

The Molesey, Dittons & Hinchley Wood Neighbourhood Watch Group

Chairman – John Haberfield Contact Tel 0208 398 5256 Email jhaberfi@yahoo.co.uk

Newsletter



AUTUMN / WINTER 2024

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 '21 to Jun '24, with a comparison between years and identifying trends.

John Haberfield

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 2021 and up to the latest available data.

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

TOTAL No. CRIMES IN JAN-JUN 2024 PER 1,000 HOUSEHOLDS	Violence and sexual offences	Anti-social behaviour	Public order	Shoplifting	Criminal damage and arson	Other theft	Vehicle crime	Burglary	Drugs	Other crime	Possession of weapons	Robbery	Bicycle theft	Theft from the person	TOTAL
Spelthorne	39	21	11	11	9	8	10	6	4	3	1	1	1	1	125
Guildford	41	18	11	14	9	7	6	4	3	3	1	1	1	1	119
Woking	39	17	12	9	9	10	4	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	112
Epsom and Ewell	33	25	8	8	8	7	9	5	2	2	1	1	1	1	111
Runnymede	34	16	10	7	7	8	6	5	3	2	1	1	1	0	100
Reigate and Banstead	36	15	10	7	8	6	6	3	3	3	1	1	0	1	100
Tandridge	29	16	7	4	8	6	6	4	2	2	1	0	0	0	87
Mole Valley	27	15	8	8	6	6	5	4	2	2	1	1	0	0	84
Surrey Heath	27	14	7	9	5	5	5	5	1	2	1	1	0	0	83
Elmbridge	26	13	7	4	6	6	7	5	2	2	1	0	1	0	79
Waverley	21	11	6	4	6	5	4	4	1	1	1	0	0	0	66
SURREY	32	16	9	8	7	7	6	4	2	2	1	1	1	1	96

An analysis (above), from the national crime data for Surrey for the half year Jan-Jun 2024 reveals that, for the first time, Elmbridge (*highlighted yellow*) had the 2nd lowest overall crime rate out of the 11 boroughs in Surrey! Previously it had been 4th lowest, and the 3 boroughs with lower crime rates were more rural (Mole Valley, Surrey Heath and Waverley).

Of the 14 neighbourhood crime types, the 4 highest rates in previous years (*highlighted orange*) had been Violence & Sexual Offences, Anti-social Behaviour, Public Order, and Criminal Damage & Arson, accounting for 64% of the total crime (65% in 2023).

These are also 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 these 4 crime types combined provides a much smoother crime trend. (*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.

TOTAL No. CRIMES IN JAN-JUN 2024 PER 1,000 HOUSEHOLDS	Violence and sexual offences	Anti-social behaviour	Public order	Vehicle crime	Other theft	Criminal damage and arson	Burglary	Shoplifting	Drugs	Other crime	Bicycle theft	Possession of weapons	Robbery	Theft from the person	TOTAL
Walton Central	40.8	29.6	19.2	10.4	13.1	10.8	5.0	14.6	3.8	2.7	1.5	0.8	1.2	1.2	154.6
Cobham and Downside	41.2	20.6	9.5	9.5	8.3	8.0	3.1	12.0	2.5	2.8	0.9	0.6	0.9	1.8	121.8
Hersham Village	33.5	15.8	11.9	5.0	9.6	6.5	5.8	6.5	2.3	1.5	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.0	99.2
Esher	39.7	13.1	10.8	8.5	4.4	6.7	4.6	4.6	1.3	2.8	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.8	98.5
Weybridge Riverside	40.3	15.7	9.5	3.1	8.6	6.2	4.3	5.8	1.5	1.8	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.3	98.2
Walton North	33.5	21.8	5.5	6.2	7.4	7.1	0.9	0.0	3.1	3.4	1.2	0.9	0.0	0.3	91.4
Molesey East	28.6	16.0	6.5	7.1	8.0	7.1	2.8	6.2	1.8	2.8	1.8	0.0	0.6	0.3	89.5
Weybridge St George's Hill	22.1	9.7	6.7	7.9	7.9	5.6	4.6	6.4	3.1	2.1	1.3	1.3	0.8	0.8	80.3
Molesey West	28.7	12.6	7.9	5.4	4.9	6.2	2.1	1.3	5.1	2.6	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	77.2
Walton South	23.1	9.0	5.1	7.9	6.2	4.1	5.4	0.8	1.5	0.5	1.3	0.8	1.0	0.0	66.7
Claygate	21.9	7.3	5.0	4.6	4.6	2.7	7.3	6.5	1.5	0.4	0.4	1.5	0.0	0.0	63.8
Hinchley Wd / Weston Grn	16.9	8.8	5.0	11.2	1.2	5.0	5.4	3.8	0.4	0.4	0.8	0.0	0.4	0.0	59.2
Long Ditton	15.4	9.2	3.4	6.8	5.8	4.9	8.9	0.0	1.2	0.3	1.5	0.0	0.3	0.0	57.8
Thames Ditton	16.6	6.2	2.2	6.5	5.8	8.6	5.8	0.0	0.6	0.3	0.9	0.9	0.3	0.0	54.8
Oxshott / Stoke D'Abernon	14.4	9.2	3.3	6.7	3.8	1.3	6.2	0.3	1.3	2.1	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0	49.0
Oatlands / Burwood Park	9.5	4.3	2.8	3.7	2.5	1.5	5.2	0.0	1.2	1.2	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.0	33.2
ELMBRIDGE	26.5	12.8	7.0	6.9	6.3	5.7	4.8	4.0	2.1	1.8	0.9	0.5	0.4	0.3	79.9

