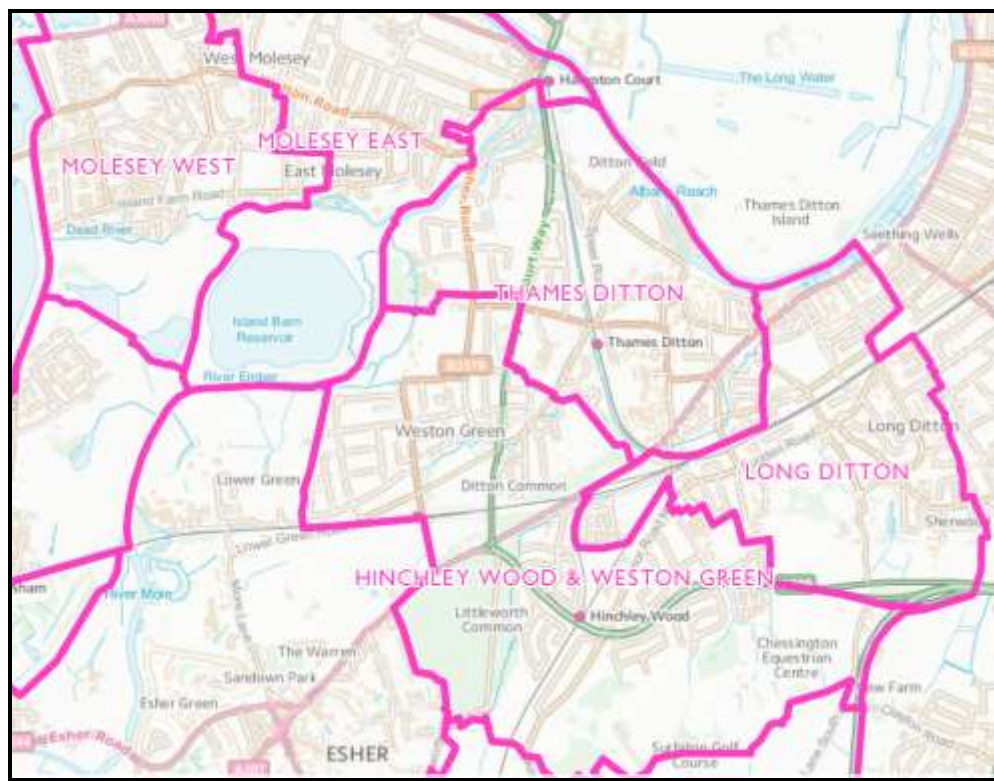
Violence & sexual offences have increased but, as mentioned earlier, this is 1 of 4 closely related crime types together with ASB, Criminal damage & arson, and Public order. Considered together these increased by just 2% so far this year, and since May has been trending close to 2022 levels.



Vehicle Crime had increases earlier in the year, but has been trending below 2022 levels since July.



## From Ordnance Survey Election Maps



### Election wards

It wasn't possible to capture the full map of our NHW region, but the northern border of Molesey West and Molesey East wards is the river Thames.

To see this map on-line, go to:

<https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/election-maps/gb/>

zoom in to your area, click on the 'BOUNDARY' button, scroll down and select 'Wards / District Wards' and click the 'Show names' button.



## Numbers To Keep

**IMMEDIATE POLICE RESPONSE** 999  
**POLICE NON-EMERGENCY** 101  
*Elmbridge Police Safer Neighbourhood Team*  
*elmbridge@surrey.police.uk*

To report a crime go to:  
**Surrey Police website** [www.surrey.police.uk](http://www.surrey.police.uk)

**DESIGN OUT CRIME OFFICER (DOCO)**  
**ANGELA CHRISTIE** 01483 631632  
Angela.Christie@surrey.pnn.police.uk

**CRIMESTOPPERS (anonymous)** 0800 555 111  
[www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

**ESHER POLICE STATION (Civic Centre)** 101  
**Monday-Friday: 8:45am to 5:00pm**

**TRADING STANDARDS** 08454 04 05 06  
via Citizens Advice consumer service

**ELMBRIDGE COMMUNITY SAFETY** 01372 474398  
Email: [communitysafety@elmbridge.gov.uk](mailto:communitysafety@elmbridge.gov.uk)  
Twitter: <http://twitter.com/ElmbridgeBC#>

**NOISE COMPLAINTS** 01372 474750

**ABANDONED VEHICLES, GRAFFITI, LITTER**  
**Clean Up Line** 01372 474474

**SURREY FIRE & RESCUE** 01737 242444  
**Home Fire Risk Check** 0800 085 0767  
**Contact Centre** 03456 009 009

**VOLUNTARY ACTION ELMBRIDGE** 01372 463587  
[www.vae.org.uk](http://www.vae.org.uk)

**TELEPHONE/FAX/MAIL PREFERENCE SERVICE**  
To stop unsolicited sales or marketing calls  
**Phone** [www.tpsonline.org.uk](http://www.tpsonline.org.uk) 0845 070 0707  
**Fax calls** [www.fpsonline.org.uk](http://www.fpsonline.org.uk) 0845 070 0702  
**Mail** [www.mpsonline.org.uk](http://www.mpsonline.org.uk) 0845 703 4599

To report suspicious activity call:

- **Crimestoppers** – 0800 555 111
- **Anti-Terrorist Hotline** – 0800 789 321

**Or in an emergency call 999**

## Useful Websites

[www.banksafeonline.org.uk](http://www.banksafeonline.org.uk)  
[www.bba.org.uk](http://www.bba.org.uk)  
[www.cardwatch.org.uk](http://www.cardwatch.org.uk)  
[www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)  
[www.crimeconcernuk.net](http://www.crimeconcernuk.net)  
[www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org)  
[www.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk)  
[www.identitytheft.org.uk](http://www.identitytheft.org.uk)  
[www.rightupyourstreet.net](http://www.rightupyourstreet.net)  
[www.surreycc.gov.uk](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk)  
[www.surreypa.gov.uk](http://www.surreypa.gov.uk)  
[www.thisismoney.co.uk](http://www.thisismoney.co.uk)  
[www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)

### Residents Associations:

[www.esher-residents.com](http://www.esher-residents.com)  
[www.moleseyresidentsassociation.org.uk](http://www.moleseyresidentsassociation.org.uk)  
[www.hinchleywood.org.uk](http://www.hinchleywood.org.uk)  
[www.residents-association.COM](http://www.residents-association.COM) (Thames Ditton & Weston Green)  
[www.longditton.org](http://www.longditton.org)



*Ember Lane East Molesey Surrey KT8 0BT*  
**020 8398 1267** [www.embercourt.com](http://www.embercourt.com)  
[enquiries@embercourt.com](mailto:enquiries@embercourt.com)

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**999 For deaf, hard of hearing, or speech-impaired people** in the UK alert police, ambulance, fire, or coastguard services by either calling via a relay assistant or texting a message to 999 using an emergency SMS service. Go to [www.emergencysms.org.uk](http://www.emergencysms.org.uk) for information about how to register.

## Keep Them Out!

- **Remember** Lock your car at all times when parking and don't leave valuables on view
- **Remember** leave lights on in your property if you are going to be out after dusk; many properties targeted appeared unoccupied
- **Remember** Most burglars enter a premises from the rear, and many burglaries take place during the day



- **Remember** Burglars don't like security deadlocks on doors because they can't open them from the inside, and have to leave through a window
- **Remember** Double check all windows and doors are securely locked before leaving home; on winter evenings keep lights on when out
- **Remember** Make sure sheds and gates are locked, and outside bins are not left where burglars could use them as a stepping stone.