



Alresford and District Neighbourhood Watch Association



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Neighbourhood Watch Association AGM is on Thursday 22nd September at 7:30pm at Alresford Golf Club. The speaker will be a Magistrate from the North Hants Magistrates in the Community programme. All are welcome.

There are frequent reports in the media about fraud and identity theft. Identity theft, in particular, is a pernicious crime in that the means by which information is obtained can be extremely subtle but the effects can be devastating. Like many crimes the guidelines for prevention are very simple, but in many situations can be difficult for many of us to adhere to. In the case of identity theft, the fundamental rule is

Don't give any personal information to anyone – either online, face to face, or over the phone – before verifying their credentials.

Some specific examples of how to protect yourself are:

- Never give your debit or credit card details over the telephone unless you made the call and you're certain of who you are speaking to.
- Don't let anyone take your debit or credit card out sight when paying in a shop or restaurant.
- Shred debit/credit card receipts credit card statements and bank statements. If you don't have a shredder, consider opting for paperless statements.
- Your bank will **never** ask for your PIN, password of other security information in full. They may ask you for selected parts, for example the 1st, 4th and 7th characters in your password.
- Keep a list of telephone numbers to call to report the loss or theft of your wallet, purse, credit cards etc. The sooner you can notify your bank or credit card provider the better.
- If you are expecting a new card or cheque book by post and it does not arrive in the expected time, contact your bank or card provider immediately.
- When registering to vote, tick the box to opt out of the 'Edited' register. The edited register is an extract of the full electoral register and can be bought by individuals or organisations to check name and address details.