Analysis reveals that for almost all of the 14 crime types our NHW regional wards (Thames Ditton, Long Ditton, and Hinchley Wood & Weston Green) remain in the lower half of the table of high to low crime rates. West Molesey has improved, compared to 2023, by dropping from 5th highest to 9th and below the Elmbridge average. However, East Molesey, for the first time, has crept above the Elmbridge average. As an example for comparison, the average rate of all crime across Surrey, for the half year, was 96 crimes per 1,000 households. For Elmbridge it was 79.9, and for the wards mentioned above it varied from 89.5 (Molesey East) down to 54.8 (Thames Ditton).

In summary, Elmbridge has a very low crime rate and, apart from Molesey East, our wards within Elmbridge have even lower crime rates.

Now, we can compare crime data for Jan-Jun 2024 with last year.

The table columns below show, by ward, the variation in numbers of crimes between Jan-Jun '23 and '24, with crime types sorted from highest to lowest (top to bottom) numbers of crimes, for the MDNHW region as a whole.

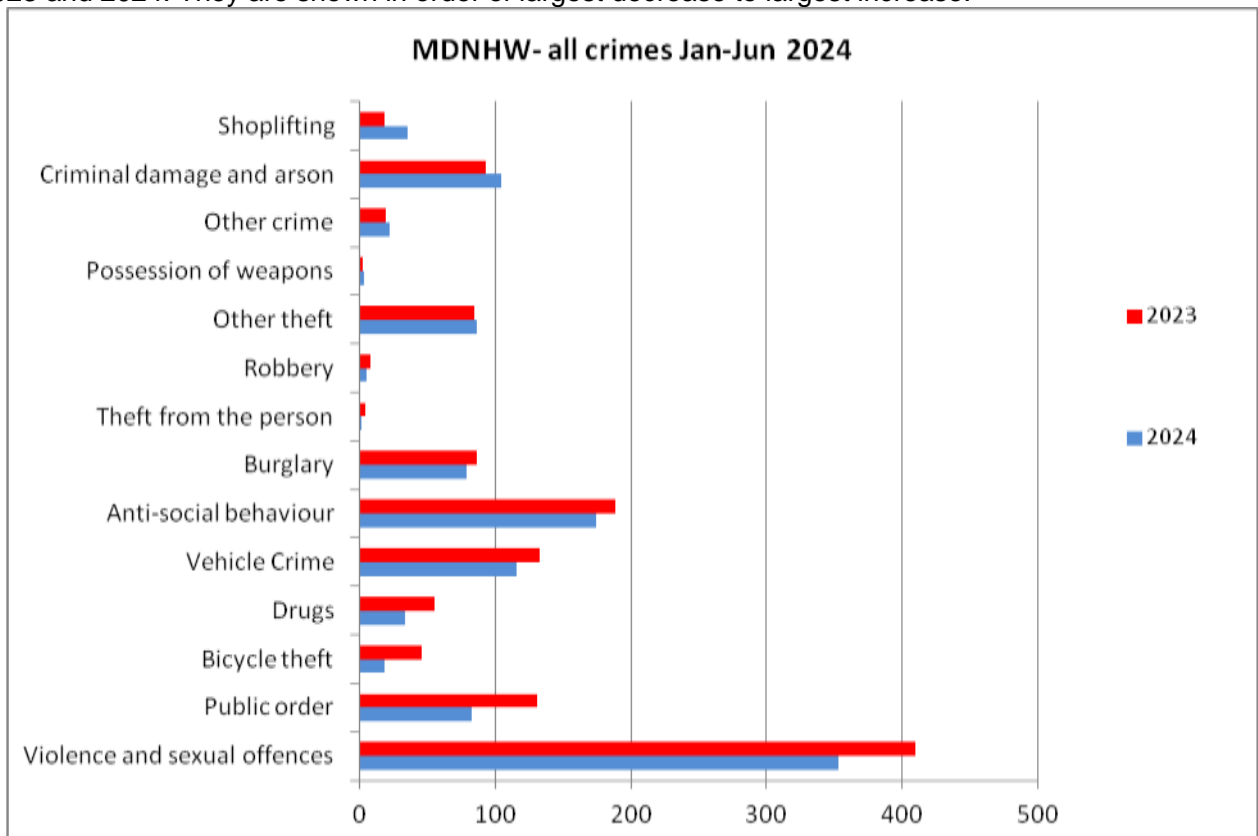
The next column shows, for comparison, the same figures for the whole of Elmbridge.

The final 2 columns show the actual number for MDNHW of each crime in Jan-Jun 2024, and the % of each compared to the total. Our region had a 13% decrease in overall crime in this period compared to the same period last year, compared to Elmbridge with a decrease of 7.1%.

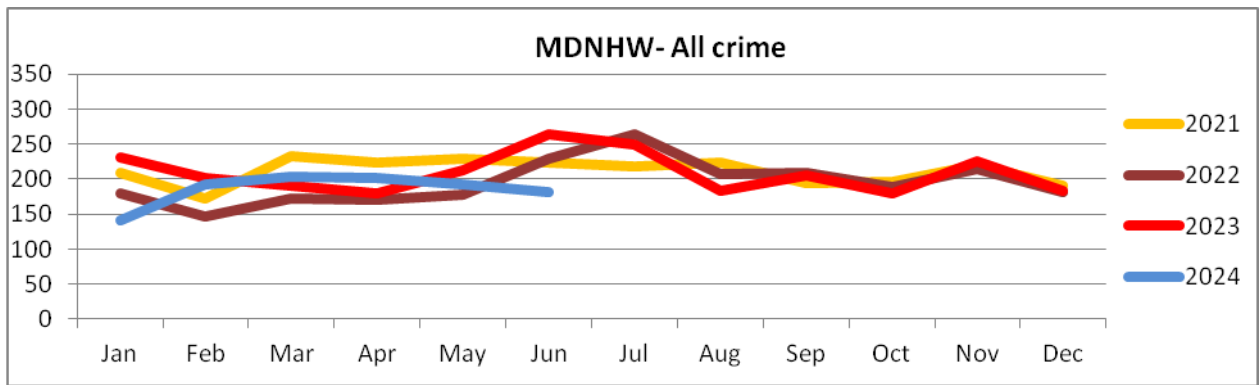
Some wards have fared better than others with an overall increase in Molesey East, predominantly in violence and anti-social behaviour. The other wards all have an overall decrease, although Thames Ditton has an increase in criminal damage and vehicle crime and Long Ditton an increase in burglaries.

Molesey, Dittons & Hinchley Wood (MDNHW Region) Variance in crimes Jan-Jun 23/24	Molesey West	Molesey East	Thames Ditton	Long Ditton	Hinchley Wood & Weston Green	MDNHW Region	Elmbridge	MDNHW Total Crimes Jan-Jun 2024	MDNHW % of Total Crimes 2023
Violence and sexual offences	-66	36	-7	-21	1	-57	-100	353	31.7%
Anti-social behaviour	-5	16	-11	-19	4	-15	3	174	15.6%
Vehicle Crime	-12	-8	8	-1	-4	-17	-69	116	10.4%
Criminal damage and arson	-2	4	14	-5	0	11	-48	104	9.4%
Other theft	1	9	2	1	-12	1	6	86	7.7%
Public order	-6	-11	-15	-19	3	-48	-77	83	7.5%
Burglary	-2	-17	3	13	-4	-7	-19	79	7.1%
Shoplifting	1	11	0	0	5	17	56	35	3.1%
Drugs	-5	-13	-4	2	-2	-22	-38	33	3.0%
Other crime	4	5	-1	-3	-2	3	17	22	2.0%
Bicycle theft	-5	-2	-16	-2	-3	-28	-49	18	1.6%
Robbery	-3	1	-1	0	0	-3	-2	5	0.4%
Possession of weapons	-1	0	3	0	-1	1	3	3	0.3%
Theft from the person	-1	0	0	-1	-1	-3	-5	1	0.1%
TOTAL	-102	31	-25	-55	-16	-167	-322	1112	

The following table gives a better picture of how the various crime types have changed between Jan-Jun 2023 and 2024. They are shown in order of largest decrease to largest increase.

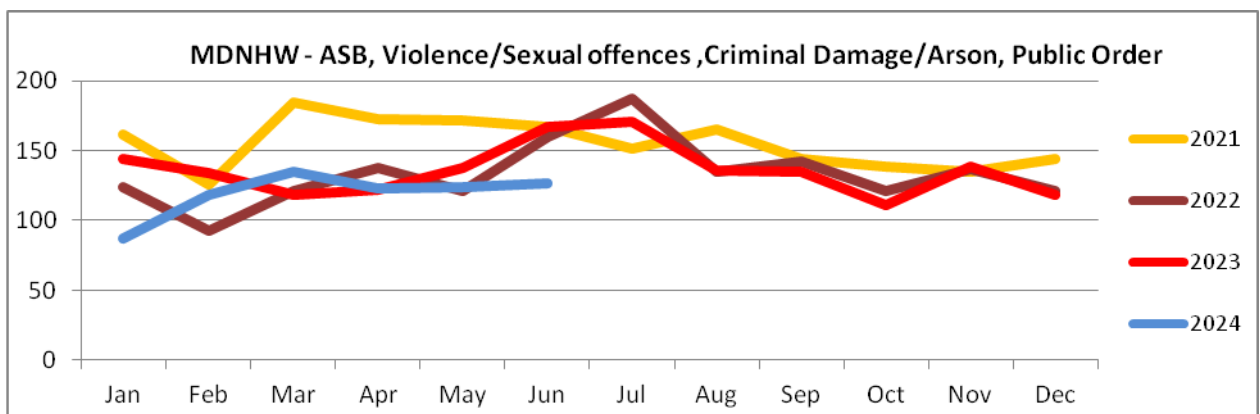


For a better idea of annual trends we need to look in comparison to previous years' crime rates. Although the overall crime rate started higher this year, it then trended downwards, below 2023 levels from May.



In Jan-Jun 2024, across Elmbridge, of the 14 neighbourhood crime types, 4 of the 6 highest rates were Violence and Sexual Offences, Anti-social Behaviour (ASB), Public Order, and Criminal Damage and Arson, collectively accounting for 66.7% (two thirds) of the total crime.

You see here, for these same crime types for our region, the same trend as with total crime, suggesting that this is one main factor in that trend. They also account for 64.2% of the total regional crime.



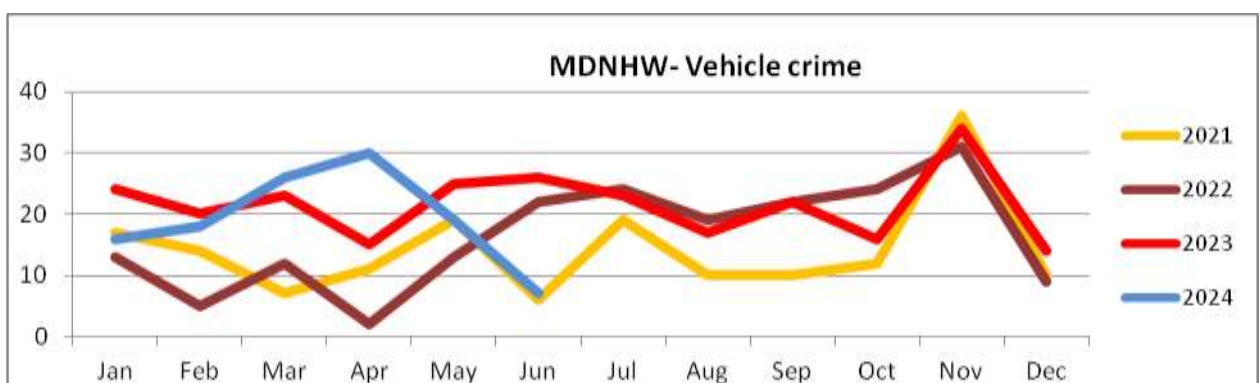
Molesey East has had elevated ABS and violent crimes throughout the first half of 2024 but falling back close to 2023 levels by June. The combined crime types totals are also trending close to 2023 levels, but the total number is 31% above the same period in 2023.

Molesey West has tracked below 2023 levels for these combined crime types and continuing to trend downwards.

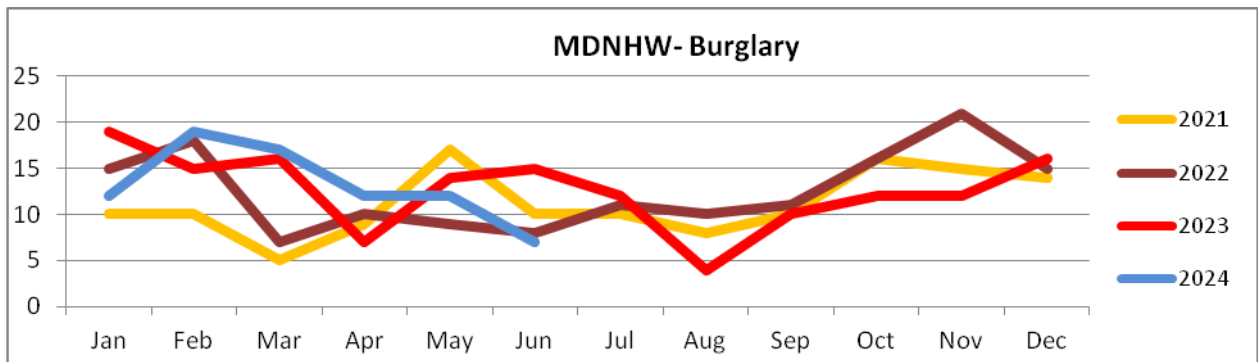
Thames Ditton has experienced a higher trend in Criminal Damage Jan-Jun 2024 compared to 2023, but the combined crime types have still trended 15% below 2023 levels.

Hinchley Wood & Weston Green had a peak in Public Order crimes in March and in ASB and Violence in May, but the combined crime types fell below the 2023 level in June and in total for Jan-Jun were still 9% below the same period in 2023.

The crimes that have the most impact on victims are Vehicle Crime and Burglary, accounting for 10.4% and 7.1% respectively of the total crime in Jan-Jun 2024. Vehicle crime is still the 3rd most frequent crime in our region, but thankfully in total 13% below the Jan-Jun 2023. Thames Ditton had a peak in February and March, but otherwise has trended below or close to 2023 levels.



Burglary has reduced in total by 8% compared to Jan-Jun 2023, with a small increase of 3 in Thames Ditton but a larger increase of 13 in Long Ditton. However, both have trended downwards and below 2023 levels in June.



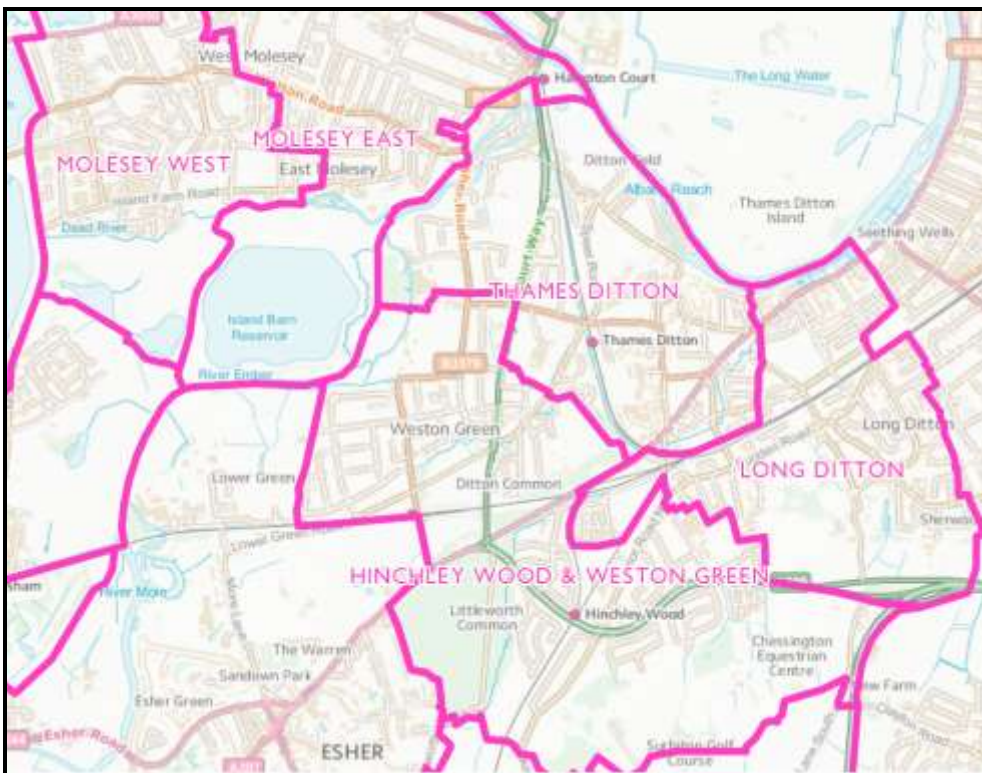
The other 8 crime types account for the remaining 18.3% of all crime, and only 3 of those show an increase in 2023 compared to the same period last year:

Shoplifting, accounting for 3.1% of total crime, an increase of 94% (+17, 11 of which were in East Molesey) but a similar trend across Elmbridge.

Other Crime, accounting for 2% of total crime (+3), in East and West Molesey, offset by reductions in the other wards. [Other crime: includes forgery, perjury and other miscellaneous crime]

Possession of Weapons, accounting for 0.3% of total crime (+1), 3 in Thames Ditton, offset by reductions in the other wards.

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 online, go to:

<https://www.ordnance-survey.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

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

CRIMESTOPPERS (anonymous) 0800 555 111
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
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

TELEPHONE/FAX/MAIL PREFERENCE SERVICE
To stop unsolicited sales or marketing calls
Phone www.tpsonline.org.uk 0845 070 0707
Fax calls www.fpsonline.org.uk 0845 070 0702
Mail 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
www.bba.org.uk
www.cardwatch.org.uk
www.communities.gov.uk
www.crimeconcernuk.net
www.getsafeonline.org
www.homeoffice.gov.uk
www.identitytheft.org.uk
www.rightupyourstreet.net
www.surreycc.gov.uk
www.surreypa.gov.uk
www.thisismoney.co.uk
www.immobilise.com

Residents Associations:

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

Ember Lane East Molesey Surrey KT8 0BT
020 8398 1267 www.embercourt.com
enquiries@embercourt.com

Join Ember Court Sports Club today and see what we have to offer
Prices start from as little as £9 per month

Clubhouse Sky & BT Sport Heated Pool Gym Grass Tennis Courts
Exercise Classes Beauty & Hairdressing Children's Playground
Restaurant Various Function Rooms for Hire Weddings Civil Ceremonies
Events Nights Cricket pitches Football & Rugby pitches Two fishing rivers

So much more than a sports club
EMBER COURT

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 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're going to be out after dusk; as many properties targeted appeared unoccupied
- **Remember** Most burglars enter a premises from the rear, and many burglaries take place during the day



- **Remember** Burglars hate 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.
- **Remember** If your vehicle is "keyless", keep the key in a "Faraday" pouch or metal tin and keep keys AWAY from front door or kitchen